

WHO ARE WE?

Group Name: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP.

Address: 320 N. Griffin St. City: Bismarck State: ND Zip Code: 58501

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (775) 239-2119

E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Website: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

Leadership Body: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

Purpose: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

History: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

Affiliation/Membership: Our Affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes *all* of God's people, no matter where they are.

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

Use Sacred Names?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

Observe Holy Days?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

Evangelistic Efforts: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

Periodicals: We have a newsletter, which we publish every 2 months.

Literature: We distribute tapes and literature for others and ourselves to the best of our ability.

Parent Group: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. Language: English

Other Language: None Country: USA

Name: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee Address: 320 N. Griffin St.

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Directions To Meeting: 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

Time of Meeting: Usually 1:00PM, but may vary.

SABBATH SERVICES--Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 2. We generally do a phone hookup, video tape, or cassette tape, service with various speakers. If you have a video or audio tape you think we should hear, please send it.

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

12:00 Noon--Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)
1:00 PM----Sabbath Services
3:00 PM----Open Fellowship

BIBLE STUDIES--We have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We have a Pot Luck Meal before we start our Bible Studies, so please bring food if you would like to participate in the fellowship, which goes with a meal.

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM----Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)
7:00 PM----Pot Luck Meal
(Bring Food)
8:00 PM----Bible Study
9:00 PM----Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, May 3, 2002
Friday, June 14, 2002
Friday, July 26, 2002

GUEST ROOM--If you are from out of town and are here to attend Sabbath Services or one of our Bible Studies, we do have a guest room. Please call ahead so we know when you will be arriving. (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

LOCATION--Sabbath Services and Bible Studies are held at the home of Darwin & Laura Lee, located at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. Please use the upper back door by the garage. Phone Number (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our July/August 2002 Newsletter is June 15, 2002. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com Please use this E-mail address for prayer requests, prayer request updates, and prayer request inquires and information. All prayer requests go around the world via E-mail and are always printed on our Web Site and they are also available via Snail Mail on request. Thank you.

Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com Please use this E-mail address for anything which you want considered for inclusion in our newsletter such as articles, advertisements, letters to the editor or points of interest. If you do not want it printed, then do not send it to this E-mail address. The deadline for Issue #10--July/August 2002 is June 15, 2002. Thank you.

Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com Please, use this E-mail address only for those letters which you want an answer to. Send tape, literature and newsletter requests and unsubscribes to this E-mail address. If you do not want or need an answer to your E-mail, then do not send it to this E-mail address. Thank you.

Darwin-Laura@Juno.com Please only send things to this E-mail address if you only want us to read it and you do not need or want an answer to it. Also, if you want to unsubscribe and do not need a notice stating you have been taken off, this is the place. Thank you.

FAX--We now have fax 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

SNAIL MAIL--When you send a letter or information via snail mail, and you do not need an answer back or if you do not want it printed, please be sure to clearly put that information in your letter. Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502. Thank you.

WEB SITE ADDRESS--<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

AD SECTION--If you have an ad that you would like to have us print, please write it up and send it to: **Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** We may not print all ads, but we will read them for consideration of inclusion in this newsletter and then will let you know one way or the other. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2002 – LAKE OF THE OZARKS

For the third consecutive year, the Mid-Missouri Church of God (**MMCG**) will be sponsoring the Feast of Tabernacles (September 21st through 28th) at the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks in central Missouri... to be held at the **Baymont Inn** in the town of Lake Ozark. Information and registration will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Baymont Conference Hall, with opening services commencing at 7:30 p.m. on Friday night, September 20. Seating capacity at the site is 100, so be sure to get your reservations in early.

Serving opportunities are plentiful, with help needed for sermons, sermonettes, Bible studies, scripture reading, song leading, accompanying, special music, children's Bible classes, registration, information and activities table, ushers and greeters. Please contact us and let us know how you would like to serve your brothers and sisters in Christ. The following accommodations are all within a mile or two of the feast site—first come first served—no reserved blocks of rooms. Special rates have been obtained for the Baymont Inn (see below). Rates for the other accommodations are currently being negotiated. In any case, ask if there has been an MMCG Feast rate established (we anticipate confirmation of rates by April 30.)

Arrowhead Lodge 573-365-2345

Baymont Inn and suites 573-365-2700: Newly constructed in 2001—a prime facility.

Plentiful level parking. Adjoining rooms and suites are also available. Complimentary breakfast. Heated indoor pool. Fitness center. Free local phone calls, cable TV, telephone data ports, executive desk and chair, hair dryers, ironing boards, and coffeemakers. Children under 18 stay free in parents' room. Denny's Restaurant adjacent. Guest laundry room. All rooms having queen beds also have refrigerators and small balconies or patios. Second story rooms have a nice view, but no elevators. **Rates:**

1 King or 2 Queens: \$59.00.

Holiday Inn Resort 573-365-2334

Motel 6 573-365-4566

Tomahawk Inn 573-365-5331

For further information, please contact Duke Schneider at 31879 Triangle Cove Road, Gravois Mills, MO 65037, phone: 573-372-3221, or e-mail: ddinmo@advertisnet.com

PENTECOST--We will observe Pentecost here at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota on Friday May 17, 2002, with services at 1:00PM (door open for fellowship at 12:00 noon). At 5:00PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "Bonanza Family Restaurant" in Mandan. We realize that not all people will be observing Pentecost on the same day, so with this in mind, if you need a place to observe this day differently than we do, please contact us and if we can help you in anyway, we certainly will try.

ARTICLES SECTION--We are always looking for good articles written by ordinary people, to consider for inclusion in this newsletter. Darwin and I do not always agree with every single thing that we print. Darwin and I also do not know everything. Like most people reading this newsletter, we are still learning. We do strive to bring to you Biblically Based Articles--The problem is that opinion and interpretation of scripture varies from person to person. So with that in mind let's let "iron sharpen iron" Proverbs 27:17--Let's learn from each other. Send articles to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

**THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH
PART #3**

**by Catholic Mirror 1893
Baltimore, Maryland**

**CATHOLIC MIRROR--BALTIMORE,
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1893**

(From page 8 of the *Catholic Mirror* of
Sept. 16, 1893)

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

THE GENUINE OFFSPRING OF THE UNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HIS SPOUSE. THE CLAIMS OF PROTESTANTISM TO ANY PART THEREIN PROVED TO BE GROUNDLESS, SELF-CONTRADICTORY, AND SUICIDAL

When his Satanic Majesty, who was "a murderer from the beginning," "and the father of lies," undertook to open the eyes of our first mother, Eve, by stimulating her ambition, "You shall be as gods, knowing good and evil," his action was but the first of many plausible and successful efforts employed later, in the seduction of millions of her children. Like Eve, they learn too late, alas! the value of the inducements held out to allure her weak children from allegiance to God. Nor does the subject matter of this discussion form an exception to the usual tactics of his sable majesty.

Over three centuries since, he plausibly represented to a large number of discontented and ambitious Christians the bright prospect of the successful inauguration of a "new departure," by the

abandonment of the Church instituted by the Son of God, as their teacher, and the assumption of a new teacher- *the Bible alone* - as their newly fledged oracle.

The sagacity of the evil one foresaw but the brilliant success of this maneuver. Nor did the result fall short of his most sanguine expectations.

A bold and adventurous spirit was alone needed to head the expedition. Him his satanic majesty soon found in the apostate monk, Luther, who himself repeatedly testifies to the close familiarity that existed between his master and himself, in his "Table talk," and other works published in 1558, at Wittenberg, under the inspection of Melancthon. His colloquies with Satan on various occasions, are testified to by Luther himself - a witness worthy of all credibility. What the agency of the serpent tended so effectually to achieve in the garden, the agency of Luther achieved in the Christian world. (Of course we have not the least sympathy with what is here said about Luther. Only the Lutherans think that Luther had all the truth, but his was nevertheless a grand work. He was a Christian hero. Had his work only been continued as it began, papists would not now be taunting "Protestants" with the inconsistency of professing to accept the Bible alone and then following the traditions of the Catholic Church.)

"Give them a pilot to their wandering fleet, Bold in his art, and tutored to deceit; Whose hand adventurous shall their helm misguide To hostile shores, or overwhelm them in the tide."

As the end proposed to himself by the

evil one in his raid on the church of Christ was the destruction of Christianity, we are now engaged in sifting the means adopted by him to insure his success therein. So far, they have been found to be misleading, self-contradictory, and fallacious. We will now proceed with the further investigations of this imposture.

Having proved to a demonstration that the Redeemer, *in no instance*, had, during the period of His life, deviated from the faithful observance of the Sabbath (Saturday), referred to by the four evangelists fifty-one times, although He had designated Himself "Lord of the Sabbath," He never having *once*, by command or practice, hinted at a desire on His part to change the day by the substitution of another and having called special attention to the conduct of the apostles and the holy women, the very evening of His death, securing beforehand spices and ointments to be used in embalming His body the morning after the Sabbath (Saturday), as St. Luke so clearly informs us (Luke 24 ch. 1 v.), thereby placing beyond peradventure, the divine action and will of the Son of God during life by keeping the Sabbath steadfastly; and having called attention to the action of His living representatives after his death, as proved by St. Luke; having also placed before our readers *the indisputable fact* that the apostles for the following thirty years (Acts) never deviated from the practice of their divine Master in this particular, as St. Luke (Acts 18 ch., 4v.) assures us: "And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogues *every Sabbath* (Saturday), and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." The Gentile converts were, as we see from the text, equally instructed with the Jews, to keep

the Saturday, having been converted to Christianity on that day, "the Jews and the Greeks" collectively.

Having also called attention to the texts of the Acts bearing on the exclusive use of the Sabbath by the Jews and Christians for thirty years after the death of the Saviour as the *only* day of the week observed by Christ and His apostles, which period *exhausts the inspired record*, we now proceed to supplement our proofs that the Sabbath (Saturday) enjoyed this exclusive privilege, by calling attention to *every instance* wherein the sacred record refers to the first day of the week.

The *first* reference to Sunday after the resurrection of Christ is to be found in St. Luke's Gospel, 24 ch., from 33 to 40 vs., and in St. John's 20 ch., 19 v.

The above texts themselves refer to the sole motive of this gathering of the part of the apostles. It took place on the day of the resurrection (Easter Sunday), not for the purpose of inaugurating "the new departure" from the old Sabbath (Saturday) by keeping "holy" the new day, for there is not a hint given of prayer, exhortation, or the reading of the Scriptures, but it indicates the utter demoralization of the apostles by informing mankind that they were huddled together in that room in Jerusalem "for fear of the Jews," as St. John, quoted above, plainly informs us.

The second reference to Sunday is to be found in St. John's Gospel, 20th chapter, 26th to 29th verses: And after eight days, the disciples were again within, and Thomas with them. "The resurrected Redeemer availed Himself of this meeting of all the apostles to confound the incredulity of Thomas, who had been absent from the gathering on Easter Sunday evening. This would have furnished a golden opportunity to the Redeemer to change the day in the presence of all His apostles, but we state the simple fact that, on this occasion, as on Easter day, not a word is said of prayer, praise, or reading of the Scriptures. The third instance on record, wherein the apostles were assembled on Sunday, is to be found in Acts, 2d chapter, 1st verse: "The apostles were all of one accord in one place." (Feast of Pentecost - Sunday.) Now, will this text afford to our Biblical Christian brethren a vestige of hope that Sunday substitutes, at length, Saturday? For when we inform

them that the Jews had been keeping *this Sunday* for 1500 years, and have been keeping it for eighteen centuries after the establishment of Christianity, at the same time keeping the weekly Sabbath, there is not to be found either consolation or comfort in this text. Pentecost is the fiftieth day after the Passover, (The Passover was always the fourteenth day of the first month, without any reference whatever to any particular day of the week, and therefore it was impossible that the Pentecost should always be "necessarily Sunday," as stated. This note is inserted merely in the interests of accuracy, and not with the intention that it should have any bearing on the controversy in the text.) which was called the Sabbath of weeks, consisting of seven times seven days; and the day after the completion of the seventh weekly Sabbath day, was the chief day of the entire festival, necessarily Sunday. What Israelite would not pity the cause that would seek to discover the origin of the keeping of the first day of the week in his festival of Pentecost, that has been kept by him yearly for over 3,000 years? Who but the Biblical Christian, driven to the wall for a pretext to excuse his sacrilegious desecration of the Sabbath, always kept by Christ and His apostles, would have resorted to the Jewish festival of Pentecost for his act of rebellion against his God and his teacher, the Bible?

Once more, the Biblical apologists for the change of day call our attention to the Acts, 20th chapter 6th and 7th verses: "*and upon the first day of the week*, when the disciples came together to break bread," etc. To all appearances, the above text should furnish some consolation to our disgruntled Biblical friends, but being Marplot, we cannot allow them even this crumb of comfort. We reply by the axiom: "*Quod probat nimis, probat nihil*" "What proves too much, proves nothing." Let us call attention to the same Acts 2d chapter, 46th verse: "And they, continuing *daily* in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house," etc. Who does not see at a glance that the text produced to prove the exclusive prerogative of Sunday, vanishes into thin air - an *ignis fatuus* - when placed in juxtaposition with the 46th verse of the same chapter? What the Biblical Christian claims by this text

for *Sunday alone*, the same authority, St. Luke, informs us was *common to every day of the week*: "And they, continuing *daily* in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house."

One text more presents itself, apparently leaning toward a substitution of Sunday for Saturday. It is taken from St. Paul's 1 Ep. Cor. 16th chapter, 1st and 2d verses.

"Now concerning the collection for the saints," "On the first day of the week, let everyone of you lay by him in store," etc. Presuming that the request of St. Paul had been strictly attended to, let us call attention to what had been done each Saturday during the Saviour's life and continued for thirty years after, as the book of Acts informs us.

The followers of the Master met "*every Sabbath*" to hear the word of God; the Scriptures were read "*every Sabbath day*." "And Paul, as his manner was to reason in the synagogue *every Sabbath*, interposing the same of the Lord Jesus Christ," etc., Acts 18th chapter 4th verse. What more absurd conclusion that to infer that reading of the Scriptures, prayer, exhortation, and preaching, which *formed the routine duties of every Saturday*, as had been abundantly proved, were overslaughed by a request to take up a collection on *another day of the week*?

In order to appreciate fully the value of this text now under consideration, it is only needful to recall the action of the apostles and holy women on Good Friday before sundown. They brought spices and ointments after He was taken down from the cross; they suspended all action until the Sabbath "holy to the Lord" had passed, and then took steps on Sunday morning to complete the process of embalming the sacred body of Jesus. Why, may we ask, did they not proceed to complete the work of embalming on Saturday? - Because they knew well that the embalming of the sacred body of their Master would interfere with the strict observance of the Sabbath, the keeping of which was paramount; and until it can be shown that the Sabbath day *immediately preceding the Sunday of our text* had not been kept (which would be false, inasmuch as *every Sabbath had been kept*), the request of St. Paul to make the collection on *Sunday* remains to be classified with the work of the embalming of Christ's body, which could

not be effected on the Sabbath, and was consequently deferred to the next convenient day; viz., Sunday, or the first day of the week.

Having disposed of every text to be found in the New Testament referring to the Sabbath (Saturday), and to the first day of the week (Sunday); and having shown conclusively from these texts, that, so far, not a shadow of pretext can be found in the Sacred Volume for the Biblical substitution of Sunday for Saturday; it only remains for us to investigate the meaning of the expressions "Lord's Day," and "day of the Lord," to be found in the New Testament, which we propose to do in our next article, and conclude with apposite remarks on the incongruities of a system of religion which we shall have proved to be indefensible, self-contradictory, and suicidal.

DUE TO THE LENGTH OF THIS ARTICLE IT WILL BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #10--THANK YOU LAURA LEE (EDITOR)

**THE COMMANDMENT
CONSIDERED 'OPTIONAL'**

by Wayne Schatzle
West Chester, Ohio

With all the renewed interest in the Ten Commandments these days, one can only hope that we as a nation will see the extreme value in them. The very future of our people may rest on if we allow God's rules for life to guide us or not.

In reading the various essays presented by churches on this subject, it is interesting how they handle the Sabbath command. For the sake of their tradition they will usually say the Sabbath was transferred from Saturday to Sunday. For some reason keeping Saturday is bondage and Sunday is a blessing. Anyway, that is a point for a study all itself.

But let's say they are right and look at the Fourth Commandment from that standpoint. Most articles I have seen quote Exodus 20 for the listing of the Ten Commandments. "Remember the

Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work; nor your son, daughter, nor manservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gate. For in six days the Lord made the heavens, earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day and hallowed it. "It seems the one command that is viewed as optional, is also the longest and the most forgotten starts out with "remember."

Many of us remember when the "blue laws" virtually shut down towns and forced a day of rest on the residents. As we read the commandment, that is exactly what God proscribed, where even "strangers" and animals in town were to rest. I suppose pressure from merchants, those of different faiths, and nonreligious folks caused the blue laws to fall into disuse over the years. Many felt it was quite a burden to rest the whole day; I am sure Israel of old enjoyed it after being in slavery for generations with no rest. Notice how the Sabbath is observed now in these present days. It seems that the handful that still do keep the Sabbath holy have reduced it to just one hour in services then go about their business. It was a national ordinance in Israel -- with a rather strict penalty for transgressing it. "Surely my Sabbath you shall keep, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generation. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death ... whoever does any work on that day shall be cut off from among his people ... it is a perpetual covenant ... then he gave Moses the two tablets of stone written with the finger God." (Exodus 31)

Even though it is legal to work on the Sabbath today, is it possible for a spirit-led believer to transgress it? Does one searching after God need a civil law to keep it? Oddly enough, the Sabbath command is the only command we can keep! More often than not it was used by God as a test command to see if those called by his name will obey. How are you doing in your test?

Almost lost in the obedience argument are the words of Isaiah: "If you turn your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your business on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and honorable... then you shall delight yourself in the Lord... and He shall cause you to ride on the high

hills of the earth and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father... the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

In these incredibly busy times, the Sabbath command may be the most important commandment, if for nothing else for our mental and physical health. Why not start this week to draw near to your heavenly father. Turn off the cell phone, TV and other toys that consume your life. Mark your planner ahead of time that you and your family will be busy that day seeking your creator. Establish a kinship with a father who loves you and misses the quality time with his children.

(Wayne Schatzle is director of the Freedom Biblical Information Center.)

**"SHE IS NOT DEAD BUT
SLEEPS..."**

by Arlan Weight
Bismarck, North Dakota

Recently, a six year old girl died in our midst and these are the words that first came to my mind, as I thought on it. These are the words I wanted to tell her parents as they are yet grieving. I wanted to be able to rush up to them and express these words to them, as tears of sorrow streamed down their faces. My heart also ached when I thought on it.

Why, . . . why did this little girl, who was such a 'Treasure' to everyone, especially her parents, have to die? God says he knows when even a single sparrow dies, and sparrows are one of the most insignificant of all birds. He even says humans are of much more value than sparrows. (Mat. 10:29-30, Luke 12:6-7)

So if he knows this, didn't he know the problems this little girl was having? Doesn't he now see the emptiness in the hearts of loved ones. Loved ones who long to hold her, to tell her things, like how much they love her and yearn to see her again. Doesn't God know this? Did he slip up? Did he miss this one? What's going on?

It's events like this that cause us to see how fragile we are. It's things like this that jolt us into reality of life and the big

part death plays in it. Normally we are caught up in the routine of things and we don't think of death, especially for young persons. On these occasions we are forced to ponder and ask some of the big questions. Just what is life anyway? What is death? Is there a God? Why did this little girl die?

Even though hard, we accept the fact of adults dying or even when accidents claim the lives of young persons. But this... this, when a beautiful young person is taken away from a fine home environment, from a family who loves her, from a promising future. . . Well, it makes us think. Will this little girl live again? Some say she is now in heaven? If not, where is she? If she is simply in the grave, is this all there is to her life. . .six years and that's it?

The only place this writer knows of, that offers any answers, is the Bible. Here too, is a book that claims to know and yet we all seem to arrive at differing conclusions. But is death a mystery? Can we really know what happens when we die? And most importantly, is there life beyond the grave? Let's look at some examples.

Jairus' Daughter Dies and is Resurrected!

The words in the title of this article are taken from this account in Luke 6:52. These are the words Jesus spoke to the parents who just witnessed their own twelve year old daughter die. Imagine the grief of those parents and then to immediately hear words from someone saying, "she is not dead, but sleeps. . ."

These have got to be the most astonishing words one could ever hear. Is it any wonder people laughed at him. Did the people back then ever see people die and be raised to life again? Have you ever witnessed a dead person come back to life? Would you have laughed at this man? Think about it. Let's try to recapture the scene. Jesus had just cast out many demons from one person, when a man rushed up with an urgent message that his daughter was gravely ill and begged Jesus to come and heal her. Luke's account says he "fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house:" (Luke 9:42)

Furthermore it says, "For he had **one only daughter**, about twelve years of age". Let's think about it. Here was a

father, a father of one daughter, probably his only child, with little or no hope of having any more.

It also says he was a ruler of the synagogue. 'Jairus' no doubt, was well known in the community and possibly highly respected. Eerdman's Bible Dictionary says a "Ruler of the Synagogue was an administrator of the local synagogue whose task it was to supervise the business of the synagogue, to preside over the worship services. . ." Jairus was what you might know as the local minister.

So here he was now urgently asking Jesus to come and heal his daughter. . . his only daughter. No doubt the people all knew her as well. If any of you have ever had an only son or daughter you can well relate to this. There is a preciousness about it that goes beyond that of multiple children. So there was an urgency here that went above and beyond the normal.

So then Jesus proceeded to go to Jairus' house. It does not say how far it was or how long it took, but, if you were Jairus, you may have begun to get quite impatient with the people. He was probably wanting Jesus to move faster, but it says, "as he went the people thronged him." (Luke 8:42)

Imagine, here was Jairus, very urgent for Jesus to hurry because his daughter, his only daughter, is about to die and they can barely move because of the crush of the crowd of people near and around him. Then suddenly. . . they stop moving and Jesus senses power leave him and of course, this is the incident where the woman is healed of a hemorrhage of blood. But this all takes time, and time is something Jairus knows he doesn't have much of.

Anyway, while Jesus is patiently helping this woman, a certain other person is pushing through the crowd, gets to Jairus and says, "Your daughter is dead, don't trouble the master". (Luke 8:59) What a sinking, devastating feeling this must have been to hear these words! For a father to hear words saying his only daughter is dead. It must have been as a knife thrust into his own heart. But Jesus immediately said, "Fear not, believe only and she shall be made whole." (Luke 8:50)

No doubt Jairus and those with him were encouraged and wanted to believe him, but could they? Could they actually believe this person? What could he do?

Could he actually restore this twelve year old back to life? Well, you know the rest of the story. Of course he did.

But this incident in scripture brings up many questions. Why did Jesus allow Jairus' daughter to die? Like the Centurian's Servant, (Mat. 8:5-13) he could have healed her immediately as soon as he heard Jairus beg him to come to his house, but he didn't.

Lazarus Raised From the Dead!

Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, became sick and died. But when Jesus first heard of his illness he was still alive. He could have healed him immediately but instead he didn't. In fact he stayed where he was for another two days before he went to him. Why?

In fact it appears he resisted going to him immediately so he would die of his illness. Consider this. Does this sound like what we normally think, when we think of Jesus? Jesus always seems to take care of healings immediately at the moment he heard of them, but not this time. Why?

Didn't he realize all the anxious moments Mary and Martha were going through? Not to mention, Lazarus, didn't he feel for his suffering and possibly the pain? Here was a man whom it says plainly he loved. (John 11:5) And they, Lazarus and his two sisters loved Jesus. In fact Mary is the one who anointed Jesus feet with ointment and wiped them with her hair. (John 11:2) But what a let down! Or so it seemed.

Again, In this case as well as Jairus' daughter he said both of them were sleeping . . . even though they were dead. (John 11:11) Now some may argue the point that Jairus' daughter was in a coma but it's clear Lazarus was in a grave for four days. (John 11:17 & 39)

"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father I thank you that you have heard me. And I knew that you hear me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, **that they may believe that you have sent me**. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. **And he that was dead came forth, . . .**" (John 11:41-43)

Jairus' daughter and Lazarus are two examples of physical resurrections, but are they the first? No, not at all. The Old

Testament gives a number of examples of physical people coming back to physical life after they had died. Let's look at some.

Elijah Resurrects a Poor Widow's Son

In 1 Kings 17 is the account of God using Elijah to restore the life of the widow woman's son. The story begins in chapter 17:1. It starts out that there was a terrible drought and famine in the land and God told Elijah to go to a certain place where a widow woman would provide for his needs through that period of time.

As the story goes, this poor widow woman didn't have enough to even provide for her and her young son, let alone take on the responsibility for another person. Well, to make the story short, this woman listened to Elijah and did as he asked her and lo and behold the supplies never ran out. Even though they may have not had much, they had sufficient to survive.

But then it happened! As if it wasn't enough hardship to struggle through with barely enough food, this woman's young son became sick and died. Conditions were bleak at best and now, the only precious thing left in her life was her son, who now died. This was her son, her only son. . . She was devastated!

"And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with you, O you man of God? Are you come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" This woman had just witnessed the miracle of the food supply never running out but now what can she make of it? To her it seemed as though God was now using Elijah to punish her for her sin, whatever she thought it might be.

Elijah may have also been mystified by what had happened. Maybe he too wondered, "Why God, did you let this poor woman's son die? After all the things she's been through and now this. . . why?"

Anyway, "Elijah said unto her, Give me your son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he **cried unto the Lord**, and said, O Lord my God, have you also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?"

Elijah, no doubt was intense. It says, "He stretched himself upon the child three times, and **cried unto the Lord**, and said

O Lord my God, I pray you let this child's soul (life) come into him again. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul (life) of the child came into him again, and he revived." (1 Kings 17:21-22)

The Hebrew word for 'soul' here is 'nephesh'. Young's Concordance renders it 'animal soul'. It has many different meanings here but the main thing is, it is no different than the life of an animal. The New Testament counterpart is the Greek word 'psuche' which simply means 'life'

Elisha Resurrects a Young Boy

How about the example where Elisha was used in restoring the life of a child. The story begins in 2 Kings 4:8. There was a certain woman who was accustomed to doing good deeds for others. One of these good deeds happened to be toward Elisha, whom she perceived to be a 'man of God'. The good deed was to provide a place where Elisha could stop and be refreshed while journeying. (2 Kings 4:8-11)

Well, Elisha wanted to repay her for all her goodness she bestowed upon him, and when he had learned that she had no children, he told her "you shall embrace a son". (2 Kings 4:16) She was quite certain this would not happen because her husband was old. Very much like Abraham and Sarah, she did not quite believe it and yet. . . it happened. (2 Kings 4:16-17) This must have been a great blessing and joy to her!

But when the child was grown he was stricken with some terrible head ailment wherein he died. Think about it. Here again is a case where this may have been her only child and he dies. Pick up the story in 2 Kings 4:19, "And he said unto his father, 'my head, my head.' And he (his father) said to a lad, 'carry him to his mother. And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and **then died.**"

If we can but put ourselves in her place and think. This woman wanted children very much. God blessed her with a son even though it seemed an impossibility, and now this. Can you but feel the emotion, to watch this precious blessing slip away?

As soon as this happened she immediately went looking for Elisha. And she, like the previous story, was terribly distraught. This too was her only son. When she found him (Elisha) she said to

him, "Did I desire a son of my Lord? Did I not say, do not deceive me?" (2 Kings 4:28)

So Elisha quickly told Gehazi, his servant to go and lay his staff on the face of the child. But the woman was urgent for Elisha to go to him, which he did. And when he got there it says the "**child was dead** and laid upon his bed." (2 Kings 4:28)

"He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them two, and prayed unto the Lord. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes." (2 Kings 4:33-35)

Then Elisha told his servant to call her, which he did. "And when she was come in unto him, he said, 'take up your son. Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.'" (2 Kings 4:37) Can you but imagine the sheer joy she must have had at that moment? What hope she must have had toward God when she saw her son alive, her only son raised to life once more!

Other Resurrections

2 Kings 13:21 gives an account of a dead man being lowered into the grave occupied by Elisha. As soon as he "touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood upon his feet."

Daniel's Three Friends

How about the story of Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? (Dan. 3:8-30)

Either they were killed instantly as they were thrown into the fire, and resurrected, or they were miraculously protected from it. In either case it drew considerable attention to the King and all Babylonians at that time just who was in charge. It dramatically demonstrated God's power over death.

Imagine it! That must have been a powerful message to all that kingdom of that time. This was worldwide news! In fact look at the decree the king, king Nebuchadnezzar issued to all that vast

empire and peoples at that time. Notice the wording. "Therefore I make a decree, That **every people, nation, and language**, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because **there is no other God** that can deliver after this sort.

Paul Resurrects a Young Man Who Died of a Fall

Then there was the case in Acts 20:9-12 of a young man falling down from a third story window while listening to Paul speak. "And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so they departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted. Wow! I would say so.

Peter Raises Tabitha!

"Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And **she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.**" (Acts 9:36-42)

Paul Stoned to Death and Rises Up!

"And there came thither certain Jews

from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe." (Acts 14:19-20)

Many People Resurrected at the time of Christ's Resurrection!

"And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And **the graves, were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection**, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." (Mat. 27:51-52) Wow! What an impact that must have had on those living. To know those people had died, saw them buried, and then to see them up and living again!

Where Are the Resurrected Ones Today?

So what happened to all these people who were resurrected? Are they alive? Are they in heaven? According to scripture, it appears evident they all died again and are in their graves to this day. Notice what it says in John 3:13. "No man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man which is in heaven."

It's quite evident only one person died, was resurrected, and is now in heaven, and that was Christ. So why were these people, the examples listed above, raised to physical life, only to die once more? What was God's purpose?

Down through the ages, it appears evident that God has saw fit to resurrect certain ones for a reason at that time. One purpose appears to draw attention to where he (God) is working and whom he is working through. But another reason could be to give hope, . . . hope to all mankind that this life we now live is not all there is. There is more. . . much more. One day all people who have ever lived and died will be alive again.

Notice John 5:25. Jesus said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves** shall hear his voice." God has, through time, given mankind witness that he has power over death and one day will bring back to life all who have ever lived.

The Dead are Sleeping. . .

What is death like? Scripture likens death to be asleep. To this writer death appears to be like having a good nights rest in sleeping. Even though breathing goes on in sleeping, the heart rate slows and the mind is unconscious. If one has a good night's rest, there seems to be no passage of time. You may lie down and when you awake it's as if you just fell asleep, even though it may be seven hours later.

So then could it be that when we die, to us it will seem like the very next moment when we will be alive again. It may seem like we've died and gone somewhere. It may even be so quick as to be as we never died. . . Some scriptures seem to bear this out. Notice 1 Cor. 15:52.

Paul is explaining the resurrection and how some people will be alive when Christ returns and these people will be changed from mortal to immortal, "**In a moment in the twinkling of an eye**". Now here it seems to indicate the "moment in the twinkling of an eye" refers to the living. But it could also refer to those who are dead and are in their graves.

Think about it. What it seems to be saying is this, "look, it doesn't matter whether you're dead or alive the change or the resurrection, whichever it is, is going to be **instantly**." You may have been dead for a year or 5000 years and yet at the moment of your death it will seem as instantly you are alive again.

Another scripture which seems to bear this out is Philippians 1:23. Paul is saying if he had his choice he would choose to die and then be with Christ. From all other scriptures we've seen, all who have died are in their graves, so it could not mean dying and going to heaven. But to this writer, what it seems to be saying is that Paul understood the quickness in which death and the resurrection would be to him. He would die and the next moment of his consciousness he would see Christ.

More Than One Resurrection

The Bible indicates there is more than one resurrection. Notice 1 Corinthians 15:22-23. "For as in Adam **all** die even so **in Christ** shall **all** be made alive. **But every man in his own order**: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." "But I would not have you

to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the **dead in Christ shall rise first...**" (1 Thess. 4:13-16)

When Jesus returns to this planet he says those who died (in him) shall be raised to life again. But this time they, those who died in Christ, shall not be as Lazarus who was raised physical and died again, but rather as Christ now is with a spiritual body, free from the shackles of death.

So when are those who died, who never even heard the name of Jesus, to be raised out of their sleep? If the words Jesus spoke are true, and they are because "God does not lie", (Num. 23:19) there must be a time. . . yet future when this will happen.

If God does not have favoritism toward any and he is wanting the entire world (all who have ever lived and died, even the most hardened criminals) there must be a time when re-education is going to make it happen. Numerous places in the Bible give hints of when and how this will occur but it is not the purpose of this article to go into. The main focus is that the resurrection is sure. It's an event all mankind will one day experience.

The Resurrection is the Gospel

Can there ever be any better news you can hear? Think about it. Maybe you're 60, 70, or 80 years old, and you realize you have but a short time left. Is there any news that can be better than this, that you can live on. Life will not end for you at the grave!

Can there ever be any better news the parents of the six year old girl, who recently died, can hear, but that she will rise again! Can you imagine the sheer joy they will experience when this happens and they know for sure that this physical death is not the end?

Notice the joy Jairus and his wife experienced. In Luke 8:56 it simply says, "and her parents were astonished." (King

James Version) The Living Bible says, "Her parents were overcome with happiness." The New King James uses the same phraseology as the old and says, "They were astonished."

The word 'astonished' comes from the Greek word 'existeni' meaning "Be put out of oneself." (Young's Concordance) According to this, these people were so overcome with amazement and happiness they were **beside themselves!** They simply could not believe their eyes! Astonished. . . yes, but this English word is simply too weak to give the full impact. The Greek does a better job by saying, "**be put out of oneself!**"

For Jairus and his wife this day started out looking like the worst day they could ever have imagined, but turned out to be the best. They saw their daughter die and now was living and breathing in front of them. How wonderful! What hope it inspired, not only for them, but for others as well.

Notice also what happened immediately after this incident in Luke 8:50. "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases, and he sent them to preach **the kingdom of God** and heal the sick." (Luke 9:1-2)

Think about it. Here the people had just witnessed a resurrection. That was tremendously, astonishing, . . . unbelievable in it's impact. And then Jesus sends out his disciples to preach the 'Kingdom of God' . . . and to heal the sick.

What do you think they talked about when they preached the 'Kingdom of God'? It's obvious their main topic of discussion was the resurrection. It was real. The disciples had just witnessed God's power in bringing back this young girl to life. They were able to speak with conviction. Not only that, they themselves were given the power to resurrect people.

They were able to talk about God's Kingdom, when it would come, and when people would be able to awake again. The good news, the gospel, was the resurrection. . . to live on. Death was not the end after all. And again, this message was accompanied by many signs the disciples did by healing people of various things. More than likely a lot of those healings involved incurable diseases. Terminal illnesses for which there was nothing more that could be done! Think of

the impact this must have had on the people in that region, at that time. Jesus said "go, preach, saying the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, **raise the dead.**" (Mat. 10:7-8)

Shortly after this, Jesus sent word to John the Baptist in prison. John was wondering whether Jesus was the Messiah. Even though John had spent his years preaching about Christ and even baptized him, he may have had second thoughts now. He very likely knew his life might shortly end. He may have had reservations of his own mortality and was it all worth it.

So this is what Jesus told them to tell John. "Go and show John again those things which you do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear and the **dead are raised up.**" (Mat. 11:4-5) John, more than likely was greatly encouraged by these words. . . "the dead are raised up." He needed that encouragement at that moment in his life. When John awakens, he may not realize that 2000 years elapsed. It will seem to him to be shortly after his servants told him, "**the dead are raised up.**"

Conclusion

Death can be the most depressing subject we can think about, if we really deep down inside believe this is all there is. On the other hand, if there is a God, if this great being exists, and you can prove that the words of the Bible are true, then there is hope.

But think of it. If God is there, there is no need to sorrow continually. It does not mean there is not grief at the time a loved one dies, because there are tears. We long for them, we just don't know how we will get along without them at times. But think also about the time when you indeed will be able to embrace them, to tell them things you never got to when they were yet alive. All this is yet possible and more than likely will happen.

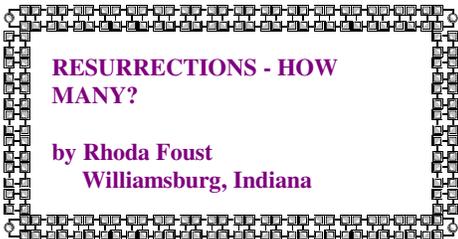
Notice what Jesus told his disciples at the time of his death. "You shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail has sorrow, because her hour has come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembers no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world." (John 16:20-21)

So, to this writer, it will be similar to all

of us. None of us look forward to leaving loved ones. None of those left behind look forward to seeing them go. But a time is coming when a new world will be ushered in and great rejoicing will take place.

God has commanded life. . . life unending. In Psalms 133:3 are the words, "upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, **even life forevermore.**" This is God's will for all mankind. By the examples written in the Bible, God has demonstrated his power over incurable diseases including physical death. He has proven that he can raise people back to life physically as well as spiritually.

When Christ returns to this earth and the resurrections begin to occur, then we will remember the words Jesus said so long ago, "**she is not dead but sleeping...**"



During the time of Yeshua there was a heated controversy about the resurrections. It is no different today. Is there such an event as a resurrection from the dead? Who will be in the resurrection? How many resurrections are there? And when are the resurrections? These are just a few of the questions many have. We read in the scriptures of some very clear resurrections that took place, another called "the first" resurrection, and if there is a "first" it stands to reason there is one or more to follow, and another after a thousand years, which, by the way, is **not** called "the second". And what about the one in Rev. 20:12-13?

Mat. 22:23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

24 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

25 Now there were with us seven

brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

27 And last of all the woman died also.

28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Yeshua not only taught that there was a resurrection to eternal life, but he actually brought some that were dead back to physical life during his ministry. He called that kind of death "sleep". But he taught about another kind of resurrection, too.

Luke 20:35 But they which shall be accounted **worthy to obtain that world**, (age) and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

Yeshua says one must be "accounted worthy" and that such a one would "obtain that world". So there is another "world" (According to Strong's Conc. This word "world" can be translated "age") to look forward to if one is found worthy to be in this resurrection.

Luke 20:36 **Neither can they die any more:** for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

Then Yeshua tells about another resurrection, one to the "resurrection of damnation".

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the **resurrection of life**; and they that have done evil, unto the **resurrection of damnation.**

Matthew tells about a resurrection following Yeshua's own resurrection.

Mt. 27:52 And the graves were opened; and **many bodies of the saints which slept arose,**

53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

These were "**saints**" who were resurrected. Was this their resurrection into eternal life, or was this a resurrection to physical life? Yeshua is already resurrected as the first fruits. If they were resurrected to eternal life, would this not be their "first" resurrection as mentioned in Rev. 20: 5-6? Did these people receive eternal life at this time? On the other hand, if they were resurrected to physical life, then they eventually died a second time. If they kept the faith, still saints at the time of their second death, will they be in another resurrection, the one Yeshua refers to as "the first" resurrection? Rev.20:6

The bible records many resurrections that clearly are to physical life. The most remarkable and detailed resurrection is found in John 11.

Jo. 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Yeshua said Lazarus was not, at this time, going to die. Yet he did die as we will see. Then what did he mean? He always thought and spoke on a higher spiritual level than those about him. He simply meant Lazarus had not died an eternal death, the second death spoken of in Rev.21:8. Lazarus was in a temporary, "sleep" death.

Yet, he had been dead long enough to begin to "stink".

Jo 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the

same place where he was.

7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judea again.

Yeshua deliberately waited two days before starting the trek to bring Lazarus back to life and didn't arrive there for another two days. He wanted to build their faith.

11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

The disciples were talking about "death" but Yeshua was thinking "sleep". However, Yeshua shifted his thoughts down to their level, admitting Lazarus was "dead".

17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he **shall rise again in the resurrection** at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection**, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

There are many other scriptures that show there were other resurrections from the "sleep" death. Elisha brought a child back to life (2 Kng.4:32). Women received their dead raised to life (Heb. 11:35).

Paul taught that Yeshua indeed was resurrected, and that there would be two different types of resurrections.

Ac 17:18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoics, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

Ac 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

Ac 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Ac 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

Ac 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that

there shall be **a resurrection** of the dead, **both of the just and unjust**.

Ac 24:21 Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.

Ro 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Ro 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

1Co 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

We have discovered there is a resurrection to a physical life, from the death that Yeshua referred to as "sleep". And there is the resurrection to eternal life, like Yeshua's resurrection. There is a resurrection of the just and a resurrection of the unjust. First we will explore the subject of the "just" resurrection, called "the first" resurrection.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 **But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

We know that there had been other resurrections, so because this one frees one from death it is "the first" of it's kind. According to this particular scripture, given by Yeshua, the ones in "the first" resurrection have to meet certain criteria: They had been "beheaded" (martyred) for their belief and witness of Yeshua, and had not worshipped or taken the mark of

the beast. These people are especially blessed because they will not experience the second death. They will receive eternal life. No other group of people have been referred to as having attained this level of spiritual achievement. According to this scripture no one else will be resurrected until **after** a thousand years have passed. We see then that some resurrections have already taken place, and others are yet to take place. Some *will be* subject to a second death. But no resurrections will happen until after the thousand years as stated in Rev. 20:5.

Heb.11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a **better resurrection**:

36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Paul talks more about this "best" resurrection in 1Cor.15:50

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

1Thes. 4:13 But I would not have you to

be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will **God bring with him**.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

It appears that Paul thought that Yeshua was going to return in his life time, which we know never happened. Likewise, without scripture to support us, we can assume many things that are not going to occur, and we can place events in the wrong time slots, as well. We must keep in mind that the next resurrection does not occur for a thousand years after the "first-fruits" resurrection. There are two ways in Rev. 20 that tells us this: a) verse 5 and b) it is after Satan has been released, verse 1-3, and 7.

Rev.20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But **the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished**..

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. This is the first resurrection.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together

to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

To go to the next resurrection we will have to fast forward at least a thousand years.

Eze. 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, **they were very dry**.

From these scriptures we see these people had been dead a very long time.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

6 And I will lay **sinews** upon you, and will bring up **flesh** upon you, and cover you with **skin**, and put **breath** in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

This is a resurrection to physical life. It has often been referred to as "the second resurrection" but it is not called that in the bible. It is simply called the resurrection of the "whole house of Israel".

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the **bones came together**, bone to his bone.

8 And when I beheld, lo, the **sinews and the flesh came up upon them**, and the **skin covered** them above: but there was no breath in them.

9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the **breath came into them**, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of**

Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

Yahweh identifies these people as "the **whole** house of Israel". Notice he did not say this is all the people that has ever lived and died. He did not say these are the whole house of Judah, or Jews, nor did he say these are Israelites *and* Gentiles. He says these are the "**whole** house of Israel" (descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel).

12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, **I will open your graves**, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Yahweh does not say he will lead them out of foreign countries, or that they were in a state of returning to their land. No, he said **after** he causes them to come out of their graves, then **he** would "bring them into their land".

13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

There are a lot of things that happen between verse thirteen and verse fourteen. For lack of space Eze. 38 and 39 will not be inserted here, but the reader should read these two chapters to fill in the events that take place here. Rev. 20:7-8 is the key to Ezekiel's prophecy as it refers to the same nations and the same events in the same time period.

Rev.20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city:

Again this is the end result of Gog, but much happens before Yahweh destroys five out of six of them as stated in Eze. 39:1-6

1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

The rest of chapter 39 describes the fate of Gog and his allies.

Rev. 20:9and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Then, after Yahweh rescues Israel and brings them back from the Gentile nations where Gog and his allies have taken them captive, he reunites the house of Israel (descendants of the other nations of Israel) and the house of Judah, as described in Eze. 37:16-22. Then he makes this promise to Israel.

Eze.37:14 And (I) shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

15 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions:

17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

19 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of

Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

20 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, **and their children**,

It is clear, from these scriptures, that these events occur after the thousand years, and not at the beginning. During this resurrection there is no mention of these people "reigning" or having "eternal life". They are referred to as having "children". Yahweh is not a God of confusion so it makes sense that he would resurrect each of the twelve tribes of Israel in their order, placing each tribe in their allotted location. This may take many years before all twelve tribes have been resurrected and settled in their portioned land. As we have already seen, there is no set time schedule for the resurrections of those who are "asleep". If this is the case, there could very well be at least twelve resurrections occurring during this time. These Israelite nations become one "house of Israel" or one huge nation and continue to reproduce. They will live their allotted time and then die

(sleep) again, awaiting a time of judgment, when they will be resurrected, (woke again) to either "damnation" or "eternal life". This then will be a second resurrection to eternal life.

Rom 11:24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

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

26 And so **all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is **my covenant** unto them, when **I shall take away their sins.**

Whether Paul understood this or not, he was talking about the **fullness of the Gentiles** that is to take place during the thousand years of Yeshua's rule on earth. He also is speaking of after the resurrection of the whole house of Israel spoken of in Eze. 37:, and the taking away of their sins after he brings them back into their land **again.**

Eze 37:23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

We are not told how many physical awakenings Yahweh chooses for mankind. However, Yahweh makes it plain that this is his business, not ours.

De. 32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

40 For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever.

41 If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.

42 I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.

43 Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

1Sam 2:6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he **bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.**

7 The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

Who are we to limit Yahweh, to decide for him how many times he can or cannot awake whomever he chooses, and as often as he chooses? We are told a little about some resurrections, but we are not told everything. We are told that David is still asleep, and has seen corruption. (Act 13:36). We are told about a large group of people who were resurrected to physical life, some to eternal life, and some who are thrown into the lake of fire. We are told many are sleeping in the dust, just waiting to be awakened.

Dan. 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:

Daniel writes about the great tribulation, then he jumps through time and writes about a deliverance of Yahweh's people whose names are written in the book of life. Then he writes about a resurrection into a "better" resurrection. He also writes about another type of resurrection of those who will be

resurrected to everlasting contempt. Do we know they are all necessarily in the same resurrection, or even all of any one group resurrected at the same time? Then Daniel jumps through time again, to a future description of what the righteous will appear as.

and at that time thy **people shall be delivered**, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of them that **sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake**, some to **everlasting life**, and some to **shame and everlasting contempt.**

3 And they that be **wise shall shine** as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness **as the stars** for ever and ever.

35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because **it is yet for a time appointed.**

Daniel says these events are "yet appointed". Are not the resurrections also appointed? Those in the first resurrection will never die again or go to sleep permanently. Those in other resurrections can die, go back to sleep as many times as Yahweh sees fit, until he decides to give them eternal life in another resurrection to life. When we sleep our spirit "knows nothing", but it does go back to Yahweh and stays asleep until Yahweh awakens it. After all, it is his spirit, not ours. Yeshua commanded his spirit back to the Father when he died. When he resurrected his spirit was given back to him into a different kind of body. He was the first to be resurrected in "the" first resurrection to eternal life, making him the "first-fruit" of many brethren. However, those in Rev. 6; during the fifth seal are told they have to wait for a certain event before their deaths are avenged.

Rev. 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto

them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

We are not told if the group in verses 9-11 are from the tribes of Israel or if they are from many nations as the next group is. John tells us that he saw, again, in his visions, a great multitude that serves The Father and The Lamb before their throne. We assume this great multitude has been resurrected to eternal life, but we are not told that specifically; we *are* told that they are "from all nations".

Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of **all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues**, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

John also tells of seeing one hundred and forty-four thousand of the twelve tribes of Israel in Rev. 7:1-8 and Rev. 14:1-5. These are also "first-fruits" who

have been "sealed". They come out of the literal tribes of Israel. They are said to be "virgins" who are without fault before the throne of God. They follow Yeshua everywhere he goes. We assume they were in the "first" resurrection, but as we stated, there is more than one of this type of resurrection to eternal life. If there is a "first" there has to be another, and perhaps more.

1Cor 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But **every man in his own order**: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

We come now to a new age. We saw that the resurrected Israel profaned Yahweh's name, how he allowed Satan to lead Gog and his allies against them and take them into captivity, then Yahweh destroys Israel's enemies, and brings them back into their land once again. We read Yahweh's promise to "cleans" them and give them his holy spirit. At this point the reader should stop reading here and pick up in Eze.40 and read the last eight chapters to fill in the gap between 1Cor. 15:23 and verse 24.

1Cor 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

Rev.20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And **I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God**; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And **the sea gave up the dead**

which were in it; and death and **hell delivered up the dead** which were in them: and **they were judged** every man according to their works.

Here we see possibly another resurrection, perhaps even several. At any rate, this is a resurrection of "judgment". The bible says "judgment" began with the house of God. So we can assume this is a final judgment at the end of an age. In another study it is proved there are several ages from Adam to Rev. 22.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev.21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new**. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Rev.21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Is 65:17 For, **behold, I create new heavens and a new earth**: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for **the child shall die an hundred years old**; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

There will no longer be infant deaths.

Children will be healthy and will live to be a hundred years old. If a person lives to be a hundred as a sinner, he will be accursed, or thrown into the lake of fire. This shows there will still be sinners who will not be given eternal life. Are there not those who keep the commandments, who are allowed into the city gates, to eat of the tree of life, who live to be a hundred years old, who will receive eternal life?

21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Isaiah looks into the same future that John wrote about in Rev. 21 and 22 when Yahweh makes all things new. We will notice that Israel is still physical, they are still having children, and they are still dying. And as they die there will be more resurrections to eternal life. Yahweh and Yeshua are dwelling in their midst, in that New City.

Rev. 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

This is not to be confused with the temple that Yahweh gives Ezekiel the blueprints for Israel to build in the last chapters of Eze. That was in a different age.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the

temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And **the nations** of them **which are saved** shall walk in the light of it: and the **kings of the earth** do bring their glory and honour into it.

We see that even after the New City comes down out of heaven and Yahweh and Yeshua dwell in it, there are many Gentile nations still populating and being "saved".

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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

It seems here that life depends on whether one keeps the commandments of Yahweh. Otherwise those nations "without", outside the city will not have access to the tree of life.

15 For **without** are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches.

In conclusion: There is no way for us to determine from the limited scripture that we have access to, and the way we "see as through a dark window" as Paul stated, can we know how many resurrections Yahweh has planned for the ages of mankind. We have mention of several to physical life, a "first" to spiritual life (how many more?), and one (or more) to damnation. We also see nations still living and dying even after the New City comes down out of heaven. How many resurrections? Does anyone know?

LETTERS SECTION--This section can contain letters to the editor, to the brethren, or from the editor. Please keep in mind while reading these letters, that just because we print them does not mean that we agree with everything people say in these letters. Letters many times are filled with opinion and emotion and sometimes factual and un-factual information. This section is interactive. If you agree or disagree with a letter or an article in this newsletter and want others to know, this is the section for you. Please, if you want your letter to be printed, clearly say so and send it to Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We do not print all letters that we receive. If you state you want your letter printed, then we do consider it for inclusion. If we receive a letter that we feel would be of interest to others, generally we ask the writer for permission to print it. If you clearly state that you do not want your letter printed, it will not be printed.

by Don Esposito
Israel

Dear Brethren,
Greetings in Yahshua's name. I pray that all of Yah's set apart Saints are well. We are in Jerusalem and safe under the guiding wings of our Savior. This will be my last e-mail for some time, but I wanted to share with you many exciting things that have happened to us in the land. First of all the situation here right now, politically is very grave. The violence is horrific. Places where we frequent have been bombed, and Hamas has said today that they have 60 suicide bombers ready to go all over the land. We are not at all worried, and trust in Yahweh as our shield.

We had a most awesome day yesterday, as we went to the Temple Mount with the Temple Mount faithful for the firstfruits ceremony. It was very moving. I was approached by three journalists, who interviewed me on the

situation, and why we were there at the third Temple. One will be a documentary on the third Temple. I boldly told them, on film, that we were believers in Yahshua, and explained how he is the wave sheaf with full scriptural references. They asked if I was worried to be there with all the violence. I responded that Yahweh is my shield and strength, and I was worried for the 90% of Israeli's who don't believe Torah. I said the temple mount was the safest place to be, because we are fulfilling Yahweh's word. They were speechless. Gershom Solomon's assistant came up to me and shook my hand, and said he wished all Israeli would have the zeal I had. Praise Yahweh.

The second reporter was from the associated press and did a lengthy interview with me on our connection to Israel as believers in Yahshua, and also the pagan roots of Easter (Istar) Sunday and christianity. She said it could be picked up by any paper in the world. The third interview was with the World catholic Report, I told them the same. Some Muslims tried to break up the ceremony when we went around to the chain gate of the temple Mount, but the police held them back.

I also want to state first hand, and I've enclosed a picture that the barley is definitely Aviv (Ripe). There have been some misconceptions about the Karaites and the barley that I would like to clear up. First of all, many other groups including representatives from Assemblies of Yahweh, Temple Mount faithful, Ex Worldwide Church of God, and independent observers all verified ripe barley. What I found on, being in the land, is that in Israel and Jordan barley grows wild. It is everywhere. We picked much yesterday ourselves. So you don't have to depend on a Karaite or anyone else for observation. All you have to do is come to Jerusalem according to Deut 16, and see it for yourself, if you choose. But if not, there are many independent observers who can verify. My friend even went to Jordan, to the land of Manassah and also verified barley there in Aviv. If you read Mk 4:26-29, it states when the harvest is ready that you immediately put forth the sickle to the ripe barley. Again we respect each one's right to do as he or she is convicted, but wanted to dispel the error that the barley in Israel is not Aviv. We have seen it, and picked it and it is definitely Aviv.

One sad story I want to share. The other day we met a crippled man with no legs, that had his wheel chair collapse, and was stranded on the side of a street for two days with no food or water. Nobody helped him. He is a Russian Jewish believer that the government will not help because of his belief in Yahshua. We went to the Christ Church to get the man help, and they basically threw us out and said they had their own problems, and wouldn't help the man. After 7 hours of calling every church and outreach ministry almost in Jerusalem (which not one would help) we got a social worker to lend a wheel chair till we could fix his. The million dollar corporate churches here care only about money. We hear it all the time from people every day. They are horrible. King of King church is similar. Always begging for money, but not even helping a brother with no legs. When we brought the man the wheel chair he hugged us and cried.

There needs to be a real spiritual awakening here. 90% of Israeli's don't believe in Torah. Abortion is rampant. Homosexuality is legal, and worst of all they don't trust in the mighty El of Israel for their defense. I am preaching these hard words here, pray for our safety. One other note; through a divine appointment set up by Yahweh, we met with a secret believer (Orthodox Jew) in Yahshua. After a long talk he told me that many Orthodox are having a hard time denying Yahshua. We pray that all will come to his name. After 2 days, we will only be able to get snail mail. We love you all, and pray for all daily.

Your brother in Yahshua,
Don Esposito

PS--April 14, 2002--The above letter was from April 1, 2002. Since then Yahweh has opened up many exciting doors for us with the orthodox. Three rabbis have taken my book and support it. They have also invited me to go to Yeshiva, and will give me opportunity to speak and ask questions. Please pray for me if it is the Father's will. Also our tape duplicator has broke, and it is in repair, so we will not be sending any tapes for 2 to 4 weeks. Sorry for the delay. We will try to get caught up as soon as the machine is returned from being repaired. We are beginning to make plans for the Feast in Jerusalem. If anyone is considering coming please

write to us, and we will send information. We thank everyone for their prayers.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Don & Petra Esposito's address is: Congregation of YHWH, 28 Swarthmore Drive, Carteret, NJ 07008



Dear Laura & Darwin,

We've written before, but wanted to write again to tell you that the newsletter just keeps getting better and better! You are doing such a wonderful service for God and to His people--keeping us all connected at a time when many feel fragmented and isolated. It is obvious the newsletter takes many hours of effort plus the services you offer in your home. God sees this and He will bless you for this.

Thanks so much for blessing others-- you are always in our prayers.

Love,
Gail & Paul Beard

EDITOR'S NOTE: We would like to give special thanks to all of the people who submit articles and letters to this newsletter. We would also like to give special thanks to all of those who help us with postage to mail these newsletters and to forward cards to those who are sick or hurting. All of these helps, truly do contribute to helping others. THANK YOU. Laura Lee



LETTER:

Hello again,

I noticed this morning according to your newsletter you were observing the

Passover last night while we went to a night to be much observed with some old friends. That set me off on another train of thought.

"About a year ago I read a book recommended by Zola Levitt titled "Passover Haggadah A Messianic Celebration" arranged by Eric-Peter Lipson. Zola has a TV show we had watched now and then. His background is of Jewish upbringing but he was converted over to christianity while attending a christian bible college. His programs have a focus on the Jews and Jerusalem with heavy emphasis on Jesus. He makes a lot of excellent observations connecting the sacrifice of Jesus with the Passover.

An item in Zola's recommended book that caught my interest is that this version of the service includes a meal and gives roles to women and children. That clashes with what we had been taught that Passover is for baptized members only (definitely no children!) and has tiny portions of bread and wine."

RESPONSE:

Where in the Bible, God's word does it say that Passover is for baptized members only? If you read Exodus 12, you will see that the whole family participated--men, women and children. Where does it say in the Bible, God's word that the bread and the wine were to be tiny portions? In Exodus 12 and in the New Testament when Jesus taught his disciples about the bread and wine and foot washing, in both cases there was also a meal.

LETTER:

Of course the family approach is the way the Jews have observed Passover for centuries. A contrast I noted is that the long term fruits of the way we did things is that most children left our church or became second or third generation which has taken over and rejected everything we believed in favor of other religious practices which seem new to them. On the other hand the Jews have persisted with their observations for centuries with generation after generation preserving traditions. When Jews do leave their religion, they still cherish fond memories of the traditions and are not easily converted to christianity. Could it be that Jews had ingredients of love in their way

of life while ours had a quality harshness that greatly dominated over what love we did have?

The Jews Passover has traditionally been the evening of the 14/15th Nisan as you are now doing. Yet you mention if people come to you wishing to observe the Passover the evening before, you offer to help them anyway.

RESPONSE:

We are not here to argue doctrine or to make anyone see it our way. What we all need to be seeking is God's way. We know that many people keep the Holy Days on different dates than we do, and because of that, we also understand that people keep these days according to their own understanding of scripture, just as we do. We believe that just because someone does not see it our way, is no reason to throw them out of our midst or not to help them. So with that in mind, if there is someone who keeps a different date than we do and needs help in keeping Passover or any other Holy Day for that matter, please contact us and we will try to help you with that to the best of our ability.

LETTER:

I think that is an excellent attitude on your part and love of the kind that is in the Bible. Surely, if mercy is associated with love then your offer makes sense. If love is greater than other qualities of our being then I suspect that God is not real concerned about exact time and methods of physical observances (especially those that are not crystal clear in the Bible and consequently generate controversy) as long as we make use of a generous helping of mercy of the kind God shows to us.

Last year, I had looked at Exodus 12:6 description of the first Passover "And ye shall keep it (lamb) up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening (or between the two evenings)." I was puzzled because I did not see a clear description in the verse if the evening was at the beginning of the 14th or the one at the close of the 14th and could not find an answer anywhere else.

RESPONSE:

Hebrew for between the two evenings

is: "beyn ha `arbayim" and is found in the following verses: Exd. 12:6, Exd. 16:12, Exd. 29:39, Exd. 29:41, Exd. 30:8, Lev. 23:5, Num. 9:3, Num. 9:5, Num. 9:11, Num. 28:4, and Num. 28:8. To get a clear meaning of scripture, one should study all the verses where the word appears in the Hebrew or Greek. When we first studied this, we had a hard time finding an explanation of the definition of between the two evenings also. Webster's College Dictionary says one of the definitions is when the sun starts to decline around noon. This would put the killing of the Passover lamb on the 14th, sometime after noon, and Webster's College Dictionary goes on to say that in some areas they still define evening as from noon to sunset. This would put the killing of the Passover lamb on the 14th, sometime after noon, but before sunset. When looking at this subject again, I found the following: Young's Bible and Darby's Bible both render Exd. 12:6 "between the two evenings" just like the Hebrew "beyn ha `arbayim" indicates literally. Also look in "The Complete Works of Josephus" and "Gray's Home Bible Commentary". Easton's Bible Dictionary under evening explained this point very well. Also in Jeremiah 6:4, it seems to indicate that the day started to decline around noon. In Number's 33:3, it is pretty clear that they departed from Rameses on the 15th day, which was the morrow after the Passover. Also in Deuteronomy 16:6 the Old King James Bible says "...at the going down of the sun,...", which indicates when the passover lambs were to be killed. I think we can all agree that the sun starts to go down or decline in the sky somewhere around noon. The Bible definition for "between the two evenings" seems to mean a period of time between the declining of the sun around noon until the actual setting of the sun at night. This particular period of time only occurs once in a 24 hour period of time. For other information on this subject, you might try contacting the Berean Fellowship in Dousman, Wisconsin (Church of God, Berean Fellowship, PO Box 215, Dousman, WI 53118) and also Norman Edwards in Perry, Michigan (Servants' News, PO Box 107, Perry, MI 48872). Arlan Weight did research on the Passover and wrote an article which we printed in Issue #3. For a reprint of Arlan Weight's article titled "Passover" write or

email us. You will find our contact information on the 2nd page of this newsletter.

LETTER:

For years our ministers had pounded into our minds that the Jews were observing it on the wrong day based on references in the New Testament describing the one Jesus observed before his crucifixion. A few nights ago a thought came to mind that the one the Jews have been observing for so many centuries at the close of the 14th to kill the lamb must coincide exactly with the time Jesus actually died which fulfills one of the prophecies of his coming. So the Jews appear to have been observing the Passover just like God had intended down through the centuries. Next thought, if Jesus was to die when the Passover predicted he would die and if he were to observe the Passover with his disciples just before he died then it makes sense the only way such would be possible would be for him to observe it the night before because he could not do so while he was being crucified. To me this means that Jesus changed the time of observance by his example to the evening at the beginning of the 14th which still is in accord with Exodus 12:6 describing its association with the evening of the 14! Perhaps God had made the exact time of Passover unclear in Exodus for a purpose.

RESPONSE:

Most of us who came from a Worldwide Church of God background understand that Herbert Armstrong taught that the Jewish people kept Passover on the wrong day. With this in mind, what actual Biblical proof is there that the Jewish people kept Passover on the wrong day? What actual proof do any of us have that Herbert Armstrong was keeping and teaching Passover on the correct day? Most people who study the subject of Passover, understand that Passover in Exodus 12, was eaten on the evening 14/15, with the lambs killed on the afternoon of the 14th. In Exodus 12, God was the one who gave all the instructions on how to keep this Passover and these instructions were given to the Israelites. In Jesus day, there was never any dispute with the Jewish people as far as when the Passover should be kept,

and Jesus kept it the same day they did. Scripture does show that Jesus was the Passover Lamb, John 1:29 and John 1:36. Jesus knew he was the Passover Lamb and that he would be slaughtered with the Passover Lambs, so he taught his disciples a new way to keep the Passover on the night before he knew he would die. Since Jesus was our ultimate sacrifice and there would no longer be a need for animal sacrifices to continue, he needed to show his disciples a new way of keeping it. The bread and the wine symbolizes Christ's body and blood. The foot washing shows our willingness to serve each other. There is absolutely no place in any of the scriptures to show that or prove that the date of the Passover which God instructed to be kept was changed to any other day. If anyone can prove by scripture that God or Christ changed the date of Passover, we here, would like to see that proof. Since Christ knew he would die the next day, Christ showed his disciples the night before how to keep Passover from that point forward, since there would no longer be a need for animal sacrifices as they did before that. What the Worldwide Church of God did, was split the actual Passover into two nights. One they called the Passover and the other they called the Night to be Much Observed. If you study Exodus 12, you will generally come to understand that these two observances were the same. The Passover of Exodus 12 is that "Night to be Much Observed". You cannot prove from scripture that "The Night to be Much Observed" was a separate night from that of Passover and if you can, please book, chapter and verse. If you read in Numbers chapter 9, you will see that provision was made for people to keep a different Passover if for some reason they were not able to keep the regular one as instituted by God in Exodus 12. So if Christ knew he would be in the Grave on Passover night, he would be still in the confines of the law to keep Passover the night before. People try to claim that there is no meal with our keeping of Passover today and site scripture in, I Corinthians 11 where Paul is speaking, yet turn right around and say they are going by Christ's example in the New Testament to change the date. If one reads these accounts in the New Testament, it appears to make Passover quite confusing, as why would you follow Christ one minute and Paul the next? Christ clearly ate a meal the night

he taught his disciples. The Bread and the Wine (Body and Blood) were introduced during the meal and the foot washing was introduced after the meal. Clearly Christ was eating a meal here if you want to say this was a Passover night being kept. Another problem with the teaching of the Worldwide Church of God, was how for Passover on the early 14, everyone ate unleavened bread and then the whole time after the Passover service up until sunset on 14/15, we could all eat leavened bread. Did anyone ever see something wrong with this practice? In Exodus 12, we are clearly instructed to eat unleavened bread with the Passover meal, so please tell us why when Christ was teaching his disciples to keep the Passover a new way, why would he then break and eat leavened bread, if indeed he changed the date by doing so. The point is that Christ ate leavened bread this night and the Worldwide Church of God ate unleavened bread in following this example. If you are clearly going to site Christ's example for keeping Passover on the early 14th, then you also need to keep it by eating a meal, and using leavened bread to represent the body. I know, I have probably offended some by going into this long explanation of Passover, but I need to stress a point here. We must prove something in order to see whether it is true or not. We cannot just take someone's word for these things just because we highly respect who is saying it. There is no human person on this planet who knows everything, even if they try to lead us to believe that they do. We all need to look at what someone says and if we can prove what they say is not true, then we should not believe it. Many people sat in the Worldwide Church of God for many years being taught one man's opinion of how to keep Passover. The key lies in your education on the subject, and not in the fact that God was not clear on the subject of Passover. I believe God was very clear on the subject of Passover and how he wanted it to be kept, however God was also very clear on how we are to treat each other, and that we are all learning. We need to learn from God though and not from men's opinion's of what they think God says. Read and Study your Bible to prove all things, whether they be true or not, and at the same time, love your brethren and show mercy and understanding to those who do not see these Holy Days as clearly as

some people may think they see them through the glass darkly.

LETTER:

That brings me to one more thought. If the first Passover lambs were actually killed between the two evenings at the end of the 14th then the "night to be much observed" described in Exodus 12:42 as the time when Israel left Egypt could actually be the evening at the end of the 15th which is tonight instead of last night as we have been instructed by ministers for so many years!

With growing Agape towards all,
Ted J Saunders.....

RESPONSE:

Read Numbers 33:3, it clearly tells us what the Israelites were doing on the 15th. If you continue reading into verse 4, the activities for the 15th get even clearer. No one reading this has to agree with our research on the subject or the conclusions we have reached, but we believe from scripture that Passover, The First Day of Unleavened Bread, and the Night to be Much Observed are all observed together starting at even on 14/15, with the lambs in Exodus 12 having been killed the afternoon of the 14th between the two evenings defined as between noon and sunset. We here in Bismarck, North Dakota, believe that we should love all people, and in so showing this concept of love, will not now or in the future cut anyone off from fellowship with us, because we do not agree with your keeping of the Holy Days, but will even go one step further and help you to observe the Holy Days as stated in the Bible, as you understand them to the best of our ability. (All responses were written by Laura Lee)

QUESTION THAT TED ASKED LATER ON THE SAME SUBJECT:

Your replies bring me to another question. John 6 describes things Jesus said just before the Passover concerning the bread and wine representing his body and blood which if we eat and drink then we will be raised up at the last day. This shows Jesus was associating forgiveness of sin and future salvation with the Passover symbols. If very young children now take part in the (entire?) Passover (subsequent to Jesus giving his life for us) then how do

you see their fit (and future baptism after which God gives his Holy Spirit) relative to such symbolism which many would be too young yet to comprehend?

RESPONSE:

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt **write them upon the door posts of thine house**, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord swear unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, **to walk in all his ways**, and to cleave unto him;" (Deuteronomy 11:18-22 Old King James Bible)

"And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: **and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you**, when I smite the land of Egypt." (Exodus 12:13 Old King James Bible)

Here we see the blood is to protect us and is to represent protection when we walk in all of God's ways. Does this exclude our children? (Exodus 12:6-8 Old King James Bible) "And ye 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. 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. And **they shall** eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs **they shall eat it.**"

This Exodus Passover was eaten by the entire assembly, which would include men, women and children. The lamb eaten in this Exodus Passover by the entire assembly clearly represented Christ. Read Exodus 12:9 Old King James Bible, "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." Then in Exodus

12:46 Old King James Bible, read "In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth aught of the flesh abroad out of the house; **neither shall ye break a bone thereof.**" Here we see that the lamb they ate was not to be gutted nor were any bones to be broken. In John 19:36-37 Old King James Bible, it says "For these things were done, **that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.** And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced." Go up a few verses and it even tells why they did not break Christ's legs, which is a normal practice in crucifixion. Christ was also not gutted, he was pierced and bled to death.

Another point to consider here is that Passover was an ordinance to be kept forever. See Exodus 12:14, 17, 24, and 43. In the New Testament see 1 Corinthians 11:2 and especially look closely at Colossians 2:13-15, which clearly shows that only those ordinances which were not of God were the ones which were nailed to the cross and not God's laws or ordinances.

John 6:26 Old King James Bible reads, "Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did **eat of the loaves, and were filled.** 27--**Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life**, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. 28--Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29--Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. 30--They said therefore unto him, What sign showest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? 31--Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. **(The entire family, men, women and children ate the manna.)** 32--Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33--For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. 34--Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. 35--And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life:** he that cometh to me shall

never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. *(Christ is the bread of life, so the bread symbolizes Christ here, and gives us life and when we partake of that bread which is Christ, we shall not hunger or thirst. If we are eating of this bread, it would mean that we are following Christ, which would mean we are keeping his laws and ordinances.)* 39--And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40--**And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. (Aren't we as parents responsible to teach our own children God's ways and laws and ordinances?)** 53--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. *(In order to say that this scripture does not include our children, you would have to put it in there yourself.)* 54--**Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (Why would we exclude our children from eternal life?)** 55--For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56--**He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. (If we teach our children the ways of God from the time they are born, they probably will not depart from God's way of life. God's way would then be a way of life for them, rather than the way the world teaches. Thus the statement "dwelleth in me, and I in him" comes to life here and is an awesome thing. If we are studying the word of God and striving to walk in all of His ways, we are eating Christ's flesh and drinking his blood and this protects us from the evil ways of the world. If we do not have time to study God's word, but are striving after our own things and pleasures, we are following the ways of the world and how will this ever protect us from the evil one?)** 63--It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (Here we see the symbolism of the words being the spirit, and the life. I can only speak**

for myself, but I can clearly see where God actually worked with me in my life from the time I was a child, for well over 25 years, before He ever taught me about the Sabbath and the Holy Days and I was finally baptized. I made many mistakes along the way. I learned most of what I know the hard way. Do we want our children to learn the hard way? Why not teach them the right way from the start? Rather than to let them learn the wrong way and then have to go back and try to repair. My own life probably wouldn't have been so hard, had my parents taught me God's way from the start. Please keep in mind that parents can only teach their children those things which they themselves know, so mostly we fall way short of teaching right things to our children.)

When I started this short little study, and this is very short. There is so much there, with many elements that could be studied and spoken of, I was leaning toward children not taking the bread and wine of Passover, just as we were taught in the Worldwide Church of God, but quite frankly, I can't find that in scripture. When we studied Passover before, we didn't really consider the role of Children in that specifically as we have only kept Passover in this manner for 2 years now and have not yet had any children ever attend.

The blood seems to represent protection for those who walk in all of God's ways, which would certainly be something we would want our children to have. The bread seems to represent the teaching of God's way and by eating the bread (word) that way becomes a part of us, thus giving us life. Why would we not want God's way to be taught to our children from the time they are born, so that God's way becomes their way of life and leads them ultimately to eternal life. The foot washing and their (our children) being taught this would certainly help to teach them the greatness of serving others. Why would we not want our children to learn to serve others rather than the way of the world which is to take from others without regard to anyone.

Based upon the parts of this that I have studied, I would conclude that it is very important for us to teach our children every aspect of the Passover, from the time they are born, and letting them participate as much as possible and as

soon as possible, thus permitting **God's Way of Life** to be internalized in each and everyone of them for their own protection from the evil one and to lead them into God's eternal life.

I would say to study this subject on your own and if someone can prove what I have said here to be wrong, please send it, so we might let iron sharpen iron, so we might all learn the ways of God. (Again, all responses are written by Laura Lee)

COMMENTS BY ARLAN WEIGHT

The thing I think should be emphasized is that most Church of God groups take their cue from 1 Corinthians 11:23 where Paul says, "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread. . ." This is the first scripture they go to. I think I would mention, this does not say Jesus changed the Passover observance to a day earlier. This is simply a historical statement of when he observed it that year.

Since Jesus was our passover lamb he fulfilled the passover exactly as it happened during the Exodus. I believe it would be good to mention, we should therefore start with that account and move forward to the New Testament and see how Jesus fulfilled it. Where most church of God groups go wrong is that they start with the New Testament and try to fit into it the events of that time. It doesn't work that way but it works perfectly when we see how Jesus fulfilled it.

If Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets, . . ." (Mat. 5:17) If Jesus changed the time of the Passover observance, he would have done just that. . . destroyed what the **prophet** Moses wrote. But instead he said, "I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."

And the thing that really nails it home is when Christ said, "The Scribes and Pharisees sit in **Moses seat: All** therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, **that observe and do:"** (Mat. 23:2-3)

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<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

NO AD BANNERS

by Alan Croyle
Petersburg, Virginia

Dear Darwin & Laura,

Thank you for your letter, and for printing my letter.

Enclosed please find a "Summary of Incorrect Doctrine in Gods' Church", which I would very much like for the brethren to hear. You may post it on Internet if you wish, or print, or whatever. All that was typed was confirmed by lot and all that is handwritten was scriptural elaboration.

The times are perilous, with far worse to come. But by righteousness, I feel that God will spare those who recognize the times and turn to Him with All their heart, to do His will.

None of us is totally perfect yet but if we do His will, and purify ourselves, and follow God's words and Christ's example, we will do far better. (Matt. 5:6 Hunger for righteousness; Matt. 5:48 ...be perfect...) love is the bond of perfection
God Bless His people,
In Christian love,
Alan Croyle

"Jesus Christ is come in the flesh"...
Summary of Incorrect Doctrine in Gods' Church (Greater Errors)

(1) **STOP** buying pleasure meals during Sabbath unless it is a true "ox in the ditch". **PREPARE** your **PRESENT SABBATH LIFE** to **PARALLEL** that of "the church in the wilderness" the **second** time. Refer to Exodus 16: verses 28-30. Also Rev. 12:6 and Rev. 14:3-4. Somehow prepare on Friday or before if impossible on Friday. Get frozen steak, lasagna, etc.

(2) Take the kids to Passover. Ex. 12:3; v14-v24-**v26 especially**, v42-v47v50. Note especially Ex.13:8-10 and Ex. 13:14-16.

(3) The "night to be **much observed**. **IS** the **PASSOVER night- the one and SAME observance**; **NOT** separate observances. **ALL is to be done on ONE NIGHT, the PASSOVER night**. Read all of Ex. 12 and 13:1-16. Now, consider this: Did Jesus Christ, after the **Passover meal, later that night**, when taken to Pharisee Court, say, "whoa, boys, **I haven't kept the night to be MUCH observed yet.?? No.**

(4) Consider that Jesus Christ kept the Ex. 12 Passover, eating the lamb. It is a **commanded** thing; "You shall live by **every word** of **GOD**. (Matt 4:4) So, learn to do so. If Jesus permitted the disciples to sit and eat, (Matt 26:20) then He **relaxed** the "haste" ordinance (Ex 12:11) sufficiently to sit and eat.

Following the Passover Lamb MEAL, **THEN** He commanded additional things in the gospels; the wine, the bread. the footwashing- Then they did the closing hymn. Every C.O.G. should do this pattern. One lamb fed 13 grown men. Imitate Christ.

(5) The O.T. **children** (ages 0-18, or more so) **ate the Passover lamb**, but none were shown to consume wine, in the N.T. However, let them keep as much of the Passover as they can. Don't break men's present laws (wine & kids consuming it) but they are commanded **by GOD** to eat the Passover lamb! To leave them out **is wrong**. And, a "lot" question to God revealed that children under six may be left at a reputable sitters; but six and up, are to be there, and eat. **Read Ex. 12 and 13. All children** ate of the Passover lamb meal, in the wilderness, the 1st time. Will God's children do so the 2nd time? Does God change? Does He ever fail to provide? The **lamb** is to **bring CARNAL kids to Christ The Lamb**, by **obedience, familiarization, and PRACTICE**.

(6) Toll road fees are fine on the Sabbath. God doesn't want extra work, hardship or mileage for you on the Sabbath. But to "buy fish" etc., (**eating out on purpose**) **is wrong**. In Nehemiah 13:16-17-18, **scripture says** that The Sabbath **WAS PROFANED (BROKEN: SINNED AGAINST)** by **their profanement act** of purchasing fish, wine, grapes, figs, etc. (a street "restaurant" food vendor) **AND** that **profanement, evil, WRATH, and DISASTER was brought on THAT CITY** (? sound like Sept. 11?) Stop the act of "pleasure restaurant ON PURPOSE" thing on the Sabbath! Exception; When a Holy Day and Sabbath occur on the same Sabbath, **then** restaurant purchases are fine, **because** He called you to a **feast**: but even in this, **you could** arrange a caterer, see that all eat (especially help elderly and poor or handicapped) and pay on a non-Sabbath day, if possible.

(7) **The MARK of the Beast (Rev.) is here. It will develop further. You SEE THIS MARK (the model "a") ON ALMOST ALL MERCHANDISE. IT IS on your bank debit cards, and from there will transfer onto their right hands. IF there is no right hand, it will be placed on their (wicked) heads. They (the wicked) WILL buy and sell with THAT MARK in place on hands and heads. Jesus Christ is come in the flesh!** This much I know by lot as fact, each statement concerning the mark of the Beast. The beginning of the end is started! The remaining is also approved by lot, to be told you, as the probable way God will deal with the Beast-mark; The scanners in the stores will **read** it (the mark) on them (the wicked) **and address** their accounts at the banks. IT (the mark) will serve for ID. IT (the mark) could be assigned by the federal government (social security already does) **in cooperation with** all other gov't. agencies (social services, drivers license, etc.). It could then be put in place by the physician using computerguided laser tatoo. **God's chosen people WILL NOT take it. Some could be shipped out of the countries, even on military aircraft, to all be "dumped in one central "place of safety", brought there "on the wings of a GREAT eagle", by each country wishing to expell all such "rebellious" people out of their systems. Of course, those people would forfeit all wealth. Yet some will be left behind during the tribulation and pre-tribulation but will not take the mark on them even if beheaded (See Rev 20:4). So my advice based upon God' counsel is; imitate Christ Jesus, who came in the flesh; DO the COMPLETE Passover; teach the kids all the truth, have them see Passover and them eat it; don't profane the Sabbath, at all! Follow God's FIRST wilderness Sabbath rules, IN PREPARATION FOR the 2nd wilderness (Rev12;14); PRAY ALWAYS that you may be counted WORTHY to escape; help make yourself worthy by worthily DOING ALL of GOD'S commandments! Is this true? "You shall LIVE by EVERY word of God; "EVERY word of God is pure"; and concerning the lot (Prov. 16:33) it's every decision is FROM the LORD". If you have trouble believing the lot, do you believe CONTINUED ON PAGE 24**

INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER

May/June 2002-Issue No. 9

NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES [Snail Mail Only]

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- _____ 7. January/February 2002--Issue No. 7
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E. Take Heed That No Man Deceive You--by Garry D. Pifer
- _____ 8. March/April 2002--Issue No. 8
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F. Mary, Mother of Jesus--by Bill Bratt
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SEND ORDERS TO:

Darwin & Laura Lee
320 N. Griffin St.
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(701) 258-7172

SEND TAPES & LITERATURE TO:

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| _____ 5. The Holy Spirit
Wayne Speed | _____ 6. Keynote Message For The Tulsa Conference
C. Wayne Cole & Dixon Cartwright 7-22-00 |
| _____ 7. The Hireling & the Wolf --Brian Convery (3 Tapes) | |

LITERATURE [Snail Mail Only]

- _____ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association? by Darwin & Laura Lee 111 pages
- _____ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

the scriptures? At least, believe them! **Believe GOD and Jesus Christ in ALL things! Learn to!** And, one more thing, the Sept II attacks (Yes, **even the Pentagon**) are **confirmed** by lot in this manner; **IT WAS the declaration of World War Three; NOT to end until JESUS comes, BY NONE OTHER** than the Fourth Beast of Daniel 7. **Don't be deceived about WHO SENT "Bin Laden";** Note Daniel 2:40. To specify; the ten horns sent errand boy Bin Laden. How? Well, don't the ten horns have authority, power, and gold? (Jer. 27:5 and Rev. 17:12-13). Finally, brethren, note Daniels' advice to the king, which is **good advice**

to us all; "Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; **break off your sins by being righteous,** and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. PERHAPS there **may be a lengthening** of your prosperity".

Brethren, **by righteousness** we might avoid the Tribulation, in our generation! Do you want to miss that? Does GOD spare the righteous? Therefore, as Jesus says, in Rev 2 and 3, **"overcome"; SEVEN TIMES HE TELLS US, .OVERCOMEa; and, .STRENGTHEN the things which remain...** such as God's **wilderness** rules, and (Ex 12) the Passover, and that **kids participate** eating the lamb. **"SUFFER the little**

children TO COME unto Me, and forbid it not"...

Brethern, THE LAST generation left ON THIS PLANET NEEDS CHRIST! TURN FROM all evil, profanement, and wrongdoing and BRING the little children to the LORD! Because, HE who came in the flesh, will soon come in the Spirit therefore REPENT of unrighteousness, AND CHANGE to BELIEVE AND DO!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Weekly Sabbath is also a Feast--See Lev. 23:1-3. On the place of safety read and explain this one: Mark 13:26-27. For the Mark of the Beast, read the book of Revelation. Rather than this mark being something someone else does to us, could it be what we individually do to ourselves? Like choosing who we will serve, God or Satan?---Check to see what God says. Laura Lee