

The "New" Church of God Messenger  
A Newsletter for the People of God  
January 15, 2022 --- Issue No. 50  
Special Edition

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by John & Rosemary Morton  
(New Zealand)

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## Articles

### Ezekiel's Message

by John & Rosemary Morton (New Zealand)  
(Edited for Shepherd's Voice Magazine)

**A note from the editor of Shepherd's Voice Magazine Jim Patterson:**

Prophecy in the Old Testament must not be maligned and misinterpreted to suit denominational ideas regarding the future of modern nations and of the church as a whole, where in fact the prophecy had already been fulfilled. Unless compelled to do otherwise by the context in which a prophecy was given, we are not at liberty to interpret it with dual fulfillments, create suitable scenarios in how they apply to our modern day, nor use it to fulfill any other purpose we might have as a church in our media programs.

One particular passage of scripture among others in the writings of the Old Testament prophets that has been abused by certain segments of the Church of God is the idea that the church has been given the role of a "Watchman," as the prophet Ezekiel was designated in Ezekiel Chapter 3. Corporate churches that have spun off from the Worldwide Church of God in particular continue to perpetuate this idea that the church is a Watchman without regard to its historical and scriptural context, and without regard to the covenant Jesus Christ has made with believers, whether they be a Church leader or fresh out of a baptismal pool.

In a Christian's covenant agreement with Christ, we do not see where a neglect to warn the wicked from their wickedness prompts God to require the blood of the wicked at the hands of the believer. The prophets of the Old Testament had a unique covenant with the Lord few ever have been given. Proliferators and believers of the idea that elements of the commission Ezekiel was given forms a part of the calling for the church Christ founded are on a dangerous path. They should soberly consider the warnings of the Apostles regarding imposing doctrines that have no place in the believer's precious standing and acceptance in Christ under the New Covenant. They warned their audience of allowing anyone to complicate their faith with a wrong application of prophecy.

Believers must be sober, not always believing what might seem believable from confident presenters. These organizations, primarily based in the United States, have abused prophecy as described above and use it as a hook in television programs to differentiate themselves from mainstream Christian broadcasting. It is amazing that many who spend much time and money claiming to preach Ezekiel's message to a modern-day Israel never claimed to have any prophetic revelation from God to do it — be it a voice, vision or dream. They simply read the prophets, preach the message, and use it as a rallying point for their church. Often dates have been included with this message, such as "in ten to fifteen short years" or "in your lifetime." These now obviously erroneous dates should show it was not of God (Deuteronomy 18:22). **End of Editor's Note by Jim Patterson.**

#### **Ezekiel's Calling**

**God used the prophet Ezekiel in a powerful way. He appointed Ezekiel as watchman over the House of Israel to warn that if they did not repent and turn back to God, He would execute the final stage of his judgement on them.**

God knew that they would not heed the warning (Ezekiel 3:7) but was adamant that the warning be delivered. If not, then Ezekiel's own blood would be required. Once the message had been delivered the House of Israel was then responsible for its own demise. To emphasize the fact that the message would be delivered, and the prophecy fulfilled, God caused Ezekiel to become mute. He could only speak in order to deliver God's message to Israel. Once the message had been delivered and the prophecy fulfilled, Ezekiel would regain his ability to speak. The threat of death and inability to speak were not only strong incentives for Ezekiel to deliver God's message to the right people but were also powerful witnesses to God's intentions.

Some consider Ezekiel had a problem because he was in Babylon among the captives of Judah and wasn't able to deliver the message to the House of Israel at that time. It must be remembered that the nation of Israel split; ten tribes under Jeroboam retained the name 'Israel' and two tribes under Rehoboam became known as Judah, but collectively they were

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referred to as the House of Israel, or children of Israel. This is recorded in the twelfth chapter of First Kings. The northern ten tribes had been taken into captivity and absorbed into Assyria over one hundred years before Ezekiel was given the message to deliver. They have become known in history as the “lost tribes of Israel.” Some therefore conclude that Ezekiel’s message was for the modern-day descendants of the “lost ten tribes of Israel,” whom they claim to include a number of European nations plus the British Commonwealth and the United States of America today. They also claim that because Ezekiel did not deliver the message in his day it is now the role of the Church of God to deliver the “Ezekiel message” to the descendants of Israel.

As a prophet to the nations Ezekiel had a number of messages to deliver to various nations, but the message we are concerned with is the one addressed to the House of Israel. Did he deliver it to Israel in his day, or is it the Church’s commission to deliver it in this age? What does the Bible say? Was Ezekiel able to deliver the message in his time, or not?

**To Whom was Ezekiel Told to Go?**

Ezekiel was **told** to go to his people, the House of Israel who were in captivity:

*“Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel.” and “And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them,” and “And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them” (Ezekiel 3:1, 4, 11).*

For verse 11 the Moffatt translation reads “Go to the exiles, to the members of your race.” The Tanakh JPS translation says, “go to your people, the exile community.” Verse 7 implies that his message was to the whole House of Israel, both Israel and Judah, “they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.”

**What would Happen if Ezekiel Did Not Go?**

God said very plainly that He would require Ezekiel’s blood if he did not go and give the warning:

*“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.” (Ezekiel 3:17-21).*

Remember what happened to Jonah when he tried to run away from what God had told him to do. God also said Ezekiel would be struck dumb except when God opened his mouth in prophetic utterances:

*“And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD;” (Ezekiel 3:26-27).*

**Did He Go?**

God said that Ezekiel was a sign to Israel and would not speak his own words until after the prophecies God spoke through him were accomplished:

*“Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.” and “That he that escapeth in that day shall come unto thee, to cause thee to hear it with thine ears? In that day shall thy mouth be opened to him which is escaped, and thou shalt speak, and*

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*be no more dumb and thou shalt be a sign unto them; and they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 24:24, 26-27).*

Either he accomplished his God-given prophetic mission in his time, or he continued to remain silent for the rest of his life. According to the Bible those prophesies were accomplished in his time. He must have accomplished his mission or God would not have opened his mouth. To accomplish his mission, he had to speak to the House of Israel. So where did he go? He went to the leaders (elders) of the exiled community of those taken captive from Judah who were in Babylon:

*“Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar,” (Ezekiel 3:15).*

His main message was to do with the final fall and destruction of Jerusalem, which was the last bastion of the Kingdom of Israel at that time. In the circumstances he could only have accomplished his mission if the remnant in Babylon contained representatives from the tribes of Israel as well as Judah and they fully represented the leadership of the remnant of Israel at that time! Nebuchadnezzar had earlier stripped Jerusalem of its ruling class including the young King Jehoiachin, princes, officers and mighty men of valor, craftsmen and smiths (2 Kings 24:12-16). He had taken 10,000 captives to Babylon leaving only the poor under the charge of Zedekiah whom he set up as the vassal, or puppet king.

**To Whom Did He address His Message?**

God told Ezekiel that the House of Israel would not hearken to Him (Ezekiel 2:5, 7, 3:7, 11) but the message had to be delivered to them. He then took Ezekiel from his house where he lived near the River Chebar and supernaturally transported him to Telabib, also near the Chebar, where the rulers from Judah dwelt in captivity. Later Ezekiel also addressed his message concerning Jerusalem to:

*“...the prince (Zedekiah) in Jerusalem, and all the House of Israel that are among them” (Ezekiel 12:10).*

He prophesied about the fall of Jerusalem and the capture of Zedekiah to all of the House of Israel that had remained in Jerusalem.

Even though the kingdom had split into two separate nations, Israel and Judah, they were still considered to be collectively the children of Israel, or alternatively the House of Israel, the House of Jacob, the House of Joseph or, in the case of Israel, they were sometimes referred to as Ephraim (and sometimes Samaria). When the northern nation of Israel turned to idolatry in the time of Jeroboam, many who remained faithful to God from the various tribes including Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon left Israel and resettled in Judah.

In comments relating to I Kings 12:17, Bullinger acknowledges that Judah was representative of “all Israel.”<sup>1</sup> The concept of Judah being the remnant that in effect represented the whole House of Israel is further supported by the fact that many people from the northern ten tribes had resettled in the cities of Judah because Jeroboam changed the format of worship in Israel,

*“And he (Asa) gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him,” (II Chronicles 15:9).*

Also, in the time of Hezekiah:

*“And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe”*

*“And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and his people Israel.” (II Chronicles 31:6, 8).*

And again, from around the time of Judah’s captivity:

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<sup>1</sup> Bullinger, E. W., *The Companion Bible*, marginal notes, (Michigan, Kregel Publications, 1990), 470

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*“And in Jerusalem dwelt of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim, and Manasseh;” (I Chronicles 9:3).*

Ezekiel referred to those in Jerusalem as the “*residue of Israel*” (Ezekiel 9:8). Jeremiah also referred to Jerusalem as Jacob (Lamentations 1:17).

Therefore, during the time of the siege of Jerusalem there were Israelites from the northern tribes dwelling among the exiles of Judah. It was to this exiled community that Ezekiel was directed and that was where he went. When speaking to “*them of the captivity*” (Ezekiel 11:25) he was addressing the “*elders of Israel*” of the “*House of Israel*” (Ezekiel 14:1, 5 – see also 8:1 and 20:1) who were present among the captives from Judah in Babylon indicating that there were recognized leaders of Israel among the Babylonian captives.

### **A Sign for All Israel?**

God was executing judgement on the whole of Israel in the sight of the nations. He had already scattered the ten tribes of Israel and most of Judah was in captivity. The fall of Jerusalem was another stage in the execution of that judgement. That is why Ezekiel was sent to address the whole of Israel (Ezekiel 3:7). God said that the siege of Jerusalem was a sign to the House of Israel:

*“Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.” (Ezekiel 4:3).*

It was a sign because Jerusalem, the former capital of the once great kingdom of Israel, was the last part of the House of Israel to fall:

*“And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber’s razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair. Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part and smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them. Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number and bind them in thy skirts. Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; for thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel. Thus saith the Lord GOD; this is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her” (Ezekiel 5:1-5).*

### **No More Delay**

God had extended the hand of mercy to them time and time again, but they refused to obey and because of their continual sin He finally said enough is enough. He had already told Israel that they were no longer His people, “*Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God*” (Hosea 1:9). After Israel had been destroyed and taken captive He focused His attention on Judah, but they too turned away from Him. Eventually God removed His presence from the temple:

*“Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house and stood over the cherubims. And the cherubims lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and everyone stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD’S house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above” (Ezekiel 10:18-19).*

He was now going to execute judgment on what was left of the House of Israel, i.e., Jerusalem, without delay:

*“.....the days are at hand, and the effect of every vision.” and “For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.” and “Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 12:23, 25, 28).*

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**Cities to be Laid Waste**

Through Ezekiel God said:

*“In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished”*

*“And the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall be desolate; and ye shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 6:6, 12:20).*

According to some adherents of AI theory it was not possible for the cities of Israel to be laid waste until the advent of nuclear weapons; therefore they maintain that the prophecy must be for modern times. Was this prophecy fulfilled in ancient times, or is it for today?

**Were the Cities Laid Waste?**

According to Jeremiah the cities of the northern kingdom of Israel have already been laid waste:

*“Is Israel a servant? Is he a home born slave? Why is he spoiled? The young lions roared upon him, and yelled, and they made his land waste: his cities are burned without inhabitant” (Jeremiah 2:14-15).*

After the fall of Jerusalem Jeremiah wrote Lamentations, in which he said:

*How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger! The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof. He hath cut off in his fierce anger all the horn of Israel: he hath drawn back his right hand from before the enemy, and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, which devoureth round about.” and “The Lord was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation” (Lamentations 2:1-3, 5).*

The Tanakh JPS translation actually uses the words “*laid waste*”:

*“(the Lord) has cast down from heaven to earth the majesty of Israel; He did not remember His footstool on His day of wrath. The Lord has laid waste without pity all the habitations of Jacob;”*

and

*“In blazing anger He has cut down all the might of Israel;” and “He has ravaged Jacob like a flaming fire, consuming on all sides,”*

and

*“The Lord has acted like a foe, He has laid waste Israel” (Lamentations 2:1-3, 5).*

The different Hebrew words used by both Ezekiel and Jeremiah have similar meanings: ‘*charah*’ meaning destroyed, desolate, waste, and ‘*bela*’ meaning swallow, destroy, devour, ended.

Obviously, God accomplished what He set out to do to the House of Jacob at that time. He “laid waste” to all the dwelling places of the House of Jacob to the extent He intended. These things happened to the House of Israel at that time for all the nations of the world to see. The judgment on the House of Israel included the destruction of Jerusalem in Ezekiel’s time, just as God had prophesied.

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**Was it to Occur Again?**

God destroyed the House of Israel because of their abominations:

*“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations. And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations” (Ezekiel 5:8-9).*

When He said that He would not ‘do any more the like’ what did God mean? God was executing judgement upon the whole House of Israel. The nation of Israel had already gone into captivity followed by Judah and now the capital was to be destroyed. God made it clear that the execution of His judgement would continue to pursue the remnant in their captivity:

*“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.” and “And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth. And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies. And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up. And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies’ lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them” (Leviticus 26:33, 36-39).*

When God said, “I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like,” He was emphasizing the magnitude of an unprecedented event that will not happen again. He is not going to reject the church (spiritual Israel) as he has rejected ancient Israel. This does not mean that the church will not have its adversaries, or its people suffer persecutions, it simply means that God will not reject spiritual Israel *en masse* as He did ancient Israel.

**Ezekiel’s Message of Hope**

Ezekiel not only prophesied doom and gloom for those living in his time, he also brought a message of hope for the future, for *all* people.

Using highly symbolic language, Ezekiel described the fate of a number of nations at that time. In Ezekiel 29, he likened Egypt of old to the great dragon that lies in the midst of its rivers, only to be plucked up and flung in the wilderness and buried among the slain. Assyria, in Ezekiel 31, is likened to a mighty cedar exceeding the stature of other trees only to be brought down in its greatness to be buried amongst the slain. Both these mighty nations were eventually brought down.

**Ezekiel Delivered his Message**

Ezekiel was given a number of messages to deliver to various peoples and nations. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel. While Jeremiah was mainly in Jerusalem and Daniel mainly in Babylon, Ezekiel was primarily with the captives, who were a mix of the northern tribes and Judah, in the land of the Chaldeans (Babylonians) where he was instructed to go and where he went. The fall of Jerusalem was part of the execution of judgement on the rebellious House of Israel (Jacob).

Israel fell in three stages: the major portion was taken captive when the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians then Judah (a mix of all tribes) fell to the Babylonians and finally Jerusalem. Once Jerusalem fell, the prophecy that the cities of Jacob would be laid waste had been fulfilled.

As instructed, Ezekiel delivered his message to the leaders of the House of Israel at that time held captive by the Babylonians. His message was about the next stage of the execution of God’s judgment which was the fall of Jerusalem. He also said that the execution of judgment would pursue the survivors even in their captivity.

The fact that Ezekiel lived to regain his speech is proof that he delivered the prophetic message at that time to the right people. He had been given a clearly defined role with specific instructions and the power to perform that role. Has the modern-day church been given that same role?

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**Church’s Role in this Age**

The New Testament clearly explains God is dealing with the whole world through His son Jesus Christ just prior to the day of reckoning known in prophecy as the Day of the Lord. Before Christ returns two witnesses will be sent to warn the world in much the same way Ezekiel was sent to warn the House of Israel (Revelation 11:3-13). They will be given miraculous powers to perform their work. Who these two are and when they will begin their task, remains to be seen. We can rest assured that at the appropriate time they will accomplish what they have been assigned by God to do.

The Church’s role was clearly defined by Jesus Christ immediately before he returned to the Father. He told His disciples to feed His sheep:

*“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep” (John 21:15-17).*

In First Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul described the spiritual gifts that have been given to the church. He explained that they were to be used to edify those in the body of Christ, *“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.”* (1 Corinthians 14:12).

The role for which the Church has been spiritually equipped today is to perfect those whom God calls,

*“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:13).

That should be the main focus of the Church today.

The Bible does not say the Church has been commissioned to deliver Ezekiel’s message to the descendants of the lost ten tribes in this day. Ezekiel delivered the message to the remnant of the House of Israel who dwelt in Judah and were taken into the Babylonian captivity with the Jews. His message was about the final stage of judgement that God was executing on the House of Israel (i.e., Israel and Judah collectively). It involved the fall of Jerusalem, the capital of the once great nation of Israel that flourished under King David and his son Solomon.

Events that Ezekiel foretold, which came to pass on the House of Israel, may well have similarities to end-time events. We all can learn the lesson of blessings for obedience to God and difficulty for selfishness and disobedience. If God raises up someone to take these messages to modern day people, he will not be afraid to say so — just as the Old and New Testament prophets were not. But it is a mistake to claim a commission from Scripture when God has not clearly given it.

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**Article by John & Rosemary Morton**  
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## Iron Sharpening Iron

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

### In regard to: Roles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Article by Ray Daly

Comments by Alfio La Spina (Victoria British Columbia)

The qualification for receiving the Holy Spirit is made clear in these verses. We are to Love and follow Jesus. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to overcome so we can be Sons of God. So, the part about the Sons of God in waiting does not seem to fit.

**John 14:23-26 (NIV)** 23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

### In regard to: One Flaw in Women

Article Sent by Rich Daniels

Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

But, as I was going to write about, "One Flaw in Women". There were no flaws mentioned. I don't know of or have ever read of such women. In fact, it says more negative of women in Scripture than it does for men, and it says a lot of right about men not being all that great.

We know Eve did not fit that bill. And how do you think she taught her daughters? How about Sarah. Nagged Abram until he had sex with her maid, whom bore Ishmael. Which son, in Scripture and some historical accounts, Abraham loved deeply. Sarah? How did she deal with "her forced son"?

Rebekah for example. Lied and deceived Isaac and caused Jacob to do the same. To actually "lie to and deceive his father". Look what Jacob got for his listening to his mom. Twenty years of slavery.

How about Jacob's two wives, Leah, and Rachel? "Nagged and nagged" so that he would have children with their maids. After he did, they "nagged and nagged" again, so he would do it again.

Nope, the author is totally out of touch with reality and Scripture. Women and men have human nature in equal amounts. With women shown to often to have no respect for the position of the husbands whom they are supposed to be supporting, and husbands whom are supposed to be supporting their wives. With each "supposing to" have differing roles in the family.

Of course, you're a woman, and perhaps do not see it the same????

**Editor's Note:** One Flaw in Women, is a poem to honor women. The flaw is mentioned at the end of the poem where it says, "**HOWEVER, IF THERE IS ONE FLAW IN WOMEN, IT IS THAT THEY FORGET THEIR WORTH.**"

I actually understood the poem really well and unfortunately, I understood your put down of women really well also. What is it that causes men to believe they are better than women? Just look at all the things you blamed women for causing men to do. I have yet to find any man who has to be nagged by his wife to go have sex with another woman. And it isn't

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just women who lie. Men lie and then deny they even lied most of the time.

We are each individually responsible for our own sin. If your wife tells you to go kill someone, she has not caused you to do that because she cannot make you do anything you do not want to do. If indeed you do kill the person, she told you to kill, you did it because you wanted to do it. And the outcome in such an example is that both you and your wife are responsible equally if someone ends up dead.

It is really hard for any woman to respect a husband who feels he is superior to her and continually puts her down or even in some cases beats her. Respect is mutual. If you do not respect women, they will probably not respect you. And from your response I can see that you believe there are more bad women in the Bible than there are bad men. Perhaps someone can send us a full count on that so we might see if you are being truthful? Laura Lee

## **In regard to: Preparation for Hard Times**

**Article by Laura Lee**

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

A good and suggestive article. I would add something to it. That being, in putting together an adequate food supply, consider that if the power should go out in the summer, then meats and such would do little good, because there would be no place to store them. The same in winter. If the power goes and there is no heat, foods in cans or glass containers would freeze. Thus, perhaps rupturing the cans, and breaking the glass. Meats can be "dried" or purchased already dried.

There are ifs and buts in the above. Just a thought.

## **In regard to: Thanksgiving Day – Pagan?**

**Article by Bradley Richardson**

**Edited and Revised by Avram Yehoshua**

**Comments by Keith Slough (Kannapolis, North Carolina)**

I perused the article suggesting giving thanks to God on a particular day is pagan! Good grief! The book of PSALMS is replete with *commanding* us to GIVE THANKS TO GOD. When an American president obeys this commandment of God and sets aside a certain day for ALL of us on the same day to bow our heads before God and give thanks -- THAT IS SCRIPTURAL. It is plain dumb to call worship of the true God "paganism." It's stupid.

**Editor's Note:** The article is not telling anyone to not give thanks to God. We should all be thanking God each and every day. The article is talking about the pagan roots of "Thanksgiving Day" as set aside by a president of the United States of America. Please keep in mind that, "in 1870, Christmas became an official Federal holiday when President [Ulysses S. Grant](#) made it so in an attempt to unite north and south." (From Wikipedia) So, should we also keep Christmas just because a President of the United States of America declared it a national holiday?

Also, the article did not say that worship of the true God was paganism, it said the keeping of Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday has pagan roots as does, Christmas, Easter, and others. Now if after a careful reading of the article you still believe that God wants you to keep a holiday called Thanksgiving Day which has been proven to have pagan roots then you may continue to do so. No one is stopping you.

I went over the article before Darwin did and when I was done, I decided to no longer celebrate or keep Thanksgiving Day in any way shape or form as a national holiday. Darwin was skeptical but also reached the same conclusion after going over the article.

God has laid out all of the days He wants us to keep in scripture, so why do we want to hang on to secular holidays with pagan roots that can be traced back for centuries. Laura Lee

## In regard to: The Leaven of Righteousness

Article by Nathaniel Burson

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

This is a great article except for one point: "When Nathaniel says, "Now hypocrisy isn't a sin, per se – it is teaching or believing one thing and doing the opposite."

Most assuredly, hypocrisy is a sin in the sense that all immoral acts are sins. A hypocrite professes to have a certain moral standard but then in practice ignores that moral norm. Only a person who claims to have a moral code can be a hypocrite. *Kenneth G. Lucey, UNR philosophy/religion professor (Quote from the internet)*

*I will go one step further and tell you that it is not only a sin, but it is a deadly sin, so you might not want to do it or teach it.*

### Ananias and Sapphira

**Act 5:1** But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

**Act 5:2** And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

**Act 5:3** But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

**Act 5:4** Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

**Act 5:5** And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

**Act 5:6** And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

**Act 5:7** And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

**Act 5:8** And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

**Act 5:9** Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.

**Act 5:10** Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.

**Act 5:11** And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Hypocrisy is just a form of lying, which is a sin. As I did research for this answer, one person said it sort of like this. If God killed all hypocrites as he did Ananias and Sapphira, all churches today would look like morgues.