

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 1:00 PM, but may vary.

SABBATH SERVICES--Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 3. 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. Please ask us about hosting.

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, March 5, 2004
Friday, April 16, 2004
Friday, May 28, 2004

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 May/June 2004 Newsletter is April 15, 2004. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

FINANCIAL DISCLOSER:

We do not charge for the services that we provide to the brethren. We also do not take any wages from the gift donations we are sent. The services we provide do however cost us money. In 2001 expenses for services provided were **-\$4537.29**. We received **+\$1368.00** in gift donations for 2001, leaving us with a balance of **-\$3169.29**. In 2002 expenses for services provided were **-4066.37**. We received **+\$1737.00** in gift donations for 2002, leaving us with a balance of **-\$2329.37**.

Donations for 2003 total **+\$3573.80**. Expenses for 2003 are as follows: Postage **-\$1603.45**, Telephone **-\$106.36**, Internet Services **-\$345.29**, Printing Charges **-\$1038.70**, Local Services **-\$274.24** and Research Materials **-\$141.46**. Total balance for 2003 is: **+\$64.30**.

Donations for 2004 total **+\$330.00**. Expenses for 2004 are as follows: Postage **-\$61.14**, Telephone **-\$34.99**, Internet Services **\$0.00**, Printing Charges **\$0.00**, Local Services **-\$59.30** and Research Materials **-\$104.47**. Total balance for 2004 is: **+\$70.10**.

If you need a year end receipt, please request one. We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com Send your prayer requests here. They will go out via email.
Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com The deadline for Issue #21--May/June 2004 is April 15, 2004.
Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you want us to answer your email, send it here.
Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you want us to read it, and delete it, send it here.

FAX--Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

SNAIL MAIL--Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502.

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 we will let you know one way or the other. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site. We print ads and post them on our web site as a courtesy to others and not because we agree with everything said in them.

PASSOVER & DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD IN BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

We will observe Passover here at 320 N. Griffin St., on the evening of Monday, April 5, 2004, at Sunset. We will serve a meal. Because we are serving a meal, we do need to know ahead of time whether you are coming or not, because we will need for anyone who attends to also supply some of the food which is served and we need to know so we can have enough tables and chairs set up for those in attendance. Please bring your own tub and towel if you plan to participate in the foot washing observance. The next day, Tuesday, April 6, 2004, on the First Day of Unleavened Bread, we will have services at 1:00PM. The door will be open at 12:00 noon for fellowship. At 5:00PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant" in Bismarck. On Monday, April 12, 2004, the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, we will have services at 1:00PM. The door will be open at 12:00 noon for fellowship. 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 Passover or the Days of Unleavened Bread on the same days, so with this in mind, if you need a place to observe these days differently than we do, please contact us and if we can help you in anyway, we certainly will try.

Dear Editor,

Hello! Could you inform your readers that I have a new **free tape** out that they could request; It is titled, "**Jesus Christ is come in the flesh and returns in the years 2042-2062 AD**". God bless your work! Sincerely, Alan Croyle, PO Box 411, Petersburg, VA 23804

Check out **Beyond Babylon: Europe's Rise and Fall** for free at: <http://benariel.port5.com/>
It's destined to become a national debate and an international controversy!

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- February 21, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
February 28, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #15--Genesis 4:1-6 The concept of intimately knowing God.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #16--Genesis 4:6-16 The Way of Cain.
March 6, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
March 13, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #17--Genesis 4:17-26 The Family of Cain.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #18--Genesis 5:1-10 Genealogy of Man--6000 year history (Part 1).
March 20, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
March 27, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #19--Genesis 5:1-10 Genealogy of Man--6000 year history (Part 2).
Teaching the Law--Lesson #20--Genesis 6:1-2 Concept of Sons of God/Elohim and daughters of men (Part 1).
April 3, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
April 5, 2004----PASSOVER at Sunset (See ad on page #2.)
April 6, 2004----FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD (See ad on page #2.)
April 10, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #21--Genesis 6:1-8 Concept of Sons of God/Elohim and daughters of men (Part 2).
Teaching the Law--Lesson #22--Genesis 6:8-22 Story of Noah and the Flood.
April 12, 2004----LAST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD (See ad on page #2.)
April 17, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
April 24, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #23--Genesis 7:1-2 Clean & Unclean Food Doctrine of Heaven & Hell.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #24--Genesis 7:3 End of Chapter, Doctrine of Heaven & Hell, Righteousness, Sin and Consequences.
May 1, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
May 8, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #25--Genesis 8:1-19 The Flood - Noah's Righteousness
Teaching the Law--Lesson #26--Genesis 8:20 - 10:19 End of Flood/Rainbow Covenant, Canaan's Curse
May 15, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
May 22, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #27--The Identity of the True Church (Part 1) Abraham's first calling; overview of history of "church of God" and counterfeit church - Babylon.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #28--The Identity of the True Church (Part 2) Separation of true/counterfeit church; Israel in Egypt/deliverance/idolatry; mystery religion in Israel.
May 26, 2004----PENTECOST (See ad in Issue #21.)
May 29, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: April 15, 2004. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

THE ORIGINS AND EMPIRE OF ANCIENT ISRAEL BY STEVEN M. COLLINS

A fresh look at the early history of Israel, with special emphasis on the little-known and immensely important events that helped to shape our modern world. Here is the untold story of Israel's sojourn in Egypt and evidence that God's People visited distant lands in Europe and America in ancient times. Author Steven Collins retells the story of the Book of Genesis and the lives of the Patriarchs with a keen insight into the meaning of interesting clues that other authors have missed. This is not just a rehash of history, but a re-analysis of a foundational book of Holy Scripture in the light of subsequent events and Bible prophecy. In addition to all of that, it is quite a good read! The central theme of this book is the Biblical Covenant which God made with the Patriarchs and their descendants. This included the Biblical promise of numerous descendants who would build powerful, wealthy nations. This exciting story is told with the aid of over 100 maps, charts, and illustrations; 20 pages of comprehensive indexes. Beautiful original cover artwork depicts Jacob's prophetic blessing found in Genesis chapter 48. Soft cover 6x9 inches, 296 pages (280+xvi) A book you will treasure!

Ordering Information: Price: US\$20 each, plus postage & handling of \$4 economy or \$7 priority for up to two books. (Contact us for freight quote on quantity orders.) Website address: www.bibleblessings.net; Email: staff@bibleblessings.net; Bible Blessings, Box 1778, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1778 USA

We would like to offer a free Bible correspondence course via e-mail or snail mail to the churches of God members and general public. If interested, e-mail me at biblicalfellowship@cox.net or write to doyle j carter, P.O. Box 690592, Tulsa, OK 74169.

CHURCH OF GOD SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

We offer Sabbath Thoughts, a weekly email newsletter, to all requesting it. We and our associated Guardian Ministries organization also offer extensive information, tapes and literature on our websites (<http://cogsc.info> and <http://guardian-ministries.org>). And of course we invite all to participate in our Sabbath services and Festival observances.

To the Saints of the Churches of God

<http://users.adelphia.net/~dwlacey/>

Description:

An outreach and work of restoration and prophecy.

Outreach, to assist in the edification of the saints.

Restoration, of the divinely inspired and preserved Word of God [KJV Bible].

Prophecy, as only revealed within the inspired scriptures of the Word of God.

IN SEARCH OF ... THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS is the first work ever published providing major proofs for the modern identity of nations and peoples whose roots may be carefully tracked back to the ancient Middle East.

Reviewers have claimed that the subject of this book may one day be acknowledged as the most amazing work on the origin of nations and peoples ever written.

The author has spent many years of painstaking in-depth research investigating and pulling together the many complex threads and strands of tradition, linguistic, anthropological and historical fact and detail to assemble the most overpowering anthropological detective work of this age!

With precision, incredible detail and analysis, the author assembles an awesome array of proofs for the true identity of the three major races and the modern nations (the bibliography alone contains over 700 items).

The interrelationships of the peoples of the earth and their destiny based on stunning ancient prophecies are discussed in a fast-moving but logical style.

Many questions about national origins are researched and answered in an easy-to-understand style – be prepared for a few surprises. A MUST read for all ages and interest groups.

(Dimensions 8 x 11", 492 pages, 15 chapters, 29 charts, 10 maps, Glossary, Bibliography contains over 700 items, Extensive footnotes, Quality paper and colour cover.)

Order your copy online at www.originofnations.org

Australian orders only (send a cheque):

History Research Projects

GPO Box 864, Sydney 2001

Price: \$44.75 inc postage

Overseas orders:

Giving & Sharing online via Amazon.com

Price: \$29.95 plus postage at www.giveshare.org/amazon/origin-of-nations.html

or send a cheque to

Giving & Sharing, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY

Price: \$24.00 in North America including postage

or \$30.00 overseas including postage (US currency)

Or order direct from the publisher:

1stBooks

1663 Liberty Drive, Suite 200

Bloomington, IN 47403 USA

Price: US\$23.95 + US\$6.75 postage (courier)

Note: To contact the Book Order Department about your order or for bulk orders, please call 1-888-280-7715 Monday through Friday 9 AM-9 PM CST or email bkorders@1stbooks.com.

Current shipment delivery times range from 7 to 10 business days to North American addresses and a bit longer for overseas destinations via courier.

INFORMATION SECTION -- This section is meant for various items which should be of interest to the general public. If you have an item to be considered for inclusion in this section, please send it to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We are not always in total agreement with all things we print.

2003 FEAST OF TABERNACLES OUIDAH

**by Michael Porter
Benin Republic, Africa**

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus our soon coming Lord of lords. With unspeakable joy we concluded our first ever FOT/crusades/conferences in Cotonou, Ganvié, Calavie, Godomey and Ouidah. It was a joyous time in the presence of our heavenly Father who gave us all that we need through Christ.

We started with thunderous prayers as each participant prays under the direction of the Holy Spirit. We interceded for an hour 30 minutes for our nation, nations of the world, USA, Arab nations to embrace Jesus the author of peace, spiritual unity of believers all over the world, God's word to penetrate every heart, etc. After the spirit led intercessions we began the worship with the band leading on the worship and praises. We had workshops, bible studies, etc. We encouraged each participant to embrace Jesus and be a good example for other believers.

This year's feast of Tabernacles was a fantastic, refreshing and rejuvenating Christian experience. Worship services, pot lucks, hymn sings, worship and praises, a fun quiz night, a feast Dinner, Dance, an outdoor crusades/evangelisms, were just some of the great activities we enjoyed, along with a trip to "LA PORTE DU NON RETOUR" "Entrance of no return" in Ouidah where the white men came and bought slaves during the colonial era, Voodoo Temple, etc. The Feast of Tabernacles reminds and helps us to see our lives in proper perspective.

A sukkah built for the Feast lasts for just a week. Similarly, our bodies are "booths" that only last for a certain number of years. Without God all is meaningless, as we learn from

Ecclesiastes, a book traditionally read during the Feast. But when God comes to dwell in our booths, then our lives matter.

It was a wonderful experience. But why should we rejoice at the Feast? Deuteronomy 16:15 gives an answer: "For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." God has great things in mind for us, and celebrating the Feast can help us to grasp the full meaning of God's purpose and provision for mankind.

We also traveled to lake Nokoue where people live on top of the water. We witnessed in this, 30,000 inhabitants of Ganvié, who had never heard about the Sabbath message, God's Holy Days or anything about the food laws, etc. We preached and evangelized to the inhabitants and gave out used clothes, reading glasses, bibles, etc. About 1,876 people in this unusual habitat requested bibles as many of them had never seen one. **CAN SOME ONE HELP THEM** to have bibles in their local language which we can obtain here if funds are available for \$5 per copy.

We baptized 45 persons who joined us in the family of God and planted 5 bible study centers for them. From Cotonou it is 25 miles. The return trip to Ganvié from Cotonou is 15 miles, and we need to send workers immediately, I will be there this Sabbath by His grace.

These people are neglected, though there is a school, market, tap water all on top of the water, **WONDERFUL** you may say. But life is difficult here as you must own a boat in order to survive. The people are very poor and only depend on fishing.

We also evangelized on the strong hold of Voodoo in Africa, Ouidah. Satan put up a good fight to stop our outreach here as the letter of authority has been issued to us by the Mayor of Ouidah, but was surprisingly cancelled at the last minute because the Catholic Church protested against our meeting opposite their kingdom, and lied that, they, the Roman Catholics will be having a program at the venue the Mayor approved to us the same day. The venue is in the front of the famous PYTHON TEMPLE-OUIDAH. The Roman Catholic Church and the PYTHON TEMPLE are facing each other (2 evils, wondering which is the greater evil).

On reaching there we were told that we can't hold any meeting at the venue, even though the Roman Catholics never hold a meeting. Very confused and not

knowing what to do next, and many people had already gone back to their various homes and villages and some over 7 miles away.

We call the God of heaven and made our needs known to Him, and He answered beyond our imaginations by using "CHEF DE ARRONDISSEMENT" of Ouidah that is the "quarter chairman" for Ouidah intervened and went to the Kings palace of Ouidah (because we have already gone to the King of kings palace, Jesus Himself) who granted us his domain for the crusade, and was far larger than the Voodoo venue. God's ways cannot be understood as the King welcomed us and we paid him a courtesy visit, prayed with him and gave him a copy of a holy bible and a 2004 "Good Seed" devotional book.

We held the crusade in his domain and immediately when people heard the sound of the music they came by the hundreds to listen to God's Word that has the power to change their situations. We preached Jesus who came to destroy the power of the destroyer, the devil. I spoke from John chapter 10: v 9-10, and 1st Jn. 3:8 and told them that the only weapon Satan can use to stop them from embracing Jesus Christ is fear.

When I call on people to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, 158 persons came out and several brought out their magic books, charms to be burned and 15 women and 6 men came out openly to renounce their association with witchcraft and cried on how the devil had used them to destroy so many lives in accidents, miscarriages, sicknesses and had made so many men and women barren or mad.

I could not hold my self as I looked at these people cry to God of heaven for help and forgiveness. It was a night I can never forget in my life. Many invited us to their houses to either destroy their shrines, or dig out the charms and juju they buried in their homes, some for protection from enemies, or for business successes, etc and which turned against them and kept them miserable. We prayed in the name of Jesus and destroyed the power of sorcery and commanded the demons to flee in Jesus name. We prayed for them as they welcomed Jesus into their lives.

We spoke about God's Holy Sabbath, His Holy Days, the ten Commandments, salvation only through Jesus Christ and life of holiness and

prayers. We later baptized 36 people and have started 5 home Churches and unbelievably one at the King's palace on his own request. I saw a great hunger for righteousness and the need of a liberator in all the villages we went to. Their only problem is fear of uncertainty and insecurity as the devil controls their entire lives with fear.

We made them to understand that Jesus is their only answer. Please remember those who have believed in your prayers and giving and for those who are yet undecided.

Ouidah king is originally from Brazil and came here during the slave trade era.

There are so many needs in most places we have witnessed such as bibles, Christian literature, clothes new or used, shoes, pens or pencils, etc, what ever you can no longer use will be useful here. You will always find someone who may need them. We need some one to support the brethren who will be witnessing/discipling in all these villages that have opened their hearts for the Sabbath message.

We shall need \$200 monthly to help, for their transportation and feeding in these villages. We also need \$1500 to pay for 9 months rents in all the villages we have started home churches.

God provided us with His spirit of peace and joy that pervaded the entire feast. We hope the entire Ouidah community was blessed by the presence of Christian believers.

As the feast site was not affiliated with a church organization, the Feast site was comprised of brethren from a range of church groups and representatives from 8 countries which includes: Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Cameroon and Benin Republics.

Many Pastors came from the following churches, Pentecostals, SDA, Church of God, White garment Sabbath groups, and like minds, etc. Those who attended generally understand the Church of God to be spiritual in nature. There are no conditions for feast attendance, other than the willingness to meet in peace and mutual respect.

Two remarkable miracles took place during the Feast, a former Muslim woman now a Sabbatarian gave birth to a twin baby boy and girl on the fourth day of the Feast without medical assistance. God sent His angels as He did to the Hebrews. A mad woman came to disrupt the holy Convocation and was healed instantly. At Ouidah a woman who never used her right ear to hear was also healed as she

could not be able to control her joy.

We don't know how all these took place, praise the power of Jesus Christ who died to set us free from sin and destruction. We ask you to help her with some bedding to the twins and mother through us as I will make sure they get them. What ever you have, napkins, sweaters, etc. There are other women who are pregnant and needed our assistance too. Several young people from different nations need our encouragement both spiritual and physical to continue witnessing and living for Jesus.

The large crowd provided a superb special music and rousing hymns that the saints could learn from. There was excitement and enthusiasm for praising God through song that I haven't seen in other places...

So, throughout the ages, the Feast of Tabernacles has been celebrated!!! Our Father and His Son had to be so pleased with His Feast of Tabernacles held at Ouidah this year 2003 "God's Family Reunion" as it could be called, was celebrated with love, rejoicing, and family caring. Attendees were always being directed, from the pulpit, to rejoice at "God's Holy Party", that this is a Family Affair, to believe that "what makes God happy, should make us happy, and that the Feast is only eight days, but memories (made here) last forever.

The amount of love and caring shown to each other this year was just fantastic!!! Not just from those who were the speakers and volunteers, but from the general run of attendees. There was a continuous fellowshiping attained at the planned activities, but the outside lunches, dinners, and activities were always blessed by others offering rides, meals -- everyone seemed to be so attune to others wishes and needs.

We were also blessed by many excellent sermons, beautiful special music, and activities that were unsurpassed. The attendance was up this year, hovering close to 480 each day and 895 were shown as being registered.

The speakers who brought the messages each day all seemed to be God-inspired, since most of their sermons were working close to the same theme.

We had fantastic and inspiring messages, sound spiritual meat with good encouragement about what God is doing, where God is working, what He expects of us and how to truly fear Him. The meaning of Jesus' name, His Eternal

work, along with the historical illustrations of His coming to the temple and the future coming Kingdom of God and the resurrections to eternal life rounded out the "Gospel" message of this year's feast.

The meaning of the Last Great Day along with Pastor Porter's encouraging message to carry on with God's work inspired us all to continue with the work God has commissioned us to do, to preach the Gospel to the world and warn the descendants of ancient Israel of what's coming ahead.

The Feast in Ouidah this year was as expected: Tremendous!!! What else could we expect God's Holy Party to be? We couldn't have done it without everyone's help in serving the 895 brethren that came to Ouidah Village this year.

We want to Thank Everyone again!!! It was a wonderful feast for us. I couldn't imagine not being with my family, my closest friends and you my brethren at God's feast in Ouidah.

A guest speaker from Ghana, commented on the "one-ness" of the messages and the positive spiritual attitudes of the brethren that was reflected throughout the feast. "Everyone at the feast was happy and in good spirit. Many folks just didn't want to leave this year and wished that the feast would truly go on. Their fellowship with each other and a deep spiritual "refilling" of God's Spirit filled the entire 8 days of this year's feast. It will truly be one to remember for a long, long, time. It was very good!

For brethren who are celebrating for the first time, they regretted knowing this amazing truth late. A 79 year old woman from Togo said, "I wish God could make me young again to serve Him better and go around the villages to tell people what they had missed in their fruitless effort without God Almighty".

Thank you immensely for helping make the Feast possible through your giving, prayers, materials, etc you all are very special. Again my special thanks to all of you for a job well done! It was an excellent feast... thanks for helping it be so.

We hope that you also experienced a joyous festival, and that you will find this report to be a source of further encouragement and stimulation. We need your help always.

Questions Section--Send your Biblical Questions to us anonymously. We do not need to know your name for this section, no name's will be printed in this section, only the question and the answer. Questions submitted should be 50 words or less. Please send your questions to us snail mail at: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 (Make sure you identify your correspondence by writing "Questions Section" on your letter someplace where we will see it.) or email your questions to: Questions-Section-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

QUESTION #4

What is Fasting?

The English word "Fast" comes from the Old Testament Hebrew word *tsumm*, which simply means "a fast." In the Greek New Testament, the English word "Fast" comes from the Greek word *Nesteia* (Nace-ti-ah), which simply means "abstinence (from a lack of food, or voluntary and religious); spec. the fast of the Day of Atonement."

Source: Abingdom's Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, **Fast**, copyright 1980

The combination of Fasting and prayer will draw the believer closer to God when offered up to God as scripture guides us. Remember, our worship of God must be biblically guided if it is to be accepted of God. "He that believeth on me, AS THE SCRIPTURE HATH SAID, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).

When we fast, we must keep ourselves groomed properly so as not to draw undue attention to OURSELVES. That would be a work of law; but rather when we fast we are commanded to "anoint (our) head, and wash (our) face" (Matthew 6:17).

When we fast secretly, not drawing attention to our fast, we are worshipping God in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Jesus tells us that we must not appear outwardly to be fasting; but rather we should be well groomed and "appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father

which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:18).

If our fast is not offered up to God in prayer and humility, it becomes a work of law that glorifies the individual rather than God. God chastised ancient Israel through the prophet Zechariah, when God told him to "speak unto all the people of the land, and to the PRIESTS, saying, when ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, DID YE AT ALL FAST UNTO ME, EVEN TO ME?"

The margin in the King James tells us that "unto" should be understood as "for my sake?" Before, during, and after our fast, we must ask ourselves did we fast for the glorification of self; or God?

As you begin your next fast, remember to anoint your head and wash your face, offering your afflictions up to God in spirit; rather than in public for all to see.

The next time you fast meditate and pray on Hebrews 10:16-17:

☞ 16# THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAITH THE LORD, I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR HEARTS, AND IN THEIR MINDS WILL I WRITE THEM; (Jer. 31:33 and Isaiah 2:2-4)

☞ 17# AND THEIR SINS AND INIQUITIES WILL I REMEMBER NO MORE. (Jer. 31:34)

Answered by:

**Larry Volk
Valley City, North Dakota**

QUESTION #5

I would like you to do justice to the matter in the passage Matthew 10:5-6 where Jesus said to the twelve, do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan town, instead you are to go to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. Why and what did he mean here?

Biblical Analysis of Matthew 10:5-6

In order to understand scripture, it is vital to understand it in its biblical and historical context. When properly understood, it is much more difficult for

false prophets to take particular scripture passages out of context, in order to achieve their personal agenda.

As we begin lets examine Matthew 10:5-6 verse by verse.

5. These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans."

6. "But go **RATHER** to the **LOST SHEEP of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL.**" Matthew 10:5-6

In order to understand Matthew 10:5-6, a brief history lesson of ancient Israel is in order:

- United Hebrew Monarchy (Composed of twelve tribes of Israel) 1000-924 B.C.
- Divided Monarchies (result of sin and rejection of God)

1. Northern Kingdom of Israel (Composed of ten tribes) 924-721 B.C.)

2. Southern Kingdom of Judah (Composed of the Jews, Levites, and some of the tribe of Benjamin) 924-562 B.C.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel went into Assyrian captivity in 721 B.C., never to return to their homeland. The captives of the Northern Kingdom of Israel were scattered in a global Diaspora, along with their captives, the Assyrians. In time, the ten tribed nation of Israel would lose its national identity. Today, they believe themselves to be gentiles.

The Southern Kingdom, Judah would also suffer captivity at the hands of Babylon in 586 B.C., to return to Judea upon the decree by Cyrus the Persian in 538 B.C. The Southern Kingdom of Judea was never lost to history, as was the Northern ten tribed Kingdom of Israel.

Jesus commanded his disciples (students) to take his message of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18-19) to the "**lost sheep of the house of Israel**" (Matthew 10:6). In other words, Christ wanted his message to be first taken to the Hebrew people who had been scattered to the ends of the earth.

Jesus made it clear that he had been sent, not to the world, but rather to the "**lost sheep of the house of Israel**" (Matthew 15:24). Does this mean that Christ was going to leave the world in its sins? No, the glorified Christ called the apostle Paul to take the gospel to be his "chosen vessel Before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15).

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Comment: Ancient Israel was called out of the world to be a nation of priests unto the LORD, but they sinned. They were then in need of reconciliation, which was to come through Christ's earthly mission and his command to the twelve apostles to take the gospel of the Kingdom of God to them where ever they are.

Today, the Church has replaced physical Israel as a "royal priesthood, and a holy people" (I Peter 2:9), through the indwelling of God's holy spirit in each believer making him or her, a member of the body of Christ.

Scripture tells us very clearly that the "lost sheep of the House of Israel" are scattered among the Gentile nations to this day.

However, scripture vindicates the LORD God. The LORD himself tells us through the prophet Jeremiah "If those ordinances (Sun, moon, and stars) depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever." Jeremiah 31:36 (KJV)

The James Moffatt translation renders Jeremiah 31:36 as follows:

↳ "Only when this fixed order vanishes from my sight, says the Eternal, shall the race of Israel cease to be a nation before me."

Comment: The Sun, the Moon, and the stars continue to shine brightly in the heavens, therefore the race or nation of the Northern Kingdom of Israel continues down through history to this present age. (See Jeremiah 33:20-21)

Biblical Verses dealing with the Northern Kingdom of Israel's Diaspora

"Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd doth his flock" (Jeremiah 31:10).

"Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea" (Isaiah 24:15)

"LISTEN, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far: the LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me:

3 And said unto me, Thou art my

servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified" (Isaiah 49:1-3).

Notice Isaiah 49:1-3. Isaiah is speaking to those who have been dispersed throughout "the isles afar off." Notice Isaiah 49:3 clearly identifies those who occupy "the isles afar off" as "O Israel."

• Notice in verse 1, Isaiah says, "Listen, O isles, unto me; and Hearken, ye people from far."

• Notice in verse 3, Isaiah identifies those "afar off" (Jeremiah 31:10) as "O Israel."

"Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people (Isaiah 51:4).

My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust" (Isaiah 51:5).

"Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee" (Isaiah 60:9).

"And I will set a sign among them, and I will send to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles" (Isaiah 66:19).

Note: Those of the House of Israel (Northern Kingdom) that were not taken captive into Assyria, escaped "to the isles afar off" and dwelt among the Gentiles.

"I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would SCATTER them among the heathen (gentiles), and disperse them through the countries" (Ezekiel 20:23).

Note: Upon further investigation, the historical context of the scattering spoken of in verse 23; is that of the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, at the hands of Assyria. Those that were not taken captive to Assyria were dispersed among the heathen nations.

"And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste" (Leviticus 26:33). (those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow,)

The plan of salvation through Christ Jesus, Our Lord and Savior, is worded

out here below using shadows, types, and duality in prophecy.

The physical nation of twelve tribes of the House of Israel are a shadow or type of the holy nation of priests Christ is creating during the age of the Church in order to bring many to salvation.

Ancient Israel, failed to keep the covenant God (the one who would later be called Christ in the New Testament) made with them at Mount Sinai. Christ, nullified the first covenant through His death on the cross, in order to establish a more perfect covenant, which included the giving of the holy spirit to those who repent of their sins (See Hebrews 8:8-12, 10:16).

Despite ancient Israel's sinful nature; God choose the Hebrew tribe of Judah to come back and open salvation through the work of reconciliation. Through His twelve Hebrew (Jewish) apostles, Christ called his lost sheep around the world back into His fold.

The apostle Paul was a Jew, who was given the commission to carry the gospel of the Kingdom of God, to both Hebrew and Gentile alike (Acts 9:15). As we can see, God continued to work through his chosen people, Israel, even in the age of the Church. The Bible tells us that Gentiles will be grafted onto the branch (Church of God) through repentance and acceptance of Christ.

Contrary to Catholic and Protestant belief, Christ did not take the truth out of the hands of the nation of Israel because of disbelief. No, he returned to the Jews and through the Jews (twelve apostles) to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, with the commission to take the gospel to the gentile world. Romans 11:17,19, 23-24, clearly illustrate the fact that converted Gentiles are grafted into the kingdom of God, not the other way around.

Recommended reading:

- The "Lost" Ten Tribes of Israel...Found! By Steven M. Collins
- Judah's Sceptre And Joseph's Birthright By J. H. Allen
- The Essential Teachings of Hebert W. Armstrong By Stephen W. Boston, Ph.D.
- Primitive Christianity In Crisis By Alan Knight

**Answered by:
Larry Volk
Valley City, North Dakota**

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. Send your letters to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com
We do not print all letters that we receive.

**Letter Received:
August 5, 2003**

**Subject: ABUSE IN THE CHURCH
OF GOD**

**by Warren L. Mann
Bathurst, New South Wales**

Dear Darwin & Laura,

I am writing this letter to you in response to your letter to "The Journal" 30th March, 2001. Time has gone past, I do realize, but I have been "caught up" in various aspects of physical existence.

Perhaps I should commence with a little about myself. I am single, self-employed, and am involved with the church of God. Originally, I was with "Worldwide", but could no longer take the heresy-August 1994. In that month I contacted "International", and was very content. However after Garner Ted's activities "International" here in Australia became "Independent Church of God" in 1996. Now due to dwindling numbers, "Independent" has ceased to exist. The pastor and his wife are thrilled now to be going with "United", but as for me-no thanks! I will have involvement with some independent-style groups. Bathurst, has very few opportunities for fellowship, but I can compensate for that when I travel away to the coast and interstate on business. Population here in Bathurst is 30,000, rather large on Australian standards for a country town but probably rather small on your country's standards.

My mother, now deceased, was with "Worldwide", but was disfellowshipped for "not being spiritual enough". This was a very interesting conclusion for the minister to reach, since she had developed nerve degeneration, which resulted in her inability to walk, or even to comprehend anything-she didn't even know her own name.

In your letter you mentioned abuse, particularly of women. Yes, I do understand, my mother was very seriously abused by my father (who is also now deceased, and was not at any time involved with the church). On one occasion, he hit her so violently in the back that she became temporarily crippled and it was thought that she would be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. However somehow, something caused the spine to move in to the correct position and she walked again. Chiropractic and osteopathy were not involved, and in fact were hardly heard of in Australia when this happened. Perhaps it was a miracle from Almighty God, I don't know. Actually much of the abuse occurred before I was born, including the above mentioned incident, but everything Mum told me was verified by "outsiders", some not even sympathetic to her. Years later, when Mum became involved with "Worldwide" or "Radio Church of God" in those days, and I was very young, she told a minister of the abuse. He believed her, yes, most certainly, but said she was to blame-she must have been in the wrong for a husband to do that, and that it was, he seemed to be inferring alright to abuse a wife if he thought she deserved it. I am not carrying a grudge, and am not wanting revenge, but I will name the minister--Mr. Gerald Waterhouse. It seems that even today, in some of the main church groups women and girls are still looked upon as inferior. Herbert W. Armstrong certainly made it plain that his sons were favoured over his girls. One more point on this "female" issue. Australia is often looked on as a nation of sports people. Please don't believe it. Yes, they love sports, as spectators! A fair proportion don't have much physical activity and are unfit. However there does seem to be a "hidden" pass time, wife and girlfriend bashing and daughter raping and/or sodomizing.--They are in plague proportions. I am involved in helping young girls with anorexia, a great number resulting, not from reading fashion magazines, but from being "stressed out" from abuse, including rape, from their

"loving upstanding" daddies. (I used to be a trainee nutritionist.)

I now come to the issue of church abuse. It still goes on most regrettably and "United" is right there in the thick of it in Australia. I live in the state of New South Wales, but in the southern state of Victoria, the "United" ministry have been very active in trouble making. Finally some people have broken away and started independent churches or fellowships. You mentioned that you had a 98 page report {It is actually 111 pages long.} on church abuse that you were willing to send people who requested it. Yes, I would most certainly like to obtain a copy, in fact 2 copies, one for myself and one to loan to various people, please. It is realised that your most generous offer may not extend to overseas countries, but if you feel that you could send the two copies, please know that should I know any one going to your country, I will organise for them to forward postage to you. Naturally, if you should ever come to Australia, please contact me and I will pay the mailing fees. To send an international check from Australia is a costly and complicated affair; in fact the fee would be more than the amount of postage.

If at all possible, I do also hope that you may be willing to inform me of some of your groups beliefs-to reach out (to spread the Gospel, British Israelism, women in the church etc. Personally I believe that spreading the Gospel is important, to both "Western" and Gentile peoples, and of course one should constantly be progressing oneself in Christianity.

In summary:

1. Personal Progress
2. Helping each other spiritually who are spiritually in/with the church
3. The above-physically
4. Helping others outside the church spiritually when applicable
5. The above-physically when possible

In the next while, I hope to be able to commence some "outreach" here in Bathurst and also in Sydney and Port Kembla.

I will finish now, thank you for reading this long letter. Hope you can reply, even if you cannot send the "abuse report".

May Almighty God bless you in all your endeavors.

**Letter Received:
December 31, 2003**

**Subject: CHRIST IS NOT A
PHARISEE**

**by Jeffrey A. Caldwell
Cupertino, California**

Jeffrey writes:

Dear Laura,

Thanks. Just got your current newsletter and read portions of it.

Regarding 'the simplicity of Christ' I've come to the conclusion that 'sincere and pure devotion to Christ' (2 Cor. 11:3 NIV) is displayed by genuine "servants of righteousness" (2 Cor. 11:15 NIV). I believe that the creed of Christ himself, and of His apostles -- genuine "servants of righteousness" -- is expressed in Deuteronomy 13: "Follow none but the LORD your God, and revere none but Him; observe His commandments alone, and heed only His orders; worship none but Him and hold fast to Him" (Dt. 13:5, Tanakh, verse 4 in Christian Bibles). Beware the deceitful advice of those who don't truly speak for God -- who turn the unwary from this simple and just creed.

In a previous issue I think I saw reference to the idea that Christ and his apostles were Pharisees,...

Laura writes:

We never said in any issue of our newsletter that Christ and His apostles were Pharisees. What we have said is that Paul was a Pharisee. Read Acts 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.

Jeffrey writes:

...and the Pharisees observe Pentecost on Sivan 6, therefore that must be the way.

Laura writes:

Christ himself says the following: Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for

they say, and do not. The scribes and the Pharisees are the orthodox Jews of today and they keep Sivan 6 and have for over 2000 years. The orthodox Jews are the ones who have preserved the Hebrew calendar for us today and the date to keep Pentecost on that Calendar is Sivan 6.

Jeffrey writes:

It seems to me Christ and His apostles worshipped with others in the temple,...

Laura writes:

So... Even today we do not know the heart of those who worship right next to us. Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Jeremiah 17:10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeffrey writes:

...and my understanding is that the Sadducees controlled the temple worship.

Laura writes:

The Sadducees for the most part occupied the high seats (positions) in the temple, however the people followed the Pharisees and the Pharisees controlled the Temple ritual. The Sadducees conducted Temple worship according to the Pharisees. We just published a large article on just this subject in Issue #18. The article was called "Who Were the Pharisees and the Sadducees?" by Bryan T. Huie. This article has much documentation where you can go to find the proof that this is so.

Jeffrey writes:

My understanding is that the Sadducees did not hold to Sivan 6, and that their conservative views of how to arrive at the time of observance of holy days are essentially the same as the majority view of our tradition.

Laura writes:

You are correct on all counts. The majority of people who were once associated with the Worldwide Church of God follow the methods of the Sadducees to arrive at both Passover and Pentecost. The reason they do this is because this is what Herbert W. Armstrong taught thousands of people based on his claim that the Jews changed the date of Passover, for which there is no biblical or

historical proof to back up such a claim. For the count to Pentecost, Herbert W. Armstrong taught thousands of people to use either the Sadducees method of counting to Pentecost or the one that Herbert W. Armstrong made up for the years he did not like the way the Sadducees counted. We also published an article titled, "Counting to Pentecost, by Arlan Weight, in Issue #10, which has charts to show the methods of counting to Pentecost that were used by the Worldwide Church of God and which continue to be used by many offshoots of that organization. Christ gave us a direct command when He said the following: Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. There is no, absolutely no such command to follow the Sadducees in anything. In fact the Sadducees did not even believe in a resurrection. Matthew 22:23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,.... Why would Christ even think to have His elect following leaders who do not even believe in Christ as evidenced by the fact that they don't even believe in a resurrection? Think about it.

Jeffrey writes:

From the Scriptures, it is not clear to me that Christ was a Pharisee.

Laura writes:

I would have to assume that you scan what you read rather than to read what has really been said word for word, because we have never said that Christ was a Pharisee, nor can you find in the Bible that he was a Pharisee. I suggest that in the future you send the evidence to back up your claim before you comment on things such as the above by saying you read it here. We never said that Christ was a Pharisee.

Jeffrey writes:

Also, I do not see the point of the scriptural commands regarding arriving at Pentecost if it were simply Sivan 6.

Laura writes:

Why not count, even if it is always Sivan 6? All months were simply numbered at one time. We number days
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of the month and even days of the week. We keep track of how old we are by number. So tell me why this would be so confusing? It can be proven by scripture that the first Pentecost kept after the Exodus, mentioned in the Bible, Exodus 19 was on Sivan 6. See the article included in this issue titled, "Biblical Evidence in Support of a Sivan 6 Pentecost" by Laura Lee

Darwin writes:

Because God did not come right out and say the Feast of Weeks celebration (memorial) is to be on Sivan 6 as He did with the other six Feast days (Holy Days), Moses was forced to count from a starting point even though the starting point never changed as in the 16th of Nisan. How else would, could Moses have arrived at Sivan 6? God had to give Moses a starting point since God did not tell Moses out right that "on the sixth day of Sivan you shall have your Sabbath, a Holy Convocation."

Letter Received:
January 5, 2004

Subject: ABORTION

by Howard F. Bruce
Glendale, Arizona

With all the controversy raging now on a subject that may affect all mankind I Howard Bruce, as a friend would love your comments, IS ABORTION MURDER? IS ABORTION A SIN?

We know from God's Holy Bible that sin is the transgression of the law, 1 John 3:4 And the law is the Holy Ten Commandments Ex. 20 and Deut. 5. The 5th commandment, thou shalt not kill, or Commit murder.

Remember what God says in Jeremiah 1:4-5. He, God, says he knew Jeremiah in the womb. Again God's word says, Luke 1:11-17, God Knew John the Baptist and filled him with the Holy Spirit while he was in the womb. Last, but certainly not least, the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive in her womb and bear a son and his name was Jesus. God defends the unborn, the innocent, the one who cannot speak for himself.

Dear Friend, am I, Howard Bruce,

making a mountain out of a mole hill? Please answer and let me know your opinions. What is the future, if any, of the aborted? Will they live again, will they see their God? Will they come up in the Resurrection? Friends, I am not your judge. God will Judge us all. But I do know we all make decisions and will all stand before God some day and answer for all our actions.

Psalm 139: 13-16
Psalm 127:3
Exodus 23:7
Micah 6:7
Proverbs 15:3
Exodus 4:11
Luke 17:2
Exodus 21:22-24

Letter Received:
January 11, 2004

**Subject: PASSOVER &
PENTECOST**

by Carol Bennes
St. Joseph, Minnesota

Carol is responding to my responses to a letter she wrote which was printed in Issue #19 of this newsletter.

Carol writes:

Greetings Laura,
Thank you for your response and sending your newsletter. However, your response had significant inconsistencies with God's Word. It's not my purpose to argue, but to admonish (Col. 3:16). Please take another look.

Laura writes:

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Please understand that Colossians 3:16 applies to us all, so please take another look.

Carol writes:

Your beliefs sound so much like the scholarly reasoning's of Dr. S. years ago in the WCG. His long-winded papers placed the twilight at the end of the 14th

(as you claim it is also)...

Laura writes:

I was unaware that Dr. KJ Stavrinides believed in a late 14 Passover. It appears that you read more of his stuff than I did. I actually have never read any of his stuff to my knowledge. I do not need to read things written by Dr. KJ Stavrinides to arrive at a 15th of Abib/Nisan Passover. A deep study of the Bible is what led me to keep a 15 Passover.

Carol writes:

...thus admitting to changing the Passover date to the 15th (as you do).

Laura writes:

You only want to believe that I somehow changed the date of Passover, perhaps so you will be justified in whatever excuse you want to use to not deeply study the subject. The Orthodox Jews have been keeping a 15th of Nisan Passover for well over 2000 years. The Pharisees at the time of Christ kept a 15th Passover and Christ kept the same Holy Day dates as the Pharisees kept. If you ever have time, you might want to read the article titled "Who Were The Pharisees And The Sadducees?" written by Bryan T. Huie and published in Issue #18 of this newsletter.

Carol writes:

God says: to be careful to keep it on its appointed day which He says is the 14th. (Ex. 12:6; Num. 9:2-3). Why do some try so hard to change the events of the 1st Passover to occur on another day??

Laura writes:

Are you sure that others are changing the events of Passover to occur on another day? Or could it be that you have been wrongly taught what day these events occurred on and now you are so sure that you won't even deeply study the subject even when new evidence is presented to you.

We all need to study any given subject which is in the Bible, to see whether it is true or not. I sincerely hope you will study this one.

Carol writes:

Don't they want to be in the right place at the right time to have their "home" passed over?

Laura writes:

This is the reason why people study the Passover. I suspect that many people who are of a Worldwide Church of God background just simply read the materials that were given to them in regard to Passover and didn't go into any kind of a deep study of the Bible to see whether those things were true or not.

Carol writes:

Inconsistency #1: You believe God's Holy Days and Sabbaths begin and end at sunset. Correctly so....

Laura writes:

Finally, something we agree on.

Carol writes:

You say: that the twilight (between the 2 evenings) begins at noon to sunset therefore the lambs were killed between noon and sunset on the 14th.

Laura writes:

First, I would suggest that you look in other versions of the Bible. Few Bibles use the word "twilight" in Exodus 12:6. Most Bible versions render it either evening or even. Young's Bible and Darby's Bible both render it as "between the evenings". The Hebrew word used is "ben ha arbayim" and literally means in Hebrew, "between the evenings". Twilight in that verse and many other verses in the New King James Bible is at best a poor translation.

Jameison-Faussett-Brown says the following in regard to Exodus 12:6: **kill it in the evening**--that is, the interval between the sun's beginning to decline, and sunset, corresponding to our three o'clock in the afternoon.

The sun begins to decline at noon. The declining of the sun only happens at noon in any given 24 hour period of time. Christ died at approximately 3:00PM on the 14th of Nisan. The killing of the Passover lambs started at approximately 3:00PM on the 14th of Nisan.

The reason why the terminology "between the evenings" is used in certain verses is to pinpoint a more specific time of an event. The Hebrew language defines the first evening as noon and the 2nd evening as sunset. The 3:00PM death of Christ and the Passover Lambs falls almost perfectly "between" those two evenings of noon and sunset.

I understand that the concept is a little hard for some to grasp, however, I did not write the Hebrew language, nor

did I define their words. In this day and age it is possible with computers for us to go on the internet and access certain files, so with that in mind I now give you a web site address for a gentleman, Mordakhai Joseph, who knows and taught Biblical Hebrew. He will explain for you in Lesson 221 what "ben ha arbayim" means in Hebrew.

<http://www.teachingthelaw.org/audio/mp3/disc2/index.htm>

There is even evidence found in our own English language for evening to mean between noon and sunset. The Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition, Copyright 1968 gives as one of the definitions for the word evening, the following: "in some parts of the South, in rural areas, and in parts of England, the period from noon through sunset and twilight."

Deuteronomy 16:6 But at the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the Passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

Here in Deuteronomy 16:6, we have a clear scripture in regard to when the Passover sacrifice was to occur, which was at even, at the going down of the sun. The sun only starts to go down at one point during a 24 hour period and that decline starts at noon.

Your definition of twilight as I understand it: "is between sunset and dark". In Deuteronomy 16:6, we are told that the sacrifice takes place at even, at the going down of the sun. This would indicate that we can all still see the sun yet. By your definition the sun has already set. There is no sun to be seen. In other words your definition of twilight does not match the Bible's description of when the Passover sacrifice was to take place.

Leviticus 23:32 It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in **the ninth day of the month at even**, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.

Joshua 5:10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on **the fourteenth day of the month at even** in the plains of Jericho.

In the above 2 scriptures, the first one, Leviticus 23:32 is talking about the Day of Atonement and the last one Joshua 5:10 is talking about the Day of Passover. In both scriptures the word even is the same Strong's #6153, and in the Hebrew it is also the same word in

both verses "ereb".

If you were to keep the Day of Atonement at the beginning of the 9th as you want to do on the Day of Passover by keeping it at the beginning of the 14th, what happens? You would then be keeping the Day of Atonement on the 9th day instead of the 10th as the Bible clearly teaches. If you are going to keep "at even" at the end of the 9th for the Day of Atonement and it is the same wording as used for the Day of Passover, why would you then keep that one at the beginning of the day instead of at the end as done for the Day of Atonement? Sounds to me like a 15th Passover is clearly backed up by scripture and that you have to twist a few scriptures to get them to promote a 14th Passover.

27. Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

28. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the Lord your God.

29. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

30. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

31. Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32. It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the **ninth day of the month at even**, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath. (Leviticus 23:27-32)

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #21

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**WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE
FOR PRINT, SO IF WHAT YOU
SUBMITTED DID NOT MAKE
THIS ISSUE, PLEASE LOOK
FOR IT IN ISSUE #21 AND
BEYOND.**

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

"LET'S ROLL!"

by Jeffrey A. Caldwell
Cupertino, California

U.S. President George W. Bush in his State of the Union address, 2002

Today [the day after his speech] I read about a "let's roll!" place in the Scriptures.

It is Gilgal; the name in Hebrew denotes a "circle [of stones]" according to my bible dictionary.

It was the first stop after entering the Promised Land. The circle of stones was a monument constructed of twelve stones taken out of the Jordan by the Israelites upon the occasion of their crossing over. They crossed the Jordan at flood stage on dry land by means of a miracle. The priests were instructed to stand in the river with the Ark of the Covenant, and the water stopped to let the Israelites cross over. "He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God." (Joshua 4:24).

The young men of the new generation were circumcised there and the LORD's assessment of the situation also figures in the name. "Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day." (Joshua 5:9).

From there they set out to conquer the land. But they did not do a thorough

job of it. Some time later the "Angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? Now therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you."

"When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, and they called that place Bokim." Bokim means "weepers".

I am reminded of Proverbs 16:3: "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." According to the Soncino commentary, the Hebrew for "commit" means literally "roll on to" and "succeed". In this case it has to do with sincerity; literally: then your plans and thoughts will be sincere. More in line with His.

LOOKING AT THE COVENANTS

by Rhoda L. Foust
Williamsburg, Indiana

Many think the Bible consists only of two Covenants, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. We will look at the differences in these two Covenants, but first let's determine what a Covenant is.

According to Strong's Concordance found in the Online Bible program:

01285 tyrb b@riyth ber-eeth' from 01262 (in the sense of cutting [like 01254]);

TWOT - 282a; n f

AV - covenant 264, league 17, confederacy 1, confederate + 01167 1; 284

1) covenant, alliance, pledge

1a) between men

1a1) treaty, alliance, league (man to man)

1a2) constitution, ordinance (monarch to subjects)

1a3) agreement, pledge (man to man)

1a4) alliance (of friendship)

1a5) alliance (of marriage)

1b) between God and man

1b1) alliance (of friendship)

1b2) covenant (divine ordinance with signs or pledges)

In modern thinking it would be an alliance, a promise, an agreement, or a contract. A **Promise** would not necessarily require an agreement between two parties, but would involve a giver and a receiver. An agreement, or contract, would depend on two parties who each make promises to each other and is binding as long as they both adhere to their part of the agreement. If, on the other hand, one defrauds the other then the contract has been broken, and is no longer legally binding. In our courts today, the party who breaks the contract may be taken to court and made to pay a consequence for violating the agreement.

We find the first Covenant mentioned in the Bible in Gen. 9:11-13 where Yahweh makes a promise not to totally destroy the earth by water ever again. Yahweh required nothing from Noah to receive this promise. Yahweh gives Noah a token of this promise, a rainbow which remains with us even in our age.

15. And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. (Gen. 9:15-16)

If there was a Covenant between Adam and Yahweh it seems to be that Adam would agree to dress and care for the garden, not eat of the forbidden tree, and Yahweh agreed to let him and wife, Eve, live in the most beautiful spot on earth, and be supplied with free food and everything they needed to be comfortable. And of course, obey whatever else they were instructed by Yahweh.

While it doesn't say so specifically, it's safe to assume Yahweh explained to them his laws as he thought necessary for them to know. We think of Adam and Eve as newborn babies, unaware of anything except their physical senses, but in time they had an understanding of speech and duties as Yahweh explained to them. So it is logical there was some Covenanting going on.

Another Covenant is with Abraham in Gen 15:18, 17:2, 5-7.

Genesis 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and
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thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Genesis 17:9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Genesis 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

Genesis 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

The Token of this Covenant is:

10. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.
11. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.
12. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. (Gen. 17:10-12)

We see that something is required of Abraham in this Covenant. Again this Covenant was repeated to Isaac later on. This Covenant was based on a contract of obedience which Abraham fulfilled. Yahweh made the same Covenant with Isaac.

3. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;
4. And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;
5. Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (Gen. 26:3-5)

Verse 5 shows that this Covenant was made hundreds of years before Yahweh refreshed it with Israel, during the time of Moses, and that his laws of the Covenant were already in force. Abraham and Isaac and their descendants understood that keeping the

commandments, the statutes, and the laws were part of their Covenant with Yahweh. However, during the process of time, and Israel's enslavement in Egypt Yahweh's laws faded from their memory.

There were other Covenants between men that can be found in Gen.21:27-32, 26: 28-29, 31:44-48,52 but we will leave them for the reader to look into.

When Yahweh decided it was time to rescue the descendants of Abraham he refreshes Moses' mind about his pact with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in Ex.6:3-8.

3. And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.
 4. And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.
 5. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.
 6. Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:
 7. And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
 8. And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.
- Again Yahweh's Covenant was based on obedience to his laws.
4. Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.
 5. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:
 6. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation... (Ex. 19:4-5)
 22. Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out.
 23. And ye shall not walk in the manners

of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them. (Lev. 20:22-23)

The terms Israel were to agree to are found in Exodus Chapters 20, 21, 22, and 23, as well as other places in the Bible.

27. And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel.

28. And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant **the ten commandments.**

Israel Coveted with Yahweh: Ex.19:7-87.

7. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.
8. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Yahweh promises many rewards (terms of the Covenant) to Israel for obedience: Read Deut.11:21-32, 28:1-14.

The scriptures we have presented show the Covenant between Yahweh and Israel was that they would obey all the laws, commandments, and statutes and Yahweh would bless them throughout their generations with prosperity, good health, protection from enemies, and an abundance of land. In spite of all this they lived under the death penalty. When they were unable to obey the laws of Yahweh perfectly, they had to rely on animal sacrifices to cover their sins. All were under the death penalty until Yeshua came and redeemed them. It was necessary that Yeshua first come and die before that death penalty of the old Covenant was lifted.

24. Jn.5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but **is passed from death unto life.** (John 5:24)

1. And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
2. Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (Eph. 2:1-2)

5. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
7. That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:5-7)
4. And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.
5. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD.
6. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.
7. And he took the **book of the covenant**, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.
8. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the **blood of the covenant**, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words. (Gen. 24:4-8)

In Ex.31:13-18 we read of the Sabbath Covenant.

In Ex.34:10 we read of the Covenant of Miracles.

In Deu.4:13-14 we read of the Covenant of the Ten Commandments.

There are many other Covenants for research: Salt Covenants, Bread Covenants, Offering Covenants, Peace Covenants, Covenants of Curses, Ark of the Covenant, etc.

Those who rebelled against Yahweh's laws could look forward to death.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them: As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

The death penalty hung over the whole world awaiting a perfect sacrifice that would redeem mankind from death. These scriptures should give us a good insight into the many Covenants of the Old Testament. The main Covenant, of course, was that Yahweh required Israel to be obedient to all that he set before them and he would rain upon them

perpetual physical blessings. On the other hand if they broke their agreement, and no sacrifice was offered, the result was death without hope of a life after death until the Messiah became the Sacrificed Offering.

THE NEW COVENANT

Paul explains the two Covenants:

4. But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,
5. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (Gal. 4:4-5)
21. Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? (Gal. 4:21)

Being "under the law" carries with it the death sentence without hope of resurrection. Why would anyone "desire to be under" such a law again? Unless there is an acceptable sacrifice offered to Yahweh for the person who sins he has no hope of eternal life. Yeshua came before there had been a permanent sacrifice (under the law) and became that sacrifice that redeemed (bought) us so we might be adopted into his family.

Paul gives an allegory that explains physical Israel under the bondage of death and spiritual Israel freed (by Christ) from that bondage.

22. For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.
23. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. (Gal. 4:22-23)

The promise was that the Messiah would come and take away the sins of the world by becoming the ultimate Sacrifice, making it possible for the believer to have eternal life.

24. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

25. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. (Gal. 4:24-25)

Unless they in physical Jerusalem accept The Son of Yahweh they are still subject to the death sentence.

26. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.
27. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children

than she which hath an husband. (Gal. 4:26-27)

The physical nation of Israel entered into a spiritual marriage with Yahweh through their Covenant with him.

28. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.
29. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. (Gal. 4:26-27)

Those Jews who rejected Yeshua as the Messiah and as the Son of Yahweh persecuted those who did accept Yeshua as the Messiah and the Son of Yahweh.

30. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

31. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free. (Gal. 4:30-31)

1. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. (Gal. 5:1)

Certain Jews were insisting Gentiles must be circumcised and embrace their rituals and rely on their own ability to keep the Commandments to be accepted by Yahweh, thereby rejecting Yeshua the Messiah.

2. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.
3. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.
4. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. (Gal. 5:2-4)

Some will quote Gal.4:9-10 to show there is no need to keep Yahweh's laws or Holy Days. We agree with Paul that if they were relying on these things to justify them, they were missing the mark. However, there were other than the Holy Days of the Old Testament being observed, and traditions, other than Yahweh's laws, being introduced to new converts. Paul explains that no one can rely on his own ability to keep the law perfectly enough to be sinless. Since Christ came into the world and redeemed mankind from the death penalty, we can now rely on his gift, his sacrifice, to cover our sins. If we insist we can do it on our own, Yeshua's death doesn't benefit us. Had Yeshua not become our Sacrifice no

amount of our own efforts would lift the death penalty, from anyone.

5. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (Gal. 5:5-6)

(And I might add: Neither keeping the Holy Days or the Commandments would be enough if one rejects the Sacrifice of Yeshua.)

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 9:1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

The first Covenant was all physical "ordinances of divine" works, but now those works must be spiritual works of love, motivated by the holy spirit, which is imparted to those who belong to Yeshua.

14. How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15. And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

16. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

18. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

19. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

20. Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

21. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of

the ministry.

22. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. (Hebrews 9:14-22)

29. Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10:29)

22. But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23. To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24. And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

Yeshua is "the Mediator of the New Covenant". He now takes the place of the High Priest (who offered the slaughtered animals), by becoming the slaughtered Lamb of Yahweh.

What is the "bondage" and what is the "liberty" Paul speaks of in Gal. 5:1? The New Covenant gives us freedom from what? 1 John 3:4 tells us that breaking Yahweh's laws are still sin. Are we now free to sin? Are we now free to break Yahweh's commandments? Paul says absolutely not!

7. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law said, Thou shalt not covet. (Romans 7:7)

24. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (Romans 7:24)

Paul explains that if it wasn't for the law we would not know what sin is. Transgressing the law is sin, which brings the death penalty. Only Yeshua Christ can redeem us from that penalty by his sacrifice. Of course we have to accept Christ's lifestyle and follow after righteousness to be spiritual. When we determine to do the very best we can to keep Yahweh's laws, we can say with Paul, "There is therefore now no condemnation" when we sin through weakness and repent.

25. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself

serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. (Romans 7:25)

1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.** (Romans 8:1)

What could be plainer? Following Christ frees the believer from the death penalty. The above scriptures should explain what the New Covenant is as opposed to the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant was physical and did not free sinners from the death penalty.

The New Covenant is spiritual and *does* free sinners from the death penalty. It also frees anyone, whether Israelite or Gentile, who in past ages, this age or the ages to come, accept Yeshua as The Sacrifice of Yahweh and repent of breaking Yahweh's laws.

OUR PRESENT COVENANT

Since we still live in the age of redemption, from the time of John the Baptist till the return of Christ, we have access to the same spiritual promises that the New Testament Church had. We also have the same benefits and responsibilities that they had. And they, the New Testament church fathers, set the example to us by keeping the Holy Days, and the Commandments, using the Old Testament to teach from. There was no New Testament at that time.

19. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20. By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21. And having an high priest over the house of God;

22. Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24. And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

26. For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. (Hebrews 10:19-27)

This is a fearful warning: "if we sin willfully" knowing these truths, we refuse to accept Christ as Yahweh's Sacrifice, then we are in danger of "fiery indignation" since this is the last Sacrifice to be Offered up for our sins. Eventually, in the day of judgment, every knee shall bow and confess their sins to Yahweh. Will we argue then that we deserve eternal life because of the New Covenant change, which we thought did away with his laws?

lived together for all eternity (however long that is no one can grasp) yet they TWO are One. Sounds some what like the trinity argument wouldn't you say?

There is strong Biblical evidence for the two in one doctrine and that other "shocking" proposal made in the beginning of this article. Remember, the many in one?

I found the following written in The Journal (a news magazine of the Churches of God): Dec. 31; 2003, page 4; letter titled "Travails with Charley". In it the writer says, "They learned that God was not a trinity but two beings who existed for all eternity, and eventually one being decided to become the father of the other being. How this works in actual practice, no one has ever been able to explain or has even attempted to explain. When the ministers of the Churches of God are asked that question, they usually respond with an answer something like: 'With God all things are possible' or 'That is a mystery'. The writer ends letter with, "Charley has studied, open mindedly the teachings of all three. Charley encourages you, dear friend, to do the same and draw your own conclusions". I say, draw your conclusions based on the Bible alone. It's not that hard.

Some simple conclusions can be drawn from some clear scripture passages. Trinitarian and Unitarian are not Scriptural. Is binitarian Scriptural? That is, two separate God beings having lived together for all eternity and still the Two being one. How could this be in light of the three scripture passages quoted earlier distinctly saying that "God is one"? Let us take a look at some scriptures that I hope will shed some light on this matter. Gen.1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." The word "our" is more than one, by definition at least two. Gen. 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh". Two people, one is a man and one is a women. They are two people no matter how you slice it even though God says they are one flesh. They are two beings each with separate minds and bodies. God says, "they shall be one". Eph.5:31 "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh". v32 "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church". This is not a mystery to the church, but for all others it is a mystery. How can two be one? If many can be one,

yet individual beings at the same time, why is it so hard to comprehend that two beings can be one? John 17:21 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me". There are many members, yet one body. Rom.12:4 "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:" (v5) "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another". I Cor.6:16 "What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh". (v17) "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit". Yes one in spirit. That is one in purpose, intent, goals, likeness, all one in the Lord's Spirit. How can Christ be in so many at the same time? Are their two Christs, or many Christs? Well, no, just one Christ, one Spirit in the many members.

At this point it would be well to note that the Father and the Son are one in Spirit as we shall see. There are many scriptures in the Bible not mentioned in this writing that show the Father and the Son are one spirit. They are one in spirit.

Of course, why would They have different spirits? Matt.3:16 "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:" Matt.10: 20 "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you". Matt.12:18 "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles". Mark 1:9 "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan". (v10) "And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him": Luke 4:16 "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read". (v17) "And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written", (v18) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to
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WAS JESUS GOD TOO?

by Darwin Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

There is much dispute to day about God being one, two or three, yet only one at the same time. It's easy to understand that God is only one Being from various scriptures that state that "God is one" What could be more plainer? Deut.6:4 "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord." Also, Mark 12:29 "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord." Gal.3:20 "Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one." Isn't that plain enough? Case closed, God is one. What further need is there to have any more dialogue on whether God is one, two or three. Maybe some one will pose a new theory, like God is one in four. How about this SHOCKING statement, God is one in many?

It may be that I could shed some light on this critical subject. One of the arguments goes some what like this; "God is a trinity who existed for all eternity as three but we can't quite understand how that is, since God is only one. You need to accept that as from the faith of our fathers, ok?" Sure, why not, after all how could you possibly know anything on spiritual matters, you're just a dumb sheep "lay member". Case closed. Another argument, or is it really an argument, that God is two beings, they

the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised", (v19) "To preach the acceptable year of the Lord". (v20) "And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him". (v21) "And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears". Luke 23:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost".

Again, the writer states in The Journal, "There they learned that God was not a trinity but two beings who existed for all eternity, and eventually one being decided to become the father of the one being". Not so, one Being volunteered Himself to become the Son from the foundation of the world. Matt.13:34 "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them." (v35) "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the **foundation of the world**". Heb.9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself". A close look at Heb.9:26 shows that Christ would have to have suffered often since the foundation of the world but we see the verse before that says, (v25) "Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;"

Clearly, He offered Himself from the foundation of the world to give Himself to be a perfect sacrifice once for all human beings. Phil.2:6 "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God": Christ, in the form of God, was equal with God before the foundation of the world. He became the Son of God at the time of His human birth by being born of a human mother, Mary. Luke1:32 "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David". Here we see for the first time one Being of the Godhead called the "Son" and the other Being of the Godhead of necessity is the Father. Matt.10:32 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven". Heb.1:5

"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son"? (v6) "And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him". Heb.9:14 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit **offered** himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God"? Christ also became the first born among many brethren. Rom. 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren".

Christ was equal with the other God being before the foundation of the world. The God being (Christ) became the son at the time of human conception and the other God being became the Father. This was all planned before the foundation of the world. I Pet.1:20 "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you". **Christ offered Himself Before the foundation of the world.**

They Two, are **one** in purpose, thought, intent, goals. They work together in harmony as the church with it's many members working together to the same end and desire all in harmony with God the father and Christ the son; thus, all together (the many) being one. John 17:11 "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are". God the father, Christ the son and the many members of the Church of God are all to be one, yet composed of many beings of the family of God. Now, is that so hard to comprehend? It's not a mystery to me when God said "let us make man in **our** image after **our** likeness".

God the father, Jesus the son and the Church of God are one in spirit, with these all being separate individuals.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
PASSOVER
IN BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

(SEE AD ON PAGE #2)

**BIBLICAL EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT
OF A SIVAN 6 PENTECOST**

by Laura Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

There was an event that took place on Pentecost both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. The events were when the Children of Israel received the law on Mount Sinai and when the Holy Spirit was given that we would be able to keep that law. Read Exodus 19, paying very close attention to the following verses:

Exodus 19:1 In the **third month**, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, **the same day** came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

Exodus 19:10 And the Lord said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and **sanctify them to day and to morrow**, and let them wash their clothes,

Exodus 19:16 And it came to pass **on the third day in the morning**, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

If one reads Exodus 19:1 in many versions of the Bible, it becomes apparent that there is mass confusion on what to do with the phrase "the same day". Some indicate it is talking about the day they came out of Egypt (Nelson Study Bible footnotes), and some say the first day of the 3rd month (Catholic Bible), some ignore it, and some say 3 months to the day after they left Egypt.

So, then if you go to Strongs and look up the word "same" as used in this verse, the meaning is as follows:

Zeh (zeh); , Strong #: 2088

1. this, this one, here, which, this...that, the one...the other, another, such

a. (alone)

1. this one

2. this...that, the one...the other, another

b. (appos to subst)

1. this

c. (as predicate)

1. this, such

d. (enclitically)

1. then

2. who, whom

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3. how now, what now
4. what now
5. wherefore now
6. behold here
7. just now
8. now, now already

e. (poetry)

1. wherein, which, those who

f. (with prefixes)

1. in this (place) here, then
2. on these conditions, herewith, thus provided, by, through this, for this cause, in this matter
3. thus and thus
4. as follows, things such as these, **accordingly**, to that effect, **in like manner**, thus and thus
5. from here, hence, on one side...on the other side
6. on this account
7. in spite of this, which, whence, how

If you look up the word accordingly in a dictionary, it says the following: 1. In agreement with what has preceded; correspondingly. 2. therefore (Websters New World Dictionary--College Edition)

The word same in Strongs with the meaning of #2088, lists the following verses as having the same usage. They are as follows: Gen. 7:11, Exd. 12:6, Exd. 19:1, Lev. 23:6, Jos. 6:15, I Sam. 17:30, Neh. 6:4, and Psalms 75:8.

➤ #1--Genesis 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the **seventeenth day** of the month, the **same day** were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

⇒ **Same day** here refers back to **seventeenth day**.

➤ #2--Exodus 12:6 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.

⇒ **Same month** here refers back to: Exodus 12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the **first month** of the year to you.

➤ #3--Leviticus 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the **same month** is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

⇒ **Same month** here refers back to: Leviticus 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the **first month** at even is

the Lord's passover.

➤ #4--Joshua 6:15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the **same manner** seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

⇒ **Same manner** here means in the **same way** they did it previously: Joshua 6:14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

➤ #5--1 Samuel 17:30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the **same manner**: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

⇒ **Same manner** here refers to **how David previously spoke**.

➤ #6--Nehemiah 6:4 Yet they **sent unto me four times** after this sort; and I answered them after the **same manner**.

⇒ **Same manner** here means **as previously answered** the 4 times before.

➤ #7--Psalms 75:8 For in the hand of the Lord there is a **cup**, and the **wine is red**; **it is full of mixture**; and he poureth out of **the same**: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

⇒ **The same** here refers back to the **red wine mixture in the cup**.

Now we come to Exodus 19:1

Exodus 19:1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, **the same day** came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

What does "**the same day**" refer back to?

If we say it refers to the 1st day of the 3rd month as some claim, you have the law being received on the 3rd or 4th of Sivan. Doesn't hold water, because your count will be under 50 days.

If we say it refers to when they left Egypt and allowing for differing beliefs on that subject, one could have them receiving the law anytime from the 14th of Sivan to the end of Sivan. Doesn't hold water because then your count is way over 50 days.

Since it clearly says **day**, it does not refer to the word month, so the only thing left for "the same day" to refer back to is the word **third**. The verse could just as well have read as follows:

Exodus 19:1 In the third month, when

the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, **on the third day** came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

The time line would be as follows:

❖ #1--They arrived at Mount Sinai on Sivan 3. (Exd. 19:1)

❖ #2--They had 2 days of preparation, Sivan 4 & 5. (Exd. 19:10)

❖ #3--They were to be prepared for the 3rd day, Sivan 6, on which they received the law. (Exd. 19:15-16)

Over time, we have presented much proof in support of the Hebrew Calendar and the Holy Day Dates which are on that calendar. This is only one more proof in support of the Hebrew Calendar. We are not presenting this proof to cause division among God's people. We are presenting these proofs to get you, God's people, to dig deeper into your own Bibles. No one will ever work out your Salvation for you. If you do not do it yourself, it will not get done. Biblical evidence always takes precedence above what men say and we find there is enough Biblical evidence here to prove that Sivan 6 was always Pentecost. After all this is a time period way before the time of Christ.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

"ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"

**by Paul Wong
Houston, Texas**

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Mt. 16:18)

This statement of our Lord Jesus Christ has been the subject of controversy within the Christian religion for many centuries. There are three interpretations from various sources.

The Roman Catholic Church's interpretation of this verse is that the

apostle Peter is the rock that Christ mentioned, therefore they believe he was their first pope.

"Christ appointed the Apostle Peter to be the first of all the Apostles and to be the visible Head of the whole Church, by appointing him immediately and personally to the primacy of jurisdiction. According to Christ's ordinance, Peter is to have successors in his primacy, over the whole Church and for all time. The successors of Peter in the Primacy are the Bishops of Rome." DeFide, quoted in Ludwig Ott. Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma, ed. in English by James Canon Bastible, and tr. from the German by Patrick Lynch, (St. Louis, Mo.: Herder, 1954); Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur, (Oct. 7, 1954), pp. 279-282.

The second interpretation comes from Protestant churches that ascribe "this rock" to Peter's confession of "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (Mt. 16:16) Then there is a third interpretation that "this rock" refers to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Let us examine other Scriptures and see what they say about the rock.

"For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He." (Deut. 32:3-4)

"And he said: The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence." (2 Sam. 22:2-3)

"For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?" (2 Sam. 22:32)

"The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!" (2 Sam. 22:47)

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Psm. 18:2)

"Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer." (Psm. 78:35)

"and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ." (1 Cor. 10:4)

There is overwhelming support from the Scriptures that "this rock" that our Lord talked about can only refer to

Himself and not Peter or Peter's confession. It is helpful to note that Peter's Aramaic name "Cephas" actually means "a small stone," while the Lord Jesus Christ is the true Rock Of Ages. Even Peter himself acknowledged our Lord Jesus Christ is "the Rock".

"Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." (1 Pet. 2:6-8)

Using a common metaphor of "the rock" that is often understood by builders to be a strong and solid foundation for a building our Lord Jesus Christ spoke this parable.

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." (Mt. 7:24-25)

The Church of God is called God's building (1 Cor. 3:9). The apostle Paul wrote:

"According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 3:10-11)

Here is the decisive, compelling and convincing evidence that "this rock", which is the only foundation for the Church, can refer to no one and nothing else except the Lord Jesus Christ.

The gates of Hades shall not prevail against the Church of Jesus Christ

The most confusing aspect about Christianity is the vast number of denominations that exist in the world today. Which one is the Church of Jesus Christ? The words of our Lord Jesus Christ are very clear. He said "on this rock I will build My church", and not "My churches".

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who

is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph. 4:4-6)

"There is one body" signifies there is only one Church and "one Spirit" means He is the same as the Holy Spirit of God. "One Lord" indicates this one Church is under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the One True God manifested in the flesh. "One faith" means this one Church believes in the true faith that is taught by the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles. "One baptism" shows that believers can only receive the one true form of water baptism into the Lord Jesus Christ. "One God and Father of all" is the One True God, the Creator of mankind, "who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Some people teach the Church of Jesus Christ is composed of all the various denominations in the world. This contradicts with the above truth because all these denominations do not have a unified faith and baptism. The only Church that qualifies to be the Church of Jesus Christ is the original one that was established by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself built that early Apostolic Church by the power of the Holy Spirit and it is the model church for all congregations. Any church that resembles the original Apostolic Church in all the important aspects is the Church of Jesus Christ.

What has happened to the original Apostolic Church? If you read the Acts of the Apostles you will understand how the church had deteriorated and fallen. The apostle Paul had warned the believers, "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after themselves." (Acts 20:29-30) That time was about A.D. 60. Just thirty years later about A.D. 90 the apostle John wrote to the believers, "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us." (1 Jn. 2:18-19) Here we can see who were in the Church of Jesus Christ and who were not.

In A.D. 96 the apostle John was

exiled in the Greek island of Patmos where the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to him the pathetic condition of the seven churches in Asia Minor.

1. To the church of Ephesus the Lord Jesus Christ said, "You have left your first love." (Rev. 2:4)
2. The church of Smyrna have "the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." (Rev. 2:9)
3. The Lord revealed the sins of the church in Pergamos, "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. . . there are those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality." (Rev. 2:13-14)
4. The church in Thyatira allowed "that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and beguile My servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols." (Rev. 2:20)
5. Jesus told the church in Sardis, "I have not found your works perfect before God." (Rev. 3:2)
6. To the church in Philadelphia the Lord said, "Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie." (Rev. 3:9)
7. The Lord's message to the church of the Laodiceans is this: "I know your works, that you are neither cold or hot." (Rev. 3:15)

These seven churches in Asia Minor symbolize the general condition of all the denominational churches in the world. Every one of them has faults. These words of the Lord Jesus Christ are not only for them but also for all the congregations in our present time: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent." (Rev. 3:19)

Again, you may ask, where is the Church of Jesus Christ? Let me show you where it is.

"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to

her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent." (Rev. 12:12-14) "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Rev. 12:17)

"The woman who gave birth to the male Child" signifies the Church of Jesus Christ which is persecuted by the devil (Eph. 5:23-25, 30-33; 1 Thes. 2:14-15). "But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle" indicates God will protect and renew the strength of the Church of Jesus Christ (Ex. 19:4; Deut. 32:11-12; Isa. 40:31). "Where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent" is an indication that the Church of Jesus Christ will be hidden and preserved from the devil for a period of time. During the time of the prophet Elijah God protected the remnants of Israel from the wicked Jezebel by hiding them in caves (1 Kn. 18:13; 19:18). Throughout the history of Christianity when the Church of Jesus Christ was persecuted God had always provided a safe haven for the saints. The two characteristics of the Church of Jesus Christ are that they "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Rev. 12:17) "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (Rev. 14:12).

Of all the Ten Commandments the fourth one relating to the Seventh Day Sabbath is not kept by the majority of the visible congregations in Christendom. The Church of Jesus Christ must be a Seventh Day Sabbath keeper. **(EDITORS NOTE: Yes, true, but there must be more. God's people (church) will be found keeping the whole law of God.)** The New Testament is very clear about the early Apostolic Church keeping the Seventh Day Sabbath (Acts. 13:42-44; 16:13). Church history informs us that the day of worship was officially changed from the Seventh Day to Sunday by the Roman emperor Constantine when he embraced Christianity. True to the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ that His Church would be built "and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" there is a continuity of the Seventh Day Sabbath observance throughout the ages.

"TWO OR THREE IN MY NAME" MEETINGS

**by Al Van Dyk
Bella Vista, California**

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20)

The key for vital, dynamic and personal Christianity, and its rapid spontaneous expansion is small meetings.

Conventional church meetings are impersonal and usually do not meet the needs of people. People who attend large church meetings often leave with the same needs that they came with.

While Christians continue to build more institutional church buildings, Christianity is becoming a smaller minority in the world. Those who meet behind church building walls and stained glass windows are not having a significant effect on the world.

Millions of people who are living in the shadows of church buildings have never heard about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and they have not seen personal Christianity alive in action. Evangelism for the most part is not working through organized and institutional churches.

We have departed from the New Testament pattern for personal Christianity. Most church people do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and they don't relate in a vital and personal way to other Christians.

OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities to serve God and help others. Although people have needs for food, clothing and so on, the greatest needs are spiritual. Millions are lonely and have personal problems that we Christians can help them with.

We can share the Lord Jesus Christ with people and help them with their needs in small personal meetings. It's easy, effective and it's God's way.

AVOID THESE TWO EXTREMES

There are two extremes to be avoided if we want to have the greatest effectiveness. The one extreme is large regulated and restricted (even small regulated and restricted) meetings. The

other is working all alone. There may be times to have special large meetings and there are times when we must be alone and do the Lord's work alone, but generally God has another way for us.

GOD'S WAY

The Bible tells us to meet together with other Christians for encouragement.

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together... (Hebrews 10:24-25)

The Bible also tells us the value of working together as partners - two or three - for greatest effectiveness.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. ...and a three fold cord is not quickly broken. (EccZ.4:9,12)

...and sent them two and two ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. (Luke 10:1)

The pattern for church meetings given to us by God in His Word is for them to be homes. Acts 2:46; 20:20; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor.16:19 Home meetings can be only two or three Christians, a few more, or a larger group. A number of "TWO OR THREE IN MY NAME" Christians can get together for a combined special meeting in a home.

"TWO OR THREE IN MY NAME" MEETINGS

The times and places for "TWO OR THREE IN MY NAME" MEETINGS can be planned in advance - like once a week with various individuals - or they can occur spontaneously according to needs and opportunities. You can have a meeting when you meet another person. You can meet together for fellowship, to meet a specific need or to worship.

**CITY WATER TOWER
"INTERRUPTS" SABBATH SERVICES**

by Sandy Kile
Palisade, Minnesota

Services were to be held at the Coleraine (Minnesota) Public Library on July 12, 2003 at 11 A.M., but things went a little haywire when it was learned minutes before that the water had been shut off there, due to the installation of

the new water tower. Everything that had been carried down to the library basement for the service and lunch afterward had to be packed up and brought out again. The hosts had a lot of rushing around to do to make sure everyone knew the meeting was not at the library, but at their home instead, where the water had not been shut off.

Despite everything, eight people finally came together for Sabbath services including praying, singing, reading the Bible, and listening to a taped sermon by Ronald L. Dart of Christian Educational Ministries, (cemnetwork.com), entitled "Absence of Holiness." The tape in a nutshell was about cleaning up your act as far as God is concerned. Dart explained that part of that is continuing the "good" things you're already doing, while not falling prey to legalism. What is legalism? Getting so involved with the details of law keeping, you lose sight of the really important stuff like helping others. That's why Christ was so displeased with the Pharisees and told them so. They did everything on the legal level like tithing to the minutest level, even mint leaves, but they didn't take care of widows and orphans which was far more important.

Does that mean we can "earn" salvation? No, of course not! Just because God gives grace freely, that doesn't mean He doesn't expect something from us. Just like your parents expected you to keep your room clean when you were a kid, God expects things of His children, too. Keeping the Ten Commandments, the basic minimum standard for human conduct on this planet, is only the start of our responsibilities, and we have to go beyond that if we are to ever see God, Dart explained as in (Hebrews 12:14) where it says without holiness we cannot see God: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

After the taped sermon everyone gobbled up a delicious potluck lunch of roast chicken, potato, and fruit salads, apple pie, and cake topped with whipped cream. What had started out as an unusually hectic morning, turned out just fine.

"The process of conversion is the emancipation of thoughts from the slavery of self."

by Alan Ruth
Farmington Hills, Michigan

IF YOU FIND BIBLICAL ERRORS IN ANY OF THESE ARTICLES, PLEASE EMAIL US WITH THE DETAILS.

OR SEND US THE DETAILS VIA SNAIL MAIL.

ALL CONTACT INFORMATION IS ON PAGE #2.

Laura Lee (Editor)

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- _____ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages
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- E. The World Tomorrow--by Alex Nicholson
- F. Gospel-The Missing Part, Part #1--by Arlan Weight
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**DUE TO COMPUTER AND WEB SITE PROBLEMS
WE GOT WAY BEHIND IN ANSWERING LETTERS
AND SENDING OUT ORDERED ITEMS. WE WILL
TRY TO CATCH UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU**