

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 9, 2021 --- Issue No. 36

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

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Articles

God's Non-Transmittable Attributes (Part One) Omnipotence

by Martin G. Collins (Charlotte, North Carolina)



There is a critical distinction between God's transmittable attributes, which He shares with us, and His non-transmittable attributes, which He does not share with us. For example, when we attempt to describe God, we must consider that He is self-existent, self-sufficient, and eternal.

These three qualities denote that God has existed and always will exist. He has no origin, needs, or changes, and He answers to no one (Colossians 1:17; Isaiah 40:13; Job 33:13; 41:11; Malachi 3:6). These attributes set God wholly apart from every living being. All physical life has an origin. In addition, living beings have many needs like food, water, rest, and oxygen, and they are constantly changing—diminishing with time (Job 14:12; Psalm 102:26; Romans 8:20). Furthermore, all humans are accountable to someone, like parents or employers (or institutions like the government), and ultimately, to God.

To these initial attributes, without which God would not be God, we can add three more: omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience, which express His majesty and His holiness in its fullest sense. These attributes are also non-transmittable. In other words, God alone possesses them; He does not share them with His creation. For comparison, transmittable qualities are those that God has offered to share with us, such as the ability to love, acquire knowledge, and show kindness.

1. Is God truly and fully omnipotent? Genesis 17:1; Revelation 1:8; 19:6.

Comment: In many instances in the Old Testament, especially in the book of Job, God refers to Himself by the Hebrew word *Shaddai* (Exodus 6:3; Job 40:2; Joel 1:15), which means "the Almighty." In the New Testament, He describes Himself with the Greek word *Pantokrator* (II Corinthians 6:18; Revelation 4:8), which means "fully and universally sovereign, almighty, and omnipotent."

God ultimately reigns in the universe and beyond, and all power and authority originate from Him (Daniel 4:35). He is Sovereign. He is the Supreme Being. He has the power to do all His pleasure, and He sees to the fulfillment of His plans without fail (Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 55:11).

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2. Can God do anything? Matthew 19:26; Luke 18:27; Psalm 135:6.

Comment: Jesus confirms that "with God all things are possible." Job declares to God, "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You" (Job 42:2). Describing God as "the Almighty" or "Omnipotent One" is, therefore, interpreted by some Bible students to mean that He has the power to do anything and everything without any bounds. However, while no creature possesses the capability to challenge God's limitless capacity, the Bible clearly shows that God cannot act contrary to His nature. For example, God cannot lie or deny Himself (Titus 1:2; II Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 6:18).

God's omnipotence, therefore, is not the power of doing anything and everything. Instead, it is the power to carry out the will of His own perfect, divine nature, which He does without any constraints (Proverbs 21:30).

3. Is anything too difficult for God to accomplish? Amos 4:13; Isaiah 40:25-28; Luke 1:37.

Comment: The prophet Jeremiah proclaims that God is the all-powerful Creator: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You" (Jeremiah 32:17). The Almighty Himself rhetorically queries Abraham's wife, Sarah, in Genesis 18:14, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" David asks in Psalm 106:2, "Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise?"

The prophet Isaiah states, "Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing" (Isaiah 40:15). He is referred to as "Almighty" 48 times in the Old Testament and nine times in the New Testament. Though He never acts contrary to His will—His only restraints are self-imposed—He has infinite power to accomplish whatever He pleases.

In Part Two of our study, we will consider and examine God's omnipresence.

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Christmas, is it Scriptural?

by David Klopfenstein (Kendallville, Indiana)

WHAT ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL?

Since Christmas is one of the most celebrated religious holidays by Christianity today, wouldn't you think that it must have come from the Bible? Therefore, Christianity should not object to an investigation of this tradition to see whether it is true or not. Many will say: "The birth of Messiah is in the scriptures, so why is there a need for an investigation?" Yes, the birth of Messiah is in the scriptures, and for the message of Messiah's birth I do rejoice. Paul also rejoiced when the Gospel was preached regardless of the intent.

Philippians 2:15 Some indeed preach Messiah even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:16 The one preaches Messiah of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel.18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Messiah is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

But where is there any instruction of how to celebrate Christmas in the scriptures? As much as it is celebrated around the world by Christians and non-Christians alike, surely there should be some kind of instruction on how to celebrate it. The word "CHRISTMAS" is NOT in the scriptures! It is a compilation of two words "Christ" and "Mass" invented by the Catholic Church many years ago. "Christ-Mass," from these two words came the word "Christmas" that we have today.

We all know that Christmas supposedly is a celebration of the birth of Messiah that Daniel prophesied would come (Daniel 9:24-27.) The Savior declared that "If the world hated Him, they would hate you also." So how come the world does NOT hate Christmas? They love it because it is a multibillion-dollar business each year and they plan their advertising so the

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people will buy more of their merchandise of Christmas idols! Did the Wise men bring the Savior gold, frankincense, and myrrh for birthday gifts? Did they celebrate by giving gifts one to another as people do today? Where did this custom come from?

Prove All Things

Paul declared in I Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Going to the scriptures in the New Testament where it speaks of the birth of Messiah and telling the story of His birth does NOT tell us to celebrate or how to celebrate His birth or tell us that He was born on December 25! He was not born on December 25! First of all, celebrating the birth of a son is celebrating their beginning, right? **The Savior pre-existed** long before He became a human being, so if He existed at creation (which He did), when are you going to celebrate His beginning?

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

FEAST CELEBRATIONS IN SCRIPTURES

There are three feasts mentioned in the Old Covenant to be kept. In Deuteronomy 16:16 it mentions these three feasts: 1) Feast of Unleavened Bread, 2) Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), 3) Feast of Tabernacles. The same are mentioned in the New Covenant.

John 7:2 Now the Jews' **feast of tabernacles** was at hand. 10 But when his brethren were gone up, then went he (Yahoshua) also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

Acts 2:1 And when **the day of Pentecost** was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Acts 20:16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

Acts 12:3 And because he (Herod) saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. **(Then were the days of unleavened bread.)**

Acts 20:6 And we sailed away from Philippi **after the days of unleavened bread**, and came unto them to Troas in five days, where we abode seven days.

There isn't one text in the New Testament where the disciples celebrated the Messiah's birth or gave a hint to do so. We are commanded not to learn the way of the heathen and not to worship the Creator as the heathen did their pagan gods with their pagan customs!

LEARN NOT THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN

Deuteronomy 12:30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. 31 **Thou shalt not do so unto YHVH thy Elohim (God):** for every abomination to YHVH, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

Similarity of the Christmas Tree

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith YHVH, **Learn NOT the way of the heathen**, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 3 For **the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest**, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. 4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. 5 They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also *is it* in them to do good.

Here in Jeremiah, we are told that the heathen customs are vain. They cut a tree out of the forest, nail it down with nails and hammer and decorate it with silver and gold. Does this sound familiar? Today it is too costly to decorate the Christmas tree with real silver and gold, so silver and gold colored tinsel is used in place of the real silver and gold! What does the

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Christmas tree have to do with the birth of Messiah anyway? The tree is tied in directly with the pagan worship of the sun gods on Sundays and whose birthdays were on December 25 and the teaching of the Santa Claus lie! Several examples:

In the book, *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop, on page 97, 98 & 102 we will take a few quotes in relation to Christmas and the tree. (First printing in England, 1913).

The Christmas tree, now so common among us, was equally common in Pagan Rome and Pagan Egypt. In Egypt that tree was the palm-tree; **in Rome it was the fir**; the palm tree denoting **the Pagan Messiah**, as Baal-Tamar, **the fir referring to him as Baal-Berith**. The mother Adonis, the Sun-God and great mediatorial divinity, was mystically said to have been changed into a tree, and when in that state to have brought forth her divine son. If the mother was a tree, the son must have been recognized as the **“Man the Branch.”** And this entirely accounts for the putting of the Yule Log into the fire on Christmas-eve, and the appearance of the Christmas-tree the next morning.

As Zero-Ashta, “The seed of the woman,” which name also signified *Ignigena*, or “born of the fire,” he has to enter the fire on “Mother-night,” that he may be born the next day out of it, as the **“Branch of God,”** or the Tree that brings all divine gifts to men. – (page 98)--Therefore, the 25th of December, the day that was observed at Rome as the day when the victorious god reappeared on earth, was held at the *Natalis invicti solis*, “The birth-day of the unconquered Sun.” Now the Yule Log is the dead stock of Nimrod, deified as the sun-god, but cut down by his enemies; **the Christmas-tree is Nimrod redivivus**---the slain god comes to life again. – (page 102)—There can be no doubt, then, that the Pagan festival at the winter solstice---in other words, **Christmas---was held in honor of the birth of the Babylonian Messiah.**

In the *Encyclopedia International* under the word Christmas, it states:

December 25 was already a major festival in the pagan Roman world, the *Dies Natalis Solis Invicti*, or “Birthday of the Unconquered Sun,” falling within the week-long celebration of the Saturnalia, a feast honoring the renewal of the sun at the winter solstice. Pagan celebrations on December 25 had included feasting, dancing, lighting bonfires, decorating homes with greens, and giving of gifts. So, when this became a Christian festival, the customs continued, but with a Christian meaning imparted to them.

Throughout the Middle Ages, Christmas was a richly varied religious holiday. However, during the Commonwealth, the English Puritans, repelled by both the pagan practices and the religious ceremonies, forbade any religious or secular celebration of Christmas. The English celebration returned with the restoration of the Stuarts, but Christmas observances were still outlawed in Puritan New England for many years; and not until the 19th century did Christmas become a legal holiday in America.

Mithra, Pagan Persian God

From *Funk & Wagnalls® New Encyclopedia*© (Emphasis mine).

One of the major religions of the Roman Empire, the cult of Mithra, the ancient Persian god of light and wisdom. In the **AVESTA** (q.v.), the sacred Zoroastrian writings of the ancient Persians, Mithra appears as the chief yazata (Avestan, “beneficent one”), or good spirit, and ruler of the world. He was supposed to have slain the divine bull, from whose dying body sprang all plants and animals beneficial to humanity.

After the conquest of Assyria in the 7th century BC and of Babylonia in the 6th century BC, Mithra became the god of the sun, which was worshipped in his name. The Greeks of Asia Minor, by identifying Mithra with HELIOS, (q.v.), **the Greek god of the sun,** helped to spread the cult. It was brought to Rome about 68 BC by Cilician pirates whom the Roman general Pompey the Great had captured, and during the early empire it spread rapidly throughout Italy and the Roman provinces. It was a rival to Christianity in the Roman world.

Mithraism was similar to Christianity in its ideals of humility and brotherly love, baptism, the rite of communion, the use of holy water, the adoration of the shepherds at Mithra’s birth, the adoption of Sundays and of December 25 (Mithra’s birthday) as holy days, and the belief in the immortality of the soul, the last judgment, and the resurrection. Mithraism differed from Christianity in the exclusion of women from its ceremonies and in its tolerance of polytheism. The similarities, however, made conversion of its followers to Christian doctrine easy.

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The religion of Mithra ran as a rival to Christianity for nearly 200 years and was finally absorbed into Christianity because of the similarities of doctrine. The only thing is they brought in the observance of Sunday and December 25 for the birthday of Mithra and transferred them from Mithra to Jesus (Jesus). When Constantine, the Emperor of Rome, became a so-called Christian, he ordered Sunday to be observed and to abandon the Jewish Sabbath in 321 A.D. according to history.

Paul gave warning to the saints concerning going back and re-adopting pagan days, months, times, and years. This text in Galatians 4 is NOT referring to bible Sabbath days, months, times, and years as many false teachers claim!

Galatians 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not Elohim (God), ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 9 But now, after that ye have known Elohim (God), or rather are known of Elohim (God), how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. [pagan days, months, etc.] 11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain.

OLD SAINT NICK(?)

What does the Christmas tree and Santa Claus have to do with the birth of Messiah anyway? The Messiah was born in a manger in a stable. Many claim that their Christmas trees do not have any connection with the pagan gods and Nimrod. Well doesn't it all tie in with the big lie of Santa Claus being up at the north pole, making all these gifts and bringing them in a sleigh pulled by reindeer through the skies and coming down your chimney with all these gifts to put under your Christmas tree or in your Christmas stockings for the family? (pure mythology).

The Santa songs go like this: "You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout, I'm telling you why, Santa Claus is coming to town. He sees you when your sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you have been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake----." Who is the all-seeing, all-knowing Being anyway, Santa Claus?

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Parents tell their children all these wonderful gifts come from Santa Claus, transferring the honor and glory which belongs to the Creator to honoring and glorifying the pagan god of mythology, Santa Claus! Santa Claus is nothing but a made-up myth! Christian (so-called) parents punish their children during the year for lying to them and then turn right around at Christmas time and tell the whole BIG LIE ABOUT SANTA CLAUS with the Christmas tree!! That's hypocrisy! It's no wonder, when children grow up, they question all the rest of their parents teaching! How much more did my parents lie to me?

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Over the years dictionary words have changed meanings for some strange reason. In my old **American College Dictionary** with C. L. Barnhart, *Editor in Chief*, Jess Stein *Managing Editor*, by L. W. Singer Company - Syracuse. Under the name Nick, page 819:

Nick (nik), n, the devil (usually **Old Nick**). [familiar use of *Nickolas*, proper name.]

The new dictionaries have omitted this name and meaning as it is in my old dictionary. Why? People have called Santa Claus "**Old Saint Nick**" making the devil a saint!

SHEEP TAKEN IN BEFORE RAINY SEASON

In Israel the ninth month is December (Chisleu, Zechariah 7:1) and is a rainy month of the year and the sheep are always brought in before the rainy season starts.

In Adam Clarke's Commentary, Volume 5, Page 370 "Bring them (the sheep) home at the commencement of the first rain."

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Ezra 10:9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of Elohim (God), trembling because of *this* matter, and **for the great rain**.

Song of Solomon 2:11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

Wise Men Came to the House, Not a Manger

When the wise men came to Jerusalem they inquired where the King of the Jews was born because they saw his star. When they got to Bethlehem, they went into **the house where Yahoshua was** to give Him the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. He was no longer in a manger for he was nearly two years old. After Herod inquired of the time, they first saw the star, he had all boys killed under two years in Bethlehem hoping to destroy Yahoshua.

Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

The custom of the East is when a person goes into the presence of their King, they never enter without a gift in honor giving recognition that he is their King. These gifts were not birthday gifts! They also did not give gifts one to another as people do today!

ACTUAL TIME OF YAHOSHUA'S BIRTH

In Luke 1:5 Zechariah the priest was serving in the temple in the course of Abiyah which is the 8th course spoken of in I Chronicles 24:10 (4-19). The angel told him Elisabeth his wife would conceive and have a son and call his name John. After Zechariah finished his course, Elisabeth conceived. In Elizabeth's 6th month the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary (Miriam) to tell her she would conceive by the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:26-31). So, John and Yahoshua were but six months different in age.

From Nisan 14 to just after the days of Unleavened Bread to the 8th course of Abiyah for Zechariah would bring him to about June for him to finish his course in the temple and Elizabeth to conceive. Mary (Miriam) conceived six months later and that would be approximately December (Chisleu). That would make Yahoshua the Messiah born nine months later, which would be approximately the latter part of September or October about the time of the Feast of Tabernacles!

Yahoshua preached 3 ½ years and was crucified approximately in April (Nisan) at the Passover when He was 33 ½ years old. Just go six months forward and that would bring you to October for His birth. So, using the timing of Zechariah in the temple we can positively know that Yahoshua's birth was NOT in December! So why should December 25 ever be celebrated for Yahoshua's birth when it is the birthdays of all the sun gods?

CONCLUSION

We are commanded not to learn the way of the heathen and do these things unto Yahvah our Creator (Deuteronomy 12:30, 31; Jeremiah 10:1-5).

Leviticus 18:30 Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, **that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs**, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I *am* YHVH your Elohim (God).

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Master (Lord). 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots, which is Rome and her religious system (Revelation 17:5, 9, 16-18) is soon to be destroyed and Yahvah is warning His children to come out of her so they will not be destroyed with her!

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Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Luke 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

The New Education

by James McBride (United Kingdom)

Many parents have received the brush-off when they ask, What did you do today at school? So, do you know what your child is being taught? Or do you just trust the school to do the ‘right’ thing? Can you be sure that they are taught values akin to your own? Is there a reason for an increasing number of parents choosing to homeschool their children?

It used to be English, Math, Art, Gym, Geography, Religion. Now—in Primary! - it’s globalism, transgender, LGBTQ+, with a nod towards traditional subjects but each heavily loaded towards ‘climate change’, the ‘common good’. And they still can’t find India on a map—nor London.

Religion? —well forget Christianity. Now it’s ‘Chrislam’, Now you chant pagan mantras and take part in alien ritual. Now you learn witchcraft is just another religious expression, and acceptable. Now all cultures have equal value. And don’t pray—certainly not to the God who delivered ancient Israel from slavery. Bible standards on sexuality? Forget it—anything goes now.

Home schooling clearly will be a barrier to such malign influences, as you can inculcate your own values—but it can disadvantage children in isolating them from their peer culture. Is there an alternative pathway for us to tread?

Ancient Israel, wisely, was taught to educate their offspring: ‘... you shall teach them [the divine principles*] diligently unto your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lieth down, and when you rise up’ (Deuteronomy 6:7). It’s a comprehensive template for our own twenty-first century lives as followers of Jesus Christ in an increasingly dysfunctional world where our Christian values are widely despised.

Teach our children to be independently minded, to question, to seek understanding. Teach them to be curious. Teach them there is more than one interpretation of ‘the common good’, that there is indeed ‘truth’. Thus, armed with sound life principles they are mentally prepared to challenge the devil-influenced humanist soup increasingly served in our school and university system.

[* These principles are from God but are the foundation stones on which is built a healthy civil society]

Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: **Contending for a More Pure Flow of Prophetic Ministry**

Article by Eddie Hyatt

Comments by Richard Markland (London, Ohio) and Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

I Can’t recall the article in one of the most recent issues of your newsletter, but it is in reference to the individual who said his wife spoke in tongues. It raised a warning flag in my mind. So, if she was speaking in tongues, what language was it in, and why was it taking place? For the most part I find the articles interesting, but I found what was said a bit off base. How many other people took note of this? The article is in reference to being a prophet.

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Editor’s Note by Laura Lee: I will clearly say that I do not know exactly how God wants us to use the gift of tongues or the interpretation there of, but the gift of tongues and interpreting it is one of the gifts of the spirit.

I Corinthians 12:27-31, Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church; first, apostles; secondarily, prophets; thirdly, teachers; after that, miracles; then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

As I grew up, I have the following church backgrounds, Congregational, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Church of God of Latter-Day Saints, Jehovah’s Witness, and Assembly of God. Some I went to only briefly and others for years. The Assembly of God Church I went to on and off from 3rd grade until I started in the Worldwide Church of God in the late 80’s and early 90’s.

Anyone familiar with The Assembly of God Church knows it is a Pentecostal church. Some of their teachings are similar to Worldwide Church of God for example actually reading your Bible, Baptism by Submersion, Blessing Children rather than baptizing them until they get older and can understand. Since they are a Pentecostal denomination, they probably go overboard with the speaking in tongues. I guess that would be an opinion.

Generally, how it works in The Assembly of God Church is one person speaks in tongues during services and another person will then interpret what was said. In the prayer chapel it was quite a different world with many speaking in tongues to God.

I have had the gift of speaking in tongues since 3rd grade. I have not used that gift since I started attending the Worldwide Church of God. In all honesty though I have the gift, but I do not actually know how to use it since leaving The Assembly of God Church. I however do not believe it should raise a red flag when you hear that someone has used this gift since it is a gift of the holy spirit. I also know there are other people within the Church of God who have this gift of speaking in other tongues and perhaps someone out there has done a thorough study of this subject and can either explain it to all of us or write an article in regard to it.

To answer your question, this is how the gift was spoken of in the article:

“When he finally came in and sat down, Sue burst forth with a message in tongues. I had the interpretation, which was a prophetic word for this pastor. He was amazed and asked permission to share what had just happened to the members of his church board with whom he was meeting after our meal. He said the prophetic message precisely confirmed a challenging proposal he was going to submit to them that day.”

In the article where it was spoken of, it was properly used according to scripture. Sue spoke in tongues not knowing it would happen at that moment and her husband was there to interpret what was said.

As far as what tongue was spoken, most people who have this gift do not know what language they are speaking and most times even the person interpreting does not know. I personally only know and speak the English language in daily life as do most people in the United States.

Because of what the Worldwide Church of God taught in regard to speaking in tongues, people who have had this gift through the years have for the most part hidden it as I did. However, I read one of Herbert W. Armstrong’s articles printed in 1970 on the subject called “The Tongues Question” and I believe he was not quite honest with the scriptures in regard to this subject. He seemed to make the entire thing more of a rant against the Pentecostal Churches than to actually quote or say exactly what the scriptures said.

To save space I will quote some of the major scriptures in regard to speaking in tongues, but you need to look them up and read them in context of what is being said:

- ❖ **Mar 16:17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new **tongues**; **Mar 16:18** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

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- ❖ **Act 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other **tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance. **Act 2:5** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. **Act 2:6** Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

- ❖ **Act 10:44** While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. **Act 10:45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. **Act 10:46** For they heard them speak with **tongues**, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, **Act 10:47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

- ❖ **Act 19:5** When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **Act 19:6** And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with **tongues**, and prophesied.

- ❖ **1Co 12:10** To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of **tongues**; to another the interpretation of **tongues**: **1Co 12:11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

- ❖ **1Co 12:28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of **tongues**.

- ❖ **1Co 12:30** Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with **tongues**? do all interpret?

- ❖ **1Co 14:2** For he that speaketh in an *unknown tongue* speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

- ❖ **1Co 14:4** He that speaketh in an *unknown tongue* edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. **1Co 14:5** I would that ye all spake with **tongues**, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with **tongues**, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

- ❖ **1Co 14:14** For if I pray in an *unknown tongue*, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

- ❖ **1Co 14:18** I thank my God, I speak with **tongues** more than ye all: **1Co 14:19** Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown tongue*.

- ❖ **1Co 14:27** If any man speak in an *unknown tongue*, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret. **1Co 14:28** But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

In regard to: Was the Sop Leavened or Unleavened? (John 13:26-27)

Article by John W. Ritenbaugh

Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota) and Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Ray Writes:

Regarding your comments on the Passover meal. Which you mention on page 12. Consider these two comments you make.

1) There is no command anywhere in Scripture telling us to keep the Lord's supper on the early part of the 14th." I won't quote the Scriptures, so as not to take up too much time and space.

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Laura Writes:

Your source whether scripture or something else should always be quoted or stated as that is your proof. We need proof of what you say.

Ray Writes:

But when the Holy Days were spelled out in the book of the law of Moses, the first one mentioned is the Passover. Then the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Which began at sunset the 15th. Note that the "lamb" was chosen and penned up on the 10th. It was killed just before sunset of the 13th, and the blood painted onto the door frames. Then it was supposed to be "roasted slowly, without gutting it, or cutting it in any way. But the "roasting" was done during the daytime part of the 14th, and not eaten until the evening of the 15th. We know that it wasn't eaten the evening of the 14th, because Jesus and his disciples ate a "stew". And it doesn't say what the meat was. Might have been fish. I'm not sure.

Laura Writes:

Your timelines are confusing and change from one of your writings to the next. For example, one time you will say the Passover Meal was eaten in the evening on the 15th and another time you will say it was eaten in the morning of the 15th.

It is true the Passover lambs were chosen on the 10th, but they were slain on the daytime part of the 14th between the two evenings. When the sun starts to go down at noon, that is the first evening. The 2nd evening is at the actual sunset. The Passover lambs were generally slain about 3:00 PM on the 14th of Abib/Nisan. The Passover lambs were then roasted right after being slain and they were eaten after sunset on the 15th. The death angel passed over on the 15th around midnight.

The first day of Unleavened Bread and the Passover are the same day. That is why the Days of Unleavened Bread are sometimes called Passover. See [Luk 22:1](#) Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the [Passover](#).

And where is your proof that Jesus and the disciples were eating stew?

Ray Writes:

But also note that the disciples asked Jesus where "he wanted to eat the Passover". Again, what was it that they ate? (I won't get into it, but the Jews of Jesus day had stopped eating or observing the Passover upon their return from Babylon. It's a long story. And it involves the OT Immanuel, which the NT says was also Jesus, in a different body, born by a different virgin.)

Laura Writes:

The reason you get "Notes" in regard to a lot of stuff you write is because you send no "proof" for what you say and some of it is just plain untrue. There were not two different people called Jesus and there were not two different virgin births and if you believe there were where is your proof?

Ray Writes:

Back to their eating. In the book of the law, there is no command to "wash one's feet" the evening of Passover. I mentioned this to you before. Jesus washed the apostles' feet, which was a symbolic meaning that they too could now enter into the holy place. Just as Aaron and his sons had to do before they could enter. AND NOTE: Jesus was using the apostles to "replace the Aaronic priesthood, just as he had replaced Aaron. Or making a "new priesthood". I'm not sure if you have considered that? For, it was just as the baptism of total immersion allowed those baptized to replace those Levites that worked within the open area before the Tent of Meeting. For, in sense, total immersion allows all to become a part of the priesthood. Just as all Israel was made a part of the priesthood when they were "baptized in the cloud and the water when they crossed the eastern arm of the Red Sea". But they refused that duty, and that is why Levi's sons were chosen to do the duties.

Laura Writes:

This happened the same night that Jesus introduced the new emblems for Passover, the night he was betrayed. So, it looks like a command to me.

[Joh 13:8](#) Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, **If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.**

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Joh 13:14 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. Joh 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Just because I read or print what you say does not mean I believe it. There are some things I believe you could be right about, but you mostly offer no proof and then there are things which I definitely do not believe like the one about there being two different men called Jesus and two different virgin births.

Ray Writes:

Back to Jesus Passover. NOTE: After the meal and teaching, Jesus and the disciples left the room, and went out into a "park"? There at sunrise, the Pharisees took Jesus' captive. And crucified him just prior to the "beginning of the 15th). I hope you will check this, for it is clearly spelled out in NT Gospel teachings. 1) They went into the house at sunset beginning the 14th. 2) They left the house around (?) midnight. 3) They stayed in the "park" (the disciples slept, and Jesus prayed) until it began to get light, and the "enemy" came. 4) Beginning around sunrise, the "court system" passed Jesus to the Gentile rulers to try him (it was illegal for the Pharisee's to do so). 5) Jesus was crucified that afternoon, and was quickly taken down when dead, and put in a tomb "before sunset the 15th".

Laura Writes:

I would agree with most of this last paragraph, but what I don't understand is if you know that Jesus was crucified just prior to the beginning of the 15th and He was our Passover Lamb, why do you also believe the Passover Lambs (the sheep kind) were slain on the 13th? This is what I mean about you changing your timeline all the time. It gets confusing. Jesus was crucified between the two evenings on the daylight part of the 14th at the same time as the Passover lambs were killed. Jesus was our Passover Lamb.

Other Items

Bees

Sent by Sue Hyatt (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

