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Contributors: Nathaniel Burson, Jeffrey Caldwell, Dwight Fleming, Richard Frates, Eddie Hyatt

Website: Church of God, Bismarck <https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org>

Articles

The Mystery of God by Dwight Fleming (California)

"In the beginning . . . God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **male** and **female** created he them" Genesis 1:1, 27.

Both a man and a woman picture the likeness and nature of God. We primarily only see the masculine side of God while the feminine side of God is not as obvious. There is God the Father and Jesus the Son of God. Both members of the Godhead are described as masculine and for good reason.

But if the Godhead is both male and female, then where can we find the feminine characteristics of God in the Bible?

We read in the Old Testament about the giving of the Law to Moses. It usually falls to the dad to "lay down the law" to his children to help them to learn discipline and obedience. Thus, discipline and obedience are usually considered masculine traits. Yet the sternness of de-manded obedience needs to be balanced with forgiveness, tenderness, encouragement, and mercy which are often expressed by the mom.

The New Testament largely emphasizes mercy, forgiveness, and grace. These are qualities that women are more prone to display and thus are considered to be feminine in nature. It has been said that the Old Testament pictures a Father's love (obedience or discipline) while the New Testament pictures a Mother's love (mercy, forgiveness, grace).

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" John 1:17.

When a child knows that he or she has done something wrong, they will often first go to the parent whom they know is more prone to show them mercy and may also **intercede** for them with the other parent. I have watched this happen at times with my sister's kids. They know how to play one parent against another. Usually, my sister is the one to respond to their plea for mercy but not always.

This is typical of most families with both parents present and who try to work together as a team. And this also reflects the spiritual or heavenly realm. A mom will often **intercede** for her children. This is also the role of the High Priest.

"For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sin: Who can have **compassion** [a fem-inine quality] on the ignorant, and on them that are going astray for that he himself is subject to weakness" Hebrews 5:1-2 (KJV and NIV).

So, a High Priest, similar to a mom, **intercedes** on the behalf of his people for their sins. The book of Hebrews deals with the importance of the role of a High Priest and the sacrifices that are offered for sin. Hebrews 4, verses 14 to 16 read:

"Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high priest which cannot be **touched with the feeling of our infirmities**; but was in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need."

"Touched with the **feeling of our infirmities**" sounds like a feminine quality to me that a High Priest needs to have to properly function as our **intercessor**. Think about this:

If all Christ had to do was shed His blood to give us salvation, then why didn't He just instantly turn into flesh as a full-grown man and have the devil stab Him with a spear and then bleed to death? This would have taken about half an hour, maybe an hour at most. Wouldn't that have flipped the switch for us? So, instead of going to "hell," all we have to do is "believe" on Christ and presto we are now on the glory road to heaven! (Pardon my touch of humor. No disrespect intended.)

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Instead, Jesus became a microscopic cell that united with an egg in Mary. Just like the rest of us. He was born after nine months of being carried in his mother’s womb just like the rest of us. He cried and needed changing just like any baby would. He crawled and learned to walk just like the rest of us. He played and learned to talk just like the rest of us also did. He may at times have smashed his finger or stubbed his toe while working with his human dad, who was an average Joe (Joseph). He lived as any other human being for over 33 years on this earth before his brutal death. Why so?

So, he would know what it is like to live in this flesh just like the rest of us. This he had to do in order to qualify to be our High Priest.

When we were little and something hurt us and made us cry, we would run to our moms for comforting. Somehow, mom would always find a way to make it better. This is what moms do. This is also what a High Priest does. A High Priest displays the **feminine** side of God.

Jesus Christ is our High Priest who **intercedes** on our behalf to God the Father. In that sense, Jesus plays a **feminine** role. Yet, Jesus is also the Head of the church which is the body of Christ. In that sense, Jesus plays a masculine role in relation to the church which is His spiritual body. Thus, Jesus wears multiple hats which may be a little confusing for some.

“For it pleased the Father that in him [Jesus] should **all fullness** dwell” Colossians 1:19.

“For in him [Jesus] dwells **all the fullness** of the Godhead bodily” Colossians 2:9.

What is the **fullness** of the Godhead? In the beginning, God created man in his image and after his likeness, both **male** and **female**. It takes a man and a woman to create a family. Two men can’t do it: neither two women. It takes **two**, but they must be **male** and **female**.

There are **two** members of the Godhead: The Father and the Son. When a woman starts her menstrual cycle, she sheds **blood**. Which member of the Godhead shed **blood**?

Does Jesus play both a masculine and a feminine role? As we have already seen, as the Head of the church, He plays a **masculine** role. And, at the same time, as our High Priest, He plays a **feminine** role by **interceding** on our behalf to the Father.

Does the **fullness** of the Godhead dwelling in Jesus pertain to His playing both masculine and feminine roles? If so, this would not make Jesus’ superior to the Father. Rather, Jesus completes or makes full the Godhead just as a woman completes a man.

The Father has created all things through Jesus (Col. 1:16) just as a man can only create a family through a woman. Is this not the design and witness of God?

“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is head of the church; and he is the savior of the body . . . This is a great **mystery**, but I speak concerning Christ and the church” Ephesians 5:23, 32.

“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he shall begin to sound, the **mystery** of God shall be finished as he has declared to his servants the prophets” Revelation 10:7.

“Behold, I show you a **mystery**; we shall not all sleep but we all shall be changed; in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trump” I Corinthians 15:51-52.

What is this mystery? It has to do with the church which is pictured as a woman as the body and bride of Christ. Don’t all men say that a woman is a “mystery”?

God does too! Has not the feminine side of God been kept a mystery? Just as in nature, the female is often camouflaged so that she is hidden from enemies while nesting. This is for her protection. Satan hates the church which is pictured as

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a woman. At Christ's return, the church will be born into God's family. We will be born of God. We will serve as kings and priests (see Revelation 5:10). Here again, with kings and priests, we see masculine and feminine roles.

As we have seen, the Old Testament with the New Testament represent Law and Grace which are masculine and feminine characteristics of God. And they also serve as a type of Two Witnesses of God since God is **male** and **female**.

It is believed by many that the Two Witnesses mentioned in Revelation 11 will be a type of Elijah and Moses. Sounds very possible. And that we should be looking for two men of God who will fulfill those prophecies. Yet consider this as well: Rather than the Two Witnesses being two men, could it be possible that they could be a man and a woman of God?

Did not the fate of the Jewish people lie in the hands of Esther who put her life at risk by going before the king to **intercede** for her people? (A type of high priest.) Does not Queen Elizabeth II sit today on the throne of David which is the very throne that Christ will inherit upon His return to conquer all nations? Indeed! It was Queen Isabella of Spain who went against her advisors and decided to sponsor and support Columbus' first voyage which led to the discovery of the New World. Never underestimate the power of a woman's intuition!

What Makes a Great Nation?

by Jeffrey Caldwell (Redwood City, California)

What makes for a great nation is relevant to God's holy nation.

It seems good to me to share with you a couple of my recent Facebook posts:

The day after the election:

Today we, here in the United States, have a new President-elect -- not the one that I, nor many of us, were expecting!

Reminded that citizenship confers not only rights, but also responsibilities. Thanks to the wisdom of our founders each of us has a say in the public square and ability to communicate with fellow citizens or our officials. Even, where appropriate, to engage our officials with another "check and balance" arm of our government.

Most of all, as a citizen and as ...a Christian, today I am recalling Paul's exhortation concerning 'fighting the good fight':

"I urge you first of all to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks. Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Always appropriate to give thanks for whatever is good in one's nation and to plead and work for good in whatever way open to us, whether with officials on their way out or on their way in.

May this remarkable election prove to be a wake-up call from God for more of us to engage ourselves constructively as citizens, at the least in prayer for our fellow citizens and officials.

A remarkable experience taught the King of Babylon, long ago, that: "the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone He chooses—even the lowliest of humans" (Daniel 4:17) -- for His own purposes. Historically, most United States citizens believed this; in any case, what is so is so, whether we accept reality or not.

What makes a nation "great"?

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Not so much its conquests or military power, its wealth or magnificence, its great monuments, its accomplished athletes, or its artistic skill -- though such things may weigh in.

But is it not wisdom expressed in its goodness, its fairness, its honorable conduct?

Is it not honorable administration of government and honorable conduct of the subjects of that government towards each other in every matter, every day?

Is not the key to genuine greatness justice, high and low? Fairness and constructiveness among all its citizens, from the least to the greatest?

Is not genuine greatness a product of praiseworthy conduct of our national business at every level -- from the President setting and pursuing national policy down to the least of our citizens relating to one another?

I fear our weakness as a nation is our lack of consensus as to exactly what is praiseworthy. Only that which genuinely is praiseworthy will bring us other than shame and disgrace, opposition from other men and even God.

I suggest the key for our national greatness is for each and all of us to seek the praise of King Jesus, the Righteous Judge who cannot be gamed --- to whom all power in heaven and on earth has been given!

Greatness is generated by each and all of us turning, more and more, in our conduct, to the wisdom of the Way of our Teacher. His praise is the gold standard of greatness!

The Leaven of Righteousness

by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

Matthew 13:33 *Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

WHY is the Kingdom of God like LEAVEN, of all things? Why use LEAVEN, which appears to represent SIN throughout the Bible, to represent the Kingdom of God? And why are there THREE measures of meal – not twelve or seven or some other number? And why was the leaven HID in them? And how did the WHOLE get leavened? In leading into this verse, Jesus had told the parable of the Mustard Seed:

Matthew 13:31-32 *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*

Now this makes sense enough; the Kingdom of heaven starts very small, but then when it is mature, it becomes the greatest of herbs and is a veritable tree. In real-world terms, God started with the lowest and weakest – Christ – and “sowed” Him into the Earth (compare to **1 Corinthians 15:35-38**). Then through the workings of the early church the tree grew, being pruned heavily at times, and always small – until one day it will fill the entire Earth.

But the parable of the leaven? That doesn’t sound as easy. Granted, the concept seems to be similar since it appears to have been said in practically the same breath, but what is He trying to convey? Let’s start at the end and work backwards.

Matthew 13:33 *...which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

Clearly the end is the same as in the case of the Mustard Seed parable: “the whole is leavened” with the Kingdom of God. In other words, the whole Earth is filled with the Kingdom of God in the end. But before that happened, the woman took the leaven and hid it in three measures of meal. And it was from these three measures that the whole Earth was filled with that Kingdom. And that immediately makes me think of this scripture:

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Genesis 9:19 *These are the THREE sons of Noah: and of them was the WHOLE EARTH overspread.*

So, there we have three divisions who grew and filled the whole Earth. From the sons of Noah, we have every people present on Earth today. And since “...God is no respecter of persons: But in EVERY nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (**Acts 10:34-35**), we know that the Kingdom of God will be composed of representatives from each of those three families – or each of those “three measures of meal” which together comprise the whole of humanity.

But today, those measures of meal are not full of the spirit of God. In fact, they scarcely know God at all, even in the so-called Christian nations. So, it won't be for some time yet that the WHOLE EARTH is filled with the physical Kingdom of God, and all the people in it fear Him and work righteousness.

For now, the Kingdom of God is “hid in three measures of meal” – it is not overpowering, taking over it, it is HIDING in that meal. Because today's Kingdom is a SPIRITUAL Kingdom of God – a Kingdom composed of all those who are led by the spirit of God.

Romans 8:9 *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.* (See also vs. 1)

The Kingdom of God is composed of those who have Jesus' spirit; He is the source of the “leaven” which is hidden amongst the world with which the whole world will be filled. But who planted that leaven in the measures of meal? What woman “hid” the spirit of Jesus among those three measures of meal? Why, God's Church – (**Mark 16:15**), always portrayed as a woman in the Bible.

Revelation 12:5, 13 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne... And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.*

And Satan has always hated this church and persecuted it. And so, this church is HIDDEN in amongst that meal, lost in the masses of humanity, slipping through the cracks as the persecuted “little flock” of God until it will one day fill the world.

To recap, the woman (the church that gave birth to a man child) took leaven (the spirit of God) and hid it in three measures of meal (the three races of Noah) and over time, the whole Earth was leavened with truth. That's the meaning of the parable. But we still haven't explained one thing; why does God use LEAVEN to represent His Kingdom, and specifically His spirit?

LEAVENING SPIRIT

The answer is easy; the only reason we don't understand it immediately is that we've always assumed leaven meant something that it didn't. But to explain that, allow me to briefly explain how leavening worked in the days of Moses.

Leavening as we all know makes bread rise; it means the difference between a hard cracker and a loaf of bread. But yeast didn't come in a package, nor could it be bought at the local supermarket; yeast had to be cultivated by mixing flour and water, and then laying it out on a rock. Someplace with access to plenty of air.

Virtually all air, even that in the desert, contains yeast spores, and some of these get into the bread if you leave it out long enough – usually a matter of several hours at least. Then these yeasts eat some of the carbohydrates in the dough and give off, as waste, tiny bubbles of CO₂ which puffs up the bread. The bread will have to be kneaded to mix the yeasts around in the dough a few times, but eventually you'll have enough yeasts dispersed through the dough to make a fluffy loaf of bread.

Now the interesting part is our English word “spirit” is an archaic word for “air”, just like *pneuma* or *ruwach*. And when making bread, an apparently dead pile of flour and water miraculously starts filling with air bubbles... starts filling with, quite literally, *spirit!*

This is why we call alcohol *spirits*. Because while they are fermenting, changing the sugars into alcohol, they bubble great

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amounts of *air* (CO₂, technically, but someone like Moses couldn't have known the difference).

Both the process of wine-making and the process of bread-making uses an invisible, living organism *carried upon the winds* to **convert** and *greatly improve*, both in flavor and nutrient content, the base material; and, as a byproduct, producing massive amounts of SPIRIT!

God defines life as everything which contains the *breath of life* (**Genesis 6:17, Genesis 2:17**). So technically, *anything* which has breath or air in it could be said to be alive. And thus, *living water* is a running current and thus has air dissolved within it (**Leviticus 15:13**, margin).

WILD SPIRITS

Quite literally, the wine *is alive*; it does have life within it. So does the bread. But the question is... what kind of life? For just as invisible yeasts can make wine, they can also make vinegar; just as they can make tasty bread, they can also make it rot.

As I said, there are yeasts – local spirits, if you will – everywhere. And each place has a different strain of yeast that is most prominent, or a blend of several; some of these yeasts are quite rambunctious, some are rather bland; they each impart a different flavor to the bread. This is why “San Francisco” sourdough bread is so special. It can't be properly made anywhere else in the world, because only in San Francisco are those particular yeasts present. And so everywhere else it tastes different.

Some wild yeasts, like the ones in San Francisco, are quite good; others are nasty enough to make bread virtually inedible. There are literally millions of species of yeasts. So, what happens is, when someone finds a good strain of yeast that makes a good bread, they keep a little bit of the dough back without cooking it to use as “starter” for the next batch. Not only does this save time, but it gives this favored strain of yeast a big head start over any alien yeasts that might show up from the air.

But every year Israel was forced to throw away all their old yeast starters which they'd been keeping alive the whole year and make unleavened bread – bread that is cooked before it has a chance to pick up any yeasts from the air. So, every year, Israel had to start all over with “new leaven” by leaving something out on a rock for a starter until it was leavened by the wild yeasts in the air. Paul referred to this process in:

1 Corinthians 5:6-7 *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:*

So, no matter what you do, if you leave water and flour on a rock, it will pick up yeasts. But there are good and bad yeasts. Most of the time it will not make the nice, sweet bread we're accustomed to when we use Red Star or another mass-produced yeast – instead, it will usually make sourdough or something even stronger and often quite unpleasant. This is because today's yeasts are predominately bad and tend to push all bread towards what modern society would call “nasty”.

Even when you start with a yeast that you know is good – let's say, San Francisco Sourdough starter – if you take it home to New York and keep that starter alive for a few months, making batches of bread off of it then saving a small portion back for the next batch, you'll notice that gradually the taste changes as the local yeasts filter into the starter that you have. No matter how good your yeast is when you start, you will eventually be overcome by the local, wild yeasts. So today, all bread naturally tends towards a wild, unruly, sour yeast taste.

But what if we took all nasty yeasts out of the air and replaced them with sweet yeasts? Why, then all bread would automatically *tend towards good*, of course (**Isaiah 11:9**). And no matter what yeast you started with, it would eventually be overcome by powerful, righteous, local yeasts that were sweet and good and naturally tend towards a better-quality bread.

So, you see, leaven can work both ways; in this world, leavening generally works towards a state of decay, where worse yeasts overcome the good. But in a world where there were only sweet yeasts, even if you started with a bad yeast, the

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good would outnumber the bad and naturally tend to overcome it.

But today, the fundamental, background pressure of yeasts tends towards a state of sourness – because the spirits that rule this world are not righteous (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). So, in the Bible, when leaven is talked about, it is usually with this wild yeast in mind.

But leaven doesn't necessarily mean “sin” – it just means the background pressure of all yeasts to leaven something – and that can be good or bad, *depending on the SPIRIT which it pictures*.

Luke 12:1 ...he began to say unto his disciples first of all, *Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*

Jesus said the leaven of the Pharisees was hypocrisy. Now hypocrisy isn't a sin, per se – it is teaching or believing one thing and doing the opposite. There was little point in warning the disciples to avoid the Pharisees when they said, “let's sin!” for clearly the disciples would have known not to do that.

But the danger, the trap of the Pharisees was that they said, “Obey God!”, and then, because of their traditions (**Mark 7:9**), did not obey God. This was the all-pervasive ideology that crept into everything they did. To quote just one example:

Matthew 23:4 *For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*

This was the leaven of the Pharisees Jesus was concerned the disciples would be infected with. He knew that this was the “background pressure” of the entire Jewish religion of His day, and that it would be inevitable that the disciples would fall under that pressure. So, He warned them to beware of that leavening “pressure”. **The pressure of church tradition, whether Pharisaic or WCG-offshoot.**

Galatians 5:7-9 *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. **A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.***

So, every year at the feast of unleavened bread, we are to purge out the leaven **of our own personal Pharisees, our own modern Herods**, and start with a new lump – a new examination of our lives, of our actions, and most of all our traditions – and set forth in the world with a vision towards keeping those wild yeasts out of our loaf one more year.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 *Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore, let us keep the feast, **not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.***

So, while we are in this world, we should stay unleavened, for the background pressure is always towards Satan's way – always towards death. And we must at all costs keep ourselves “*unspotted from the world*” (**James 1:27**). But that is only because today, the leavening is nearly all with wild yeasts.

Isaiah 11:9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: **for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.***

But when God's spirit covers the Earth, as it will when His physical Kingdom arrives, the basic pressure will be towards righteousness; for all the Earth will be filled with knowledge of God, and His spirit will be everywhere. And so, everything will be leavened with God's spirit, rather than the spirit of the adversary.

And so, in that day, leaven will work in the opposite direction, with every pressure in the world, except our own natures, tending towards righteousness. The leaven of truth will be wafting upon every breeze, anxious to leaven every lump which has been purged of the “old leaven”.

And of that leaven the whole Earth will be overspread. Because leaven produces fermentation; the abundant byproduct of which is air, or said in the unnecessarily complicated language of the KJV... “spirit”.

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And no matter *which* leaven is used, whether the holy spirit or the spirit of antichrist, from the Father of spirits or the prince of the power of the *air*... whichever one is put into the lump, *sooner or later, the whole lump will be leavened by it.*

ATONEMENT and Suffering: Crucified – The Price Paid

by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

God’s Atonement is Universal: From the Beginning – Revelation 13:8 “The Lamb Slain from the Creation of the world.” Exodus 30:12-16 - Speaks of Atonement Money - being a Half Shekel when Israel was counted. “The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less. “It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the Lord, making atonement for your lives. How God will remember his children today? 1 John 2:1-2 “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will Not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the Atoning Sacrifice for our sin, and Not only ours but for the sins of the whole world.”

The Day of Atonement Commanded by God is full of meaning. Leviticus 23:26-32 “The Lord said to Moses - The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly - Deny Yourselves and present an offering made to the Lord by fire.” Verse 29-30 “Anyone who does Not Deny Himself - on that day must be cut off from his people. I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on that day.” Verse 32 “It is a Sabbath of rest - you Must - Deny Yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day until the following evening.”

The Day of Atonement is an invitation and command, calling believers to: identify with and Mourn - the Death and Great Sufferings of Christ by fasting on this day. If not fasting, then how else would you “deny yourselves” for a day, from sunset to sunset?” It is also a prophecy that Christ would suffer and has been fulfilled in the sacrifice of the Son of God.

Jesus Christ - When speaking of his death and suffering Said: Luke 9:23 “If anyone would come after me, he must - “Deny Himself”- take up his cross - daily and follow me”. In other words, be willing to suffer. The same words “Deny Himself” was also said in Leviticus 23:29. This teaches that we identify, with Christ, in his suffering and death by - respectfully denying ourselves - on the Day of Atonement.

The apostles felt privileged to suffer persecution for Christ. Acts 5:41 “rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering” for Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 “the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives.” Philippians 1:29 “It has been granted to you on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him”. Philippians 3:10-11, I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow to attain to the resurrection of the dead.” 1 Peter 4:1 “Since Christ suffered, arm yourselves with the same attitude”.

All those who are called by God are commanded to – Fast - No food or drink - on the Day of Atonement. Christians: Take to heart the price paid for our salvation and identify with the same attitude of Messiah. What other reason would there be for God to say, “anyone who does not deny himself must be Cut off from his people?”

Some disagree, that fasting was the way to Deny oneself - and say sacrifices were commanded on that day and priests ate the sin offerings. Not True: The Atonement service recorded in Leviticus 16:1-34 - verse 14 and 15 reveal the blood of the sacrifice was brought into the - holy place. Sin offerings whose blood was brought into the holy place was Not to be eaten Leviticus 6:30. The Day of Atonement offerings described in Numbers 29:7-11 Were Burnt offerings that were not eaten, again verse 7 “You must Deny Yourselves.” And grain offerings of the priest were completely burned on the Altar Leviticus 6:23.

The high priest entered the most holy place once a year on the Day of Atonement. Hebrews 9:1-12, Verse 8 “The Holy Spirit was showing by this that - the way - into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed.”

Hebrews 9:9 “Indicates that the gifts and sacrifices offered were Not able to clear the Conscience of the worshipers.” Hebrews 9:14 Reveals - to a Believer Christ’s sacrifice clears our Conscience from “acts that lead to death. How? We Believe and Repent. Repentance finally extending to Israel fulfills the Day of Atonement. John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent”

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Jesus Christ will be revealed to Israel.

The concept of Christians willingly "denying" themselves extends to repentance; that is a lifelong battle. Repentance is, turning away, and - denying yourself - the sins of this world - Setting yourself apart from this world and asking forgiveness when we fail. The word "daily" that Christ used in Luke 9:23 is referring to "daily" turning away from sin and carry our burdens without complaining. Jesus Christ commands all to "deny" themselves in Luke 13:1-5 - by saying: "unless you repent you too will all perish." That is the same as saying: Leviticus 23:29 "Anyone who does not - Deny Himself - on that day must be cut off from his people." Jesus Christ called on all, to "deny" themselves, at the beginning of the gospel, Matthew 4:17 "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Israel Rejects the Gospel: Romans 11:25 Israel has experienced a hardness in part until the full number of Gentiles has come in." Verse -15 "If their rejection is the Reconciliation of the World, what will their acceptance be but Life from the dead? 1 Corinthians 15:50-52 "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" "In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye at the Last Trumpet. For the Trumpet will sound, and the dead shall be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

When is the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement? After the "Feast of Trumpets" that marks the "Last Trumpet" and the "First Resurrection." Revelation 11:15 "The Seventh Angel sounded his Trumpet - The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. He will reign forever and ever."

The fulfillment of the Day of Atonement is: When God gives the nation of Israel and all Jews his Holy Spirit and reveals-Their Atonement - the sacrifice of his Son Christ Jesus to them. Ezekiel 36:24-33 is speaking of when Christ Returns and God's Holy Spirit being poured on the nation of Israel. Verse 24 "I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back to your own land." Verse 25-26, "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a - new heart - and - Put a new Spirit in you." Verse 27 "I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my Law. Hebrews 8:10 "I will put my Law in their minds and write them on their hearts." The Day of Atonement will be a time of National Repentance: Ezekiel 36:31, "Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loath yourselves for your sins and detestable practices." V32, "Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, O house of Israel!" This attitude of repentance will spread to all the remaining nations.

Zechariah 12:10 - 13:1 - I will pour out - on the house of David - and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a Spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on - me - the one they have pierced". They will "grieve bitterly for him." "On that day, the weeping in Jerusalem will be great." John 19:34 "One of the soldiers pierced Jesus side with a spear.

Many professing Christians will Not Accept this message: They have been filled with traditions of men and believe in an - Escapist-Salvation - of going to heaven or being Raptured. Do they really believe in the Gospel of the - Promised Kingdom of God? Do church leaders teach: Christians will be given "Authority over the nations" Revelations 2:26. How many observe the Day of Atonement? Luke 9:23 again "If anyone would come after me, he must - "Deny Himself"- take up his cross - daily and follow me".

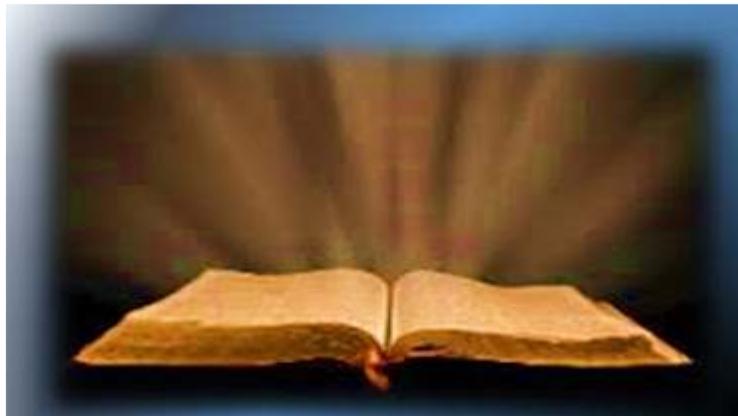
Brothers and Sisters: The Day of Atonement: Is a Day of Repentance - identifying with and Grieving over the great Suffering and death of the Son of God. Isaiah 53:3-12, describes the great suffering of our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Praise the God and Father of our Savior. Christ Jesus - Crucified - is Light that Shines Beyond the Grave. Your brother in the Son of God.

Have a Really Great Sabbath!

Critical Race Theory and the Bible Answer

by Eddie Hyatt (Tulsa, Oklahoma)



Critical Race Theory is defined by its name. For proponents of this new and novel theory, race is everything and “critical” for interpreting all of life, particularly American life. According to CRT, race is what defines you, labels you, and determines your worth and your role in society.

This, of course, is rooted in Marxist ideology, which seeks to divide and conquer by dividing people into groups—the oppressed and the oppressors—and pitting them against one another.

Classic Marxism sought to divide nations on the basis of economics, pitting the bourgeoisie (wealthy land and factory owners) against the proletariat (the peasants and laborers who did the work). By labelling these groups as the oppressed and the oppressors, and pitting them against one another, Marxists were able to gain control of nations where there was a huge gap between the rich and the poor.

Classic Marxism, however, was never able to make much headway in the United States because of the large, prosperous middle class. They, therefore, have sought for another approach for creating division and they believe they have found it in the presence of slavery and racial inequity in America’s history, which they are seeking to exploit.

In this new American Marxism, if you are white, you are an oppressor and victimizer. If you are a person of color, you are an oppressed victim. By racial labelling and profiling, the American Marxists hope to divide and conquer and thereby take control of America.

To achieve their goal, Marxists also know they must convince a significant portion of the population that the America of Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln is an evil, oppressive system that was founded on racism and slavery. Hence the attack on America’s founders, the toppling of their monuments, and the removal of their names from schools and other public buildings.

Sadly, Critical Race Theory has gained widespread acceptance among the academic and Hollywood elite and with many politicians in Washington D.C. School children are now being taught that America is an evil nation founded on white supremacy.

Dr. King Opposed to CRT

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is diametrically opposed to the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. of a colorblind society where people are judged by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin. For proponents of CRT, race determines everything while character is relative and therefore meaningless.

Neither can proponents of CRT say with Dr. King that their dream is “deeply rooted in the American dream.” They, in fact,

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hate America. In their warped thinking, the Civil Rights Movement, led by Dr. King, was a useless, meaningless expenditure of time and energy because it did not seek to destroy the evil, American system.

The Bible Answer

Dr. King's vision of a colorblind society was rooted in the New Testament vision that Paul articulated in Galatians 3:28. Paul's conversion experience was so radical that he came into an entirely new value system "in Christ," which completely undermined the old value system that judged people on the basis of race, class, and gender. Paul delineated this new value system in his letter to the Galatians. He wrote,

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:27-28).

Paul is not saying that these distinctions of sex, race, and class, no longer exist, but that they must never be used as value judgments concerning a person's worth or role in society. This was revolutionary in the ancient world where slavery was everywhere and affected people of all races and ethnicities.

Some New Testament scholars believe Galatians 3:27-28 was part of a baptismal formula that all baptismal candidates were required to repeat. This meant that, for those earliest disciples, this new value system was a part of the basics of what it meant to be a Christian.

This new value system raised the dignity of women and slaves in the ancient world. As a result of this new value system "in Christ," slaves and masters worshipped together, and in some situations, slaves became pastors of congregations in which their masters worshipped. This value system, of course, led to the collapse of slavery everywhere it was embraced and lived out.

The Key for Racial Harmony Today

It was this Christian value system, emphasized in the Great Awakening (1726-70), that turned much of Colonial America against slavery, including America's founding fathers. It led to America's founding documents being colorblind with no classifications based on race or skin color and no mention of slaves or slavery.

This occurred at a time when slavery was accepted and practiced in most of the world. As Dr. Thomas Sowell said, "You could research all of 18th century Africa or Asia or the Middle East without finding any comparable rejection of slavery there" (Hyatt, *Abolitionist Founding Fathers*, 9).

Another Great Awakening, rooted in the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament, would do more than anything to bring about racial and social harmony and preserve our freedoms for the next generation.

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Holy Days 2022

Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022

Pentecost – June 5, 2022

Trumpets - September 26, 2022

Atonement – October 5, 2022

Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022

Last Great Day – October 17, 2022