

## Questioning True Roots of Christmas

by Wayne Schatzle (Hamilton, Ohio)

On the first day of Christmas my true love revealed to me Jesus was not born on Dec. 25, but rather that is the date pagans celebrated in worship of the sun long before his birth.

On the second day I learned my beautiful Christmas tree has a long history of being an object of heathen idolatry, of ancient tree-worship. God mixes no words and clearly warns his followers not to copy this ritual of cutting a tree out of a forest, putting it on a stand and decorating it (Jeremiah 10). The green tree is associated with false worship (1 King 14:23).

On the third day I wondered why I should give gifts to everyone but Jesus, who is supposed to be the "reason for the season." This is probably why the merchandisers get into the "spirit of giving" long before everyone else and I see the hypocrisy of packing that spirit away with the ornaments each year.

On the fourth day I found that history plainly shows not only the pagan origins of this curious holiday but how all through the ages reformers have shown disdain for its observance; even our beloved pilgrims forbade it under penalty of fines.

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## The Night Israel Came Out of Egypt

by Arlan Weight (Bismarck, North Dakota)

What night did the Israelites leave Egypt? Some say they left the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib (Nisan). Others say that was impossible because that night they kept the first 'Pass Over' and that night they were to remain in their houses **all night**. (Ex. 12:21-22)

Those who claim they left Egypt the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib refer to Deuteronomy 16:1, coupled with Numbers 33:3, as their proof. Deuteronomy 16:1 reads:

1. "Observe the month of Abib and keep the Passover unto the Lord thy God: for in the month of Abib the Lord thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt **by night**"

Here it plainly says they came **out of Egypt** in the time of **one night**, and that it happened during the month of Abib, but which night was that? In Numbers 33:3 it says this:

3. "And they **departed from Rameses** in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the Passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians."

Here it plainly says they departed from Rameses "**on the fifteenth day** of the first month; **on the morrow** after the  
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## What Does the Suffering of Christ Mean to You?

by Tommy West (Wake Forest, North Carolina)

At this season of the year, as our thoughts turn to the observance of Passover (the Lord's Supper) and its abiding significance in our lives, I thought it might be appropriate to present a message to you emphasizing the importance, depth and personal meaning of the suffering of Christ. The Old Testament chapter of Isaiah 53, last of the Four Servant Songs, is mentioned in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament scripture. I will attempt to discuss and more thoroughly explain this seminal passage.

My overall purpose in this study is to hopefully settle in the reader's mind a deeper and clearer understanding of the role of Jesus as "The Suffering Servant" and what that suffering means for each of us.

Now, let's explore the Fourth Servant Song in detail: Isa. 53:1-12:

1. Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2. For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we

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## Discipleship and Stewardship

### A Cure for Doctrinal Chaos and Organizational Disunity -- Part #3

by B. L. Cocherell (San Jose, California)

#### GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE

In the apostle Peter's opening and closing statements of his second letter, he makes the following statement concerning grace and knowledge: "*Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord*" (2 Pet. 1:2). At the end of this letter, Peter gives the following instruction: "*But grow in grace, and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...*" (2 Pet. 3:18).

There are a number of fundamental concepts in what Peter said in the beginning and ending of his letter that are extremely important to being a dedicated, responsible, and teachable student of truth

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## God and the Gays -- Chapter #5

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

#### Chapter Five

#### A TIME TO HEAL

Are radical gay groups or militant organizations (like Queer Nation and Act-Up) helping to heal the breaches or throw salt in the wounds? Do they help homosexuals to be further reconciled or alienated? Are they accomplishing their goals and airing their grievances, or being contentious just for the sake of being contentious? Are they actually doing more harm than good? Defeating their avowed purpose or attaining their aims? Isn't it immature to blame the government for not making us feel better? Is it always "others" fault that we haven't discovered a cure for AIDS yet? Don't we have the ways and means to do something about it ourselves? How much does it cost to abstain or practice "safe-sex?"

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## LETTERS SECTION

[the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net](mailto:the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net)

**Isaiah 58:1** Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

**Ezekiel 33:8-9** When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

**Ephesians 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (expose) them.

**1 Timothy 5:20** Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

### No Name, No Newsletter (12-3-06) by Gerald Ruskin (Marion, Ohio)

#### Gerald Ruskin writes:

No money for you. Just mainstream matters of the Christian Faith (secular Christianity).

No offense but you seem to be too nosy. I don't want you to spy on me or nose around (no names means no access).

#### Laura Lee writes:

**No name means no newsletter.** This is one of many letters we have been receiving from the Alabama area over several years now. This particular one had a Birmingham, Alabama post mark on it and a return name and address from Marion, Ohio. These people don't seem to want anyone to know their name, but they don't seem to have a problem making up names to use.

If subscription forms and renewal forms are not properly filled out with a name and address on them, they will not be processed and you will not receive a newsletter.

#### Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-01.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

### Accusations or Questions? (11-15-06)

by Keith Slough (Kannapolis, North Carolina)

#### Keith Slough writes:

11/15/2006 5:33:29 PM

You don't NOW keep the PAGAN HOLIDAYS do you??????? That is disappointing. Keith

#### Darwin & Laura Lee write:

11/16/2006 6:41:02 AM

Dear Keith and the rest of this list,

We do not keep secular holidays, we

keep God's Holy Days. The feeds that we have hooked up to these lists are all mostly secular, meaning most of these people more than likely keep Christmas, Easter and Sunday Church. I believe that the item you are referring to is an ad that came from "Answers in Genesis". We do not run "Answers in Genesis", someone else does. We have it running through here for the Archeology Information they do send. We will try to get the ads removed (at least the big ones) if possible, but if not, please ignore and delete them as you would any other Christmas ad. Thank you. Darwin & Laura Lee

#### Keith Slough writes:

11/16/2006 9:03:57 AM

I saw your ads and..... I hope you are not now promoting CHRISTMAS....do you now observe the PAGAN Holidays with the Worldwide Church of Tkach?

#### Laura Lee writes:

11/16/2006 9:57:41 AM

Dear Keith Slough,

I believe that you have a problem. What are you doing accusing us of something which is not true. Where is your proof?

I already sent a public email to the "Archeology Exchange" email list in regard to your public email in regard to this. Did you not see that the ad in regard to Christmas came from "Answers in Genesis"? Or might you be blind?

Perhaps in the future you should read the ad before you start accusing people of things which are not true. As I have tried to tell you more than once, the feeds which are hooked up to many of our email lists are secular. Most of the people providing these feeds keep Christmas, Easter and Sunday. If you know of some Sabbath Keepers who can provide these feeds for our lists, then by all

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The Church of God Messenger  
A Newsletter for the People of God

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## “God and the...” continued from page 1)

It's in our power to save lives. Every person who's had sex ought to get tested to prevent passing AIDS on and to enable yourself to start treatment immediately if you've been infected. To do otherwise isn't only selfish, it's evil. High-risk groups ought to stop and think about what they're doing. It's not so much a lack of education, but of character. Irresponsible behavior is the cause for so many of the effects we see or suffer daily. Don't allow sin to emaciate you or separate you from your loved ones (Prov. 5:11; Ps. 38:11). Nobody gets a second chance.

Damaging stereotypes must go. Calloused misrepresentation is an injustice. Hollywood will be held responsible for its productions. But then again, in all fairness, aren't the stereotypes reinforced with every passing "Gay Pride" parade? Isn't much of the damage self-inflicted? And all of the negative publicity produced, in large part, by members of the homosexual community (Isa. 3:9)?

### A Time and a Place

Are you an exhibitionist? Do you always insist on exposing your sexual preference whether it's appropriate or not? Why force the issue? We don't have to hide, but neither should we always lay everything out in the open (Prov. 13:16). It's not good to glory in our gory days or push our preference (Ephes. 5:12). And instead of having a gutter mouth, let's try and be gracious for once (Ephes. 4:29). Develop discretion. Tact, wisdom and diplomacy are wonderful attributes of a true ambassador (2 Cor. 5:20). There is a time and a place for everything, but even then we should ensure we're speaking the truth in love; facts with feelings, considering the sensitivities of others (Prov. 29:11; Ephes. 4:15; 1 Cor. 10:32). If someone's not ready yet to hear you out, or capable of appreciating what you're saying – why make it more difficult for them (Jn. 16:12)? Just getting something off your chest isn't right if it's going to adversely affect others. We are to help bear one another's burdens, but ultimately we're on our own (Ga. 6:2, 5).

I know there are those who would object to my use of the term "gay" throughout this booklet. May they try and understand that this work's been written to address the issue of homosexuality, and therefore, "becoming all things to all men," I've chosen to speak in their language. I realize the adjective's been unjustly robbed of its former innocence, and I know that it's not the word God would use to describe homosexuals. God calls the practice an abomination, the lifestyle loathsome, and the desires detestable (Lev. 18:22; Rom.

1:24, 26). That's some pretty strong medicine, but we'd better take it (Rev. 3:19). If someone tries to sell you on some other idea (Ga. 1:8), don't buy it! Don't be fooled by smooth-talking salesmen or swallow their snake-oil (Ephes. 5:6; Rom. 16:18)!

Before you get all riled up, notice that the same "harsh" God considers incest as wicked, bestiality as confusion, and baptized paganism as abominable (Lev. 18:17, 23; Deut. 12:30-31). Two wrongs don't make a right, but I wanted to show we've all fallen short of the mark and have failed the test (Rom. 3:23). There isn't any teacher's pet! Jesus didn't just die for straight people, He bled to death for homosexuals as well. We've all nailed Him to the cross and we all need Him as our Savior.

### A Sinful Savior?

Did Jesus engage in sexual activities? Have an active love life? What does the Bible actually say? Not only have those openly critical of Christ cast aspersions, but others have leveled serious charges claiming Him as one of their own. What about Mary Magdalene? Did He have a relationship with her? Or the apostle John - were they lovers? Could He have been a bisexual? Or was it just a close friendship? Did Jesus simply exemplify male-bonding in its purest form, like King David did with his best friend, Jonathan?

Jesus reply to His accusers: "I have kept my Father's commandments" (Jn. 15:10). Those commandments include instructions against all immorality. If Jesus broke even one link of this gold chain, He wouldn't have only tarnished His good reputation, He would have disqualified Himself as our sinless Savior (1 Jn. 3:5). But Jesus is our pure Passover Lamb (not Easter rabbit!), without any defect of character; accepted, approved, and received by Heaven.

Christ commands everyone, everywhere, to confess and forsake their sins (Acts 17:30; 1 Jn. 1:9). We're to leave our sinful pasts behind and get out of compromising situations fast (1 Cor. 6:18). Don't be fooled: what you do will come back to you (Ga. 6:7)!

We're not free to flagrantly flout God's law (Jer. 7:8-10). We haven't been delivered to disobey, despite appeals for "liberty" (2 Pet. 2:19; Rom. 6:1-6). When God set our forefathers free from Egypt, it wasn't for the sake of freedom alone! We weren't left to just go our own way or do our own thing. No longer the slaves of men, we were to become the servants of God. We were expected to follow His clear-cut directions to make it to another land. A Land of Promise. A Sanctuary where we would be free to do as He instructed. God declared war on Egypt and took a slave-people to make them into His Servant-Nation!

Don't believe the popular fairy-tales of serpentine ministers (2 Tim. 4:3-4)! They're so confused they'd even accept brazen sinners and assure them everything's "kosher" (Jer. 23:14, 17), when it's clearly not. They're professing Christians, but their lewd lives contradict their claims (Titus 1:16; 1 Jn. 2:4). Such pornographic priests had better heed God's Word and listen to His Law (Isa. 1:10). They're warned to stop justifying themselves and abusing God's grace (Jude 4).

### Previous Lives & Experiences

God calls people from all walks of life and performs a miracle in their minds: they're offered a fresh perspective, given a new outlook, and enabled to try a different approach (Philip. 2:5). Their former "records" aren't held against them and they're started out with a new attitude and identity (2 Cor. 5:17). God lists a litany of former lifestyles His people once practiced, and ends by emphasizing: "And such were some of you..." (2 Cor. 6:9-11). He acknowledges, thereby, they've since cleaned up their act and stand apart from the rest. All made possible by their Advocate who's expunged their past, gives them room to grow, a chance to change, and every encouragement to lead new lives.

But those who've refused to change, don't even attempt to get up and get over it, and have given up trying - are nothing more than the living dead facing a bleak future (Rev. 21:8; Heb. 10:27). God doesn't accept cop outs or drop outs (Lk. 14:18), but expects us to keep plugging away and stay in the race (1 Cor. 9:24; Philip. 3:14). We're to do whatever's necessary to hang on to God and let go of sin, invigorated by the cheering examples of those who've already crossed the finishing line (Heb. 11; 12:1).

Recovering homosexuals haven't denied who and what they are; they've owned up to it and now seek atonement. They've honestly admitted to themselves their problem, have sought help, and are struggling to overcome and improve. They've accepted Christ's command and challenge to "...go and sin no more" (Jn. 8:11). They're not denying that they're horny, human, and homosexual. They haven't gone back into the "closet" - but they have gone back, time and again, into the "prayer closet" to find the necessary strength to withstand temptation and continue their conversion (Acts 13:43). Those flying accusations are nothing more than shrapnel from that lying snake and murderer of mankind (Rev. 12:10). And besides, everybody must "come out" from under Satan's influence, and avoid him like the plague (Rev. 18:4; 2 Cor. 6:17)!

### Sodom and Gomorrha

There is HOPE for homosexuals! Jesus

even blasted certain cities of His day as worse than Sodom and Gomorrah, and indicated they would've repented given half a chance. He did state their "day in court" would be better than those who had seen the Light and yet chose to remain in religious darkness (Mat. 10:15; 11:2-24). God condemns their spiritual preference as inexcusable. Their lust for man-made traditions was greater than their love for God's truth.

Are homosexuals alone branded as Sodomites? Was that Sodom and Gomorrah's only claim to fame? Actually their sins ranged from downright snobbery to a lack of compassion; full bank accounts but empty lives. Obviously there was a great divide between the rich and the poor, but they all shared sin in common (Ezek. 16: 49-50).

Their "anything goes" attitude and "do your own thing" atmosphere, reveals how low you can go. Their descent into depravity was undoubtedly hailed as a new era of "understanding," and their tolerance level for perversion praised as being "open-minded." So open-minded their brains fell out! Yet their DESTRUCTION is intended to dramatize the end result of living the wrong way. That warning message isn't only directed towards homosexuals (2 Pet. 2:6; Jude 7). God even refers to today's RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT as "Sodom and Egypt..." - too PROUD AND STUBBORN to change (Rev. 11:8)! We're reminded that this affliction affects both young and old, high and low, rich and poor (Ge. 19:4, 11). Sin doesn't discriminate. Iniquity accepts all.

Regardless of our sexual orientation, we're to get as far away as possible from our old haunts and tired ways. We shouldn't look back upon those days (daze) with longing. Don't linger in the past or you'll forfeit your future (Gen. 19:15-17). God's prepared something far better for us: a sparkling City that's "out of this world," a wonderfully warm and loving Home, and a Country that really does care (Rev. 21:2). Jesus has promised to personally insure our part and parcel in God's Kingdom (Jn. 14:1-2). He should be interested: He staked His life on us! Jesus became human so we could become divine (Heb. 2:10)! We're assured that even as we're presently human-beings, we're capable of becoming God-Beings (Jn. 3:3-7; Ps. 82:6). These are bold claims and astonishing statements, but it's past time that you've been told the plain truth and given a fair chance to consider it (Lk. 4:32; Isa. 52:15; Jn. 16:29).

### **A Change For the Better**

Only by a resurrection can our conversion be made complete; our miraculous transformation from matter to

spirit, from mortal to immortal, from human to divine (1 Cor. 15:49-53). Could it be any other way? As members of the Royal Family of God it's only befitting that we should be glorified. The gospel - THE GOOD NEWS - of the Kingdom of God is a true rags to riches, dust to divinity story (Ps. 113:7-8)! Pardon the analogy, but would Cinderella have gone to her ball inappropriately dressed? Neither shall we be presented to Christ in any other manner: only the best will do (Rev. 19:8).

As prominent Priest-Kings, reigning with but under Christ (Rev. 5:10; Dan. 7:27), our clothing and appearance must be immaculate (Mat. 17:2; 1 Jn. 3:2). Understand, therefore, that even as we'll reside in splendor and rule in glory (Mat. 19:28; Rev. 3:21), so too must our very bodies become brilliant (Philip. 3:21); the last Trump heralds our change of clothing and composition (1 Cor. 15:52; 2 Cor. 5:1-5; Ps. 17:15). The resurrection invests us with this power and affords us this hope (Rev. 2:26; Acts 26:6-8)! If we're ever going to make it, we've got to keep this VISION of God's Kingdom-Family clear to us, careful not to let it dim or lose its luster (Prov. 29:18). It must become our driving force and motivation (Mat. 6:33).

Vision inspires motivation which encourages discipline. Some restrain themselves - not because of character, but fear of the consequences. That's a beginning, but God hopes we pass that starting point (Prov. 1:7). As we grow more spiritually mature, love is to gradually replace fear as our reason for obeying God (Jn. 4:18)

Mindful of all that God's done for us, we're to develop an attitude of gratitude that expresses itself in loving obedience (Lk. 7:47). This all-important love strengthens our resolve to do the right thing, to grace the Gospel, and compliment the Kingdom (1 Thes. 2:12; Titus 2:10). Even this loving desire to fulfill God's Will is his gift (Rom. 2:4; 5:5). God initiates our relationship with Him, but we must continue it (Jn. 6:44; 15:14). After our favorable response, God then supplies the strength of character, the courage of conviction, and an extraordinary will-power to secure our friendship as a lasting one (Philip. 2:13; 2 Tim. 1:7).

### **Everyone Has Problems**

The Christian life isn't exempt from the trials and tribulations that everyone experiences. The difference is that God promises to pull us through. If He doesn't deliver us from some circumstance or situation, He will help us to hold up. Remember: diamonds are nothing more than coal that's been put under a lot of pressure!

God will never forget or forsake us, and He'll never allow anything to come between

us (Rom. 8:35-39). He promises to impart sufficient grace to enable us to survive whatever might come our way (2 Cor. 12:9; 1 Cor. 10:13). All of these problems can help produce God's character in us and contribute considerably to our cause (1 Pet. 1:7).

When the weight of worldly cares start to get you down, and seems too overwhelming, don't get discouraged! Be encouraged to go to God for help. That's how recognizing your own weaknesses can become your strength. Once we accept that sometimes we'll have to go through "hell" before Heaven is established on earth, we'll be better prepared for the "unexpected" by knowing that there is a method to this madness and a purpose for this pain (2 Cor. 4:17).

Such an understanding helps us to put everything into perspective and enjoy a clearer focus, reassured that there is a happy ending to it all (Rom. 18:28; Ecc. 7:8). We don't always know what's going on or why God does (or doesn't do) this or that, but our faith comforts us that "Father knows best" and is in control of events that might appear out-of-control (Jn. 13:7; Mat. 27:53); therefore, refuse to get upset with God's way of handling things or bother second-guessing Him (Mat. 11:6).

One of the most difficult things to accept is God's apparent inaction. Especially when you're convinced of His ability to do something. We've just got to calm down and rest in the fact that He's obviously working out something that we can't see now, but will understand later.

Why didn't He set John the Baptist free? Wouldn't that have glorified God, revealing His power to over-rule the Romans? Instead He left him to "rot" in jail and later lose his head. Why didn't He save Lazarus from his terminal illness? Or come down off the cross? Faith and patience....

### **Make Up Your Mind**

All these things are wonderful opportunities to confirm or deny our commitment to Christ. It's a chance to defy temptation and stand up for what's right - despite peer pressure (Mat. 10:32-33). We can make things easier or more difficult for ourselves. Either you're totally convinced God's way is right and worth living, or you're not sure and continually ride the fence and risk rupture; tormenting yourself and sending out conflicting signals and confusing signs (Mat. 6:24; 7:16). When you're at the crossroads it's either this way or that. You can't have it both ways (Rev. 3:15). You should've made up your mind at baptism.

Will you honor your decision or break your vows? For those who've chosen to follow the Noble Path, they can't afford to play with fire, flirt with death, or risk living on the edge (Jude 23; Zech. 3:2). They've got to

learn to quickly say no to sin. "He who hesitates is lost." Then they must become "stuck in their ways." They know that it's now or never, do or die, and that nothing can compare to what God has in store for them (Heb. 11:25-26; Mat. 13:46).

God's fire will either purify or destroy you. The choice is yours. Will you become a great success or end up a miserable failure (Mal. 3:2)? You might as well lay your lust in the dust, because everything in this world's about to end and a new world begin; therefore, God expects us to take note and act accordingly (1 Jn. 2:17; 2 Pet. 3:11). Just as God's got something in store for His saints, He's also reserved something for sinners (2 Pet. 3:7). Don't worry, everybody will get what's coming to them (Rev. 22:12).

### **Using Available Resources**

Having a clear vision of God's Kingdom, and a sober view of things to come, we can overcome every obstacle in Christ (Jn. 16:33). But how can we keep our head up when the whole world's falling down around us (Lk. 21:28)? By realizing that we're that much closer to the time when God will pick up the pieces and start over (Jn. 6:12; Acts 1:6). But how can we keep from "losing it" while we wait (Rev. 3:11)? By getting "baptized!" We're to be immersed in the Word and saturated by God's Spirit (Lk. 3:16). That's the only way to be "in Christ." That's an atomic statement. It's not meant to be just an empty spiritual cliché. It's packed with POWER and ENERGY!

Our growth and development depends upon how often (and to what degree) we'll take advantage of our available resources (Mat. 13:23). Only we can hold ourselves down or back (1 Thes. 5:19).

We're authorized to exercise "veto power" over any illicit thought or action. We're to wield God's Spirit (Rom. 8:13), and learn to handle our Light-Saber like an expert (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:15). We're under orders to search and destroy (2 Cor. 13:5; Ga. 5:24), and follow our Leader wherever He might go (Rom. 8:14; 1 Pet. 2:21).

Jesus flesh and blood are our rations (Jn. 6:47-63). God's Word can energize us and His Spirit sustain us - but it must become our daily bread. Are we utilizing what we've been given, investing our assets wisely, or are we just wasting our "time and money" (Isa. 55:2)? You've got to use it or you'll lose it (Lk. 19:11-27)! We'll really need this celestial assistance to "walk on the waters," and not let our heart sink within us, if and whenever we hear rude remarks or callous comments by Christians - people we'd hope would understand our predicament and appreciate our efforts (Ps. 41:9).

God expects us to go out of our way, to forgive and forget, when we get burnt (Col.

3:13). He doesn't want us to fall into the trap of bickering back and forth (1 Pet. 3:9). We're to share scripture, not exchange cutting remarks (1 Cor. 14:26; Ps. 50:20)! As Satan seeks to divide and conquer, may he find unity in diversity instead (1 Cor. 12:12). Since we have such a high calling, let's not act beneath ourselves.

### **Growing Pains**

Some Christians don't know how to deal with homosexuality. It's all new and frightening to them. That's understandable. But now they're under obligation to learn how to handle themselves when confronted with this issue. We're to be patient with them and pray that they'll be tolerant of us. We're not to force-feed them with "everything you never wanted to know about homosexuality!" They might get sick. Everybody grows at their own pace. Some "growing-pains" are to be expected along the way. We should accept and respect these facts of life and avoid sibling rivalry.

Meanwhile we can attempt to make the best of a bad situation (Rom. 12:18). Don't be judgmental, but be careful. Don't trip someone up or help them fall over their mental block (Rom. 14:13). This is the way of love: don't hold a grudge!

What about AIDS victims? Are they victims or did they knowingly endanger themselves? Should we befriend these social outcasts or leave them to lay in the bed they've made? What about compassion? Am I my brother's keeper? Can't I cry for the suffering sin causes (Jer. 9:1)? Don't these "lepers" need love? They're not necessarily any worse than others (Lk. 13:1-5). Time and chance struck them down (Ecc. 9:11). They need our tender-loving prayers and care, not our cold-hearted stares. Besides, if everybody got sick who's sinned, we'd all be in intensive care! "Except for the grace of God, there go I" had better become our attitude. God showed His love toward us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8).

Masturbation: is it right or wrong? It's the lesser of two evils, but it's still evil. Didn't Jesus say that if you've lusted after someone you've already had "sex" with them? Sex is mental, not just physical. Isn't masturbation usually accompanied by explicit fantasies? What's the difference between them and dirty movies or smut magazines? Don't they all throw fuel on the fire? Doesn't it entice you to fulfill them? Doesn't it weaken your will, surrender your resolve, and screw-up your spiritual day? Isn't lust just like a drug: intoxicating and addictive? There's no "time-out" for a Christian. Ask God for help in this area and know you'll receive it. Learn to resist sin, not God.

### **Same Person, Different Perception**

Homosexuality is here whether we like it or not. I've been all around the world and have seen that it's everywhere. We can't just wish it away because it won't go. Pretending it doesn't exist isn't fooling anyone but yourself. We have to face up to the facts, regardless of how uncomfortable they might make us feel.

As stated in the "Family Network" section of Better Homes and Gardens (when they published my letter/Nov. '92 issue): Perhaps you're the parent or friend of a lesbian or gay. Don't faint if you are; just remember that nothing has changed about that person except your perception of him or her. Treat them according to their personality, not their sexuality. Maybe you'd deny that it could ever occur in your family or intrude into your circle of friends. Don't faint if it does. It's not the end of the world. The sun will still rise and life will go on. Maybe you're unsure of your own sexuality. This much is sure: everything that you've loved or enjoyed about their friendship or company remains the same. Don't get upset if they hadn't told you. Such anger would only warrant their fears of being "found-out." Maybe they didn't want to risk losing your friendship. Obviously it means a lot to them. Express your disapproval of their practice, if you must. But reject it - not them. Is that asking too much? Life's too short to allow misunderstandings to come between us. We're encouraged to be reasonable; not to engage in emotional debates or heated arguments (Isa. 1:18). Let's avoid such ringside distractions. Remain cool, calm and collected (2 Tim. 2:23-25). Build bridges, not walls. Make your point and drop it.

### **One Big Happy Family**

So there, now you have it. What the Bible really says about homosexuality. I guess I've done something right since I get complaints from both sides: the Christian and gay communities. It just goes to show you can't please everybody! Some say I'm too harsh; others say I'm too lenient. May everybody at least glean something. Others are initially discouraged, but then become encouraged to make necessary changes in their lives (2 Chron. 7:8-11).

A few might even sniff, "I told you so." If so, they've missed the point. Those prejudiced preachers might deliver the same basic message, but their style and tone of voice isn't like the Father's (Jn. 10:1-5). This little booklet's a "love-letter," not hate-mail! Not everyone who speaks the truth has the right attitude or motivation. "A truth that's told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent." We're to help gather, not scatter; to encourage people to come to Christ, not dig in their heels; to make it easier, not more

difficult to repent (Acts 16:16-18; Philip. 1:15-18).

"Only he deserves his life and freedom who conquer them anew every day" (Goethe). May we grow ever stronger and more deeply appreciate our deliverance, making sure we never take it for granted (Deut. 5:15). Caution can't be stressed enough. We've got to be so careful not to fall back into our old rut, going nowhere (Ga. 5:1). We can't afford a relapse into sin that would only put us into a tail-spin (Jn. 5:14). We must be recovering homosexuals, getting better and gaining strength (2 Tim. 2:26).

### **It's a daily struggle**

If Christ gave it all, His everything for this relationship, can't we at least sacrifice a little? Is sex really so important or worth dying for? I know it feels good, but it won't feel too good in the Lake of Fire! May your love for God become greater than your lust for men (Isa. 56:4-5).

The Jewish proverb that "all beginnings are hard" is true. But that old saying doesn't just state a fact, it offers us the hope that things will get better with time. They do. We just have to hang in there. Climb Jacob's Ladder one rung at a time. Don't give up on yourself when God hasn't! I know from personal experience how difficult it can be, but I also know it's well worth it. I wouldn't have given up John, my ex-lover, for God if I didn't believe in what I've written! I went through hell, at first, really wondering if there is an afterlife, a resurrection, if Jesus is the Christ, if homosexuality is incompatible with the scriptures; what if I was all wrong, how would I ever find such another lover, etc.? But I have survived - and grown stronger. I don't take my beliefs for granted, I know they're true!

Old habits and ways of thinking can be replaced. New habits and ways of doing things can become ingrained. The divine nature can begin to replace our human nature, because God can and does heal minds and bodies! He's familiar with broken hearts and unhappy lives, and can mend them (Mat. 11:28). We can be made whole in Christ. He wants us all to become "One Big Happy Family" - the Kingdom of God.

**Read the entire article at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-034-03.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

**("Discipleship and..." continued from page 1)**

and the way of truth.

In order to gain a partial understanding of why Peter spoke of grace and knowledge in verses 2 and 18 and what it means to our

responsibility as a student of truth and the way of truth, we need to examine the meanings of some of the Greek words in Peter's greeting and his instruction at the end of his letter.

The English word 'grace' in verses 2 and 18 is translated from the Greek word 'charis', which can mean 'that which affords joy', 'pleasure', 'delight', 'sweetness', 'charm', 'loveliness', 'grace of speech', 'good-will', 'loving-kindness', 'favor', and 'what is due to grace'. This word can also mean the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine influence, divine influence upon the heart, the reflection of divine influence in one's life, and a token or a proof of grace.

A key to understanding the meaning of 'charis' in verse 2 and 18 is that, in verse 2, 'charis' is to be 'plethuno' (i.e., multiplied) and in verse 18 'charis' is to be 'auzano' (increased). In both verses, 'charis' is to be enlarged through knowledge and insight into the Father and Christ.

Regardless of the nuance of its usage in the scriptures, all 'charis' (all grace) that is bestowed upon us or becomes a part of our character has its origin with our Heavenly Father and his son our Savior. See 2 Jn. 3; Rom. 1:7-9; 1 Cor. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4.

The primary purpose for the educational system within the Father's family is to teach his children his truth, his way of truth, and his rules of conduct that we must practice in order to acquire the attitude, behavior, and character that he and his son have. Therefore, it makes perfect sense that Peter would open and close his letter of encouragement and warnings with the instruction to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In a conversation with the Pharisees Jesus said, "*You neither know me, nor my Father: if you had known me, you should have also known my Father*" (Jn. 8:13-19). And in a conversation with his disciples about his going back to his Heavenly Father and his death and resurrection, Jesus explained to them that, if they would have had an intimate knowledge of him, they would have known what the Father was like, because he was a reflection of his Father. See John 14:1-11.

It is through having an intimate knowledge and understanding of Christ's attitude, behavior, character, and teachings that we are able to know what the Father is like, because Christ is a reflection of his Heavenly Father. Therefore, it seems that the apostle Peter used the word *charis* to indicate the increase of divine influence that should be reflected in our life.

The increase of a godly attitude, behavior, and character in your life are the result of allowing the Father, his son, and the holy spirit to influence your life. It is also

evident that, in order to become more like our Father and our Savior, we must cultivate these godly qualities to increase them in our lives.

An important point to note is that Peter says grace must be multiplied and increased through the knowledge of the Father and Jesus our Lord (verses 2 and 18). This is important because it reinforces the necessity to be a willing, dedicated, responsible, and teachable student in order to learn and practice the attitude, behavior, and character of the Father and Christ.

### **Have The Mind of Christ**

In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul said in reference to their attitude and behavior during their journey through the experience of life, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ*" (Phil. 2:5).

How can you think like Christ if you do not have an intimate knowledge of his life and his teachings? The answer is that you cannot.

Foremost in the minds of the apostles was the need for their brothers and sisters in the faith to have spiritual knowledge and a clear understanding of the necessity to become a spiritually mature member of the Father's family in order for them to fulfill his purpose for calling them to salvation during that age.

Almost the totality of the writings of the apostles is centered around encouraging and urging their brothers and sisters in the faith to become educated in the things that will help them conform to and practice a holy lifestyle while developing a godly attitude, behavior, and character though acquiring godly knowledge and understanding.

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH EDUCATION**

Over the centuries, the many tools that the Father has provided to facilitate spiritual growth within his family have mostly fallen into disuse by the majority of his elect. There are over twenty-one separate authorizations and responsibilities given through the holy spirit by God the Father and administered to his earthly children through Jesus Christ for the edification of the Father's family and the performance of its work. See Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:8-10, 28-30; Eph. 4:11-14.

A lack of a true understanding of what it means to be a student of truth and a steward within the Father's earthly family has made it virtually impossible for the gifts of the spirit to be accessed or used in a major way within the Father's family. This lack of understanding has resulted in doctrinal chaos, the lack of unity, and the general lack of spiritual power that exists among the congregations and scattered members of the Father's family during this age.

In order to eliminate this doctrinal chaos, lack of unity, and lack of spiritual power, each member of the Father's family must truly come to understand their responsibility to be a student of truth and a steward of their function and responsibility within the Father's family.

There is no excuse for one whom the Father has called to salvation to not fulfill their obligation and opportunity to become educated in the discipline of holiness, successfully live a righteous lifestyle, and obtain immortality. The apostle Peter says the following to all who have been called to salvation: "Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the favor that is brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, do not pattern yourselves after the ignorance of your former desires. But as he who has called you is holy, so you be holy in all manner of behavior; Because it is written, You be holy; because I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:13-16 Para.).

The instruction is clear. Those who are members of the Father's family must be holy as he is holy. The only way you can be holy as he is holy and practice a holy lifestyle is to first know and understand what it means to be holy. In order to acquire this spiritual knowledge and understanding, you must be a willing, dedicated, responsible, and teachable student of the Father's truth and way of truth.

In this age, there are many books one can use in order to gain an academic knowledge of what is written in the Bible. However, understanding the meaning of what is written in the Bible for the Father's children can only be acquired through the gifts of the spirit and the exercise of the teaching function of the holy spirit.

One of the gifts of the spirit that each person is provided at the moment they receive the Father's holy spirit is a sound mind: "God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7 KJV). A person with a sound mind is able to learn and understand the things that are being taught to them through the guidance of the holy spirit.

The Father would not have called you to salvation if he had not had confidence that you would be able to succeed when given the tools for success. Each person who receives the holy spirit also receives the tools with which to be successful. Therefore, success is assured if these tools are used for their intended purpose.

### **The Holy Spirit**

A short review of Jesus' and the apostles' teachings show that the indwelling of the holy spirit is capable of imparting knowledge, discernment, wisdom, and

understanding to the Father's elect children. However, if you rarely study and meditate on God's word or rarely communicate with the Father through prayer, these attributes that are necessary to fulfill your calling cannot be acquired and their benefits cannot be realized.

Before his death and resurrection, Jesus told his closest students and companions these things about the spirit of truth that would come to teach them: "But when the Father sends the Comforter instead of me--and by the Comforter I mean the holy spirit--he [it] will teach you much, as well as remind you of everything I myself have told you" (Jn. 14:26 LBP).

"I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when the spirit of truth, is come, it will guide you into all truth: for it shall not speak of itself; but whatever it shall hear, that shall it speak;..." (Jn. 16:12-13 KJV Para.). See also 1 Cor. 2:11, 1 Pet. 1:12.

Why would Christ's followers need to be taught something more than what he taught them while he was with them? The answer is that they needed to know and understand more in order to have the knowledge and understanding to be able to perfect a godly attitude, behavior, and character, and to have the spiritual resources to be able to fulfill their calling and purpose for existence.

The importance of being taught the Father's truth, his way of truth, and his rules of conduct, and the practice of these things within his family should be self-evident. Without being instructed in these things and gaining insight into the attitude, behavior, and character of our Heavenly Father and his first-born son, no progress can be made toward the goal of spiritual perfection and maturity. Moreover, these things must be learned and internalized in order for the truth, the way of truth, our Heavenly Father, and our Savior to be represented correctly in our lives and to other people.

The holy spirit is a teacher and reminder of the things taught by Christ while he was human, as well as the things he taught as the Creator God. As the teaching function of the holy spirit is accessed and exercised, it conveys knowledge and understanding of the Father's truth, his way of truth, and the attitude, behavior, and characteristics that he and his first-born son have as a part of their being.

Paul also confirms that the Father's holy spirit has the power to transfer spiritual knowledge to his earthly children: "It has been written, 'Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,' nor has it risen up in the heart of man, 'the things which God has prepared for those that love him. But God revealed them to us by his spirit, for the spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who

among men knows the things of a man, except the spirit of man within him? So also no one has known the things of God except the spirit of God" (1 Cor. 2:9-11 Para.).

Notice that this transfer of knowledge and understanding is possible because each of the elect has been given the Father's holy spirit and the essence of Christ's mind as a part of their mental make-up.

"Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; so that we can know the things that are freely given to us from God. Which things we also speak, that are not the words that man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. However, the natural man does not receive the things of God's spirit; because, to the natural man they are foolishness. Neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual can discern all things, yet he himself cannot be understood by the natural man. Moreover, who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:12-16 Para.).

Clearly, the Father and Christ speak to us through the Bible and the holy spirit that resides within us; therefore, we should diligently study the Bible and ask for spiritual enlightenment so that we can know and understand the Father's will in order to do what pleases him.

It should be the goal of each individual to become conversant in the truth and way of truth in order to understand the deep meanings of the mysteries of God, to have a strong spiritual foundation, to know and understand our functions and responsibilities within the Father's family, and to be able to explain our hope of salvation to others. Why? Because this is what we are instructed to do as a member of the Father's family in order to fulfill the purpose of our calling.

### **Spiritual Growth**

Although each newly converted person becomes Christ's pupil at baptism, the process of being taught spiritual laws, concepts, and principles cannot begin in earnest until you have surrendered every aspect of your life to the Father and understand that you have been called to participate whole-heartedly as an integral part of his family. Moreover, if you refuse to advance as a student of truth, you become unfruitful and can become an impediment to the progress of other family members.

A child of God cannot remain static in their spiritual growth for very long. You either go forward toward spiritual maturity and the fulfillment of the functions and responsibilities for which you are called during this age or you regress toward your old behavior. See Jesus' admonition to the Ephesians and

Laodiceans in Revelation 2:5-6 and 3:15-19.

### **Prerequisites For Knowledge and Understanding**

The following are some of the prerequisites for the acquisition of spiritual knowledge and understanding that the scriptures clearly show as necessary:

- You must be seeking to know and understand the Father's will for your life.
- You must ask for knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.
- You must study the Father's truth and way of truth.
- You must be in obedience to the Father and his way of life.

If you fail to do these things, you will not gain spiritual knowledge and understanding. Other things that can cause a lack of knowledge and understanding are quenching the power of the holy spirit, rebelling against God, or allowing something or someone to take priority in your life above your commitment to the Father.

Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to do the things that would promote spiritual growth and warned them not to restrain or suppress the power of the holy spirit in their life. See 1 Thes. 4:1-12; Lk. 19:12-26; Lk. 17:7-10:

*"Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the spirit..."* (1 Thes. 5:17-19 KJV).

If you become lazy and refuse to put forth the effort to pray, show gratitude to the Father, study, meditate, and yield your life to the Father, the power of the holy spirit becomes weak and useless within you. When this happens, you are in danger of losing the power of the spirit in your life. If this is not corrected, it will result in eternal death. However, when you exercise the holy spirit in a positive manner, you can grow spiritually and become a productive member in the Father's family.

### **A Beginning and Progress**

Unless you become the best student of the truth and the way of truth that you can be, there is little likelihood that you will make much progress in the knowledge and understanding of things of the spirit or fulfill the functions and responsibilities for which you were called to perform as a member of the Father's family.

### **THE PROCESS**

It is a given that those who proclaim the Father's good news message as evangelists, must clearly know and understand what they are talking about.

It is also a given that those who occupy an official function or responsibility of service to their brothers and sisters within the

Father's family must be well versed and practiced in the Father's truth and way of truth before being allowed to fulfill an official position of service. See 1 Tim. 3:1-16.

But, where do these individuals obtain the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom necessary to fulfill their functions and responsibilities within the church? These individuals learn these things through the process of being a willing, dedicated, and teachable student of truth.

The simple truth is that no one can learn the Father's will for their life or become conversant with his laws, precepts, and principles by osmosis. You cannot do what you are not equipped to do! If you desire to please the Father with your life and become a beneficial member of his family, you must put forth the time and effort to be a dedicated and responsible student of his truth and way of truth.

### **COMMITMENT**

To those who are truly serious about their calling, Jesus leaves no doubt as to the type of commitment that must be made in order to truly follow his teachings as a student of truth: *"Anyone who comes to me must love me more than he does his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters, and yes, even more than his own life, otherwise he cannot be my pupil [Greek: disciple]. And no one can be my pupil who does not bear his own cross and follow me... whoever of you that will not forsake everything he has, cannot be my pupil"* (Lk. 14:26-27, 33 Para.).

### **Seek the Kingdom of God First**

*"Don't be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, how will we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knows that you need all of these things. But seek you first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be supplied to you. Don't be anxious about tomorrow; because, tomorrow will take care of itself..."* (Matt. 6:31-34 KJV Para.).

Those who are serious about their calling should not be overly concerned with the things of this life; they should be concerned about the things that will last forever.

The apostle Paul told Timothy that anyone who is serious about doing a work for the Father cannot become overly involved with the cares of this physical life; therefore, you must be single-minded in your service to the Father. True discipleship and stewardship requires a total commitment to the Sovereign Father, Jesus Christ, and your calling: *"No one serving as a soldier gets entangled with the affairs of this life, so that he can please the one whom he serves and*

*those who compete in athletic events must follow the rules or they will be disqualified and not win the prize"* (2 Tim. 2: 4-5 Para.).

### **Summary**

Every one of the Father's children is a disciple (i.e., a student) of his truth and way of truth. Some are in the beginning phases of their spiritual education, some are more advanced students, and some have advanced enough in their spiritual growth and maturity to become teachers of God's truth while continuing their responsibility as a student. Regardless of what level of spiritual maturity you have attained or what function or responsibility you perform as a member of the Father's family, you are to remain a student of the truth and the way of truth throughout your life.

Being a perpetual student of the Father's truth and way of truth is a lifestyle with a purpose. It is an active participation in a process of growing in favor with the Father, learning his truth and way of truth, and applying what is learned in your daily life. Discipleship is a dynamic activity; it is not static.

As true disciples with whom the Father has placed tremendous spiritual resources, we should be willing to learn and grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Moreover, a disciple should trust in their ability to successfully overcome the obstacles of this present life and become an immortal spirit-being in the Father's heavenly kingdom.

### **STUDENTS OF TRUTH**

In chapters, four, five, and six of Paul's letter to the elect at Ephesus, he speaks of the Father's collective earthly family and how it should work together to accomplish the purpose for its existence. Paul also explains that the Father's elect should not think and behave like people without God's spirit. Moreover, he says that the elect should set aside the attitudes and behaviors of their past life that were in opposition to righteousness; instead, they should think and behave in a godly manner. See also Col. 3:1-25, 4:1-6.

It is the transforming of your former thought process, attitude, and behavior into that which is godly that most of the commentary and instruction in the New Testament deals with. This process of transformation cannot be ignored if you desire to enter into the Father's heavenly kingdom as an immortal spirit-being. This process as shown throughout the Bible involves being both a student and steward of the Father's truth and way of truth within his earthly family of king-priests.

If you are truly serious about your salvation and being a viable productive

member of the Father's earthly family, being educated in the Father's truth and way of truth and performing your role as a steward in his family are vital to your spiritual success.

Although this study explains the meaning of discipleship and stewardship and the importance of fulfilling these responsibilities within the Father's family, the following questions need to be answered in order to fulfill these responsibilities:

- How do you become educated in the Father's truth, his way of truth, and his rules of conduct for his family?
- What are the first subjects that you should study and apply in your life?
- How do you fulfill your personal obligation as a steward within the Father's family?

### GOALS

Setting goals to become educated in the Father's truth and to become a productive steward in his family are obviously necessary if you are to progress spiritually. However, setting goals and accomplishing them are two very different things. It should also be obvious that, in order to make any progress toward accomplishing these goals, you must have an action plan. Without an action plan, little or no progress will be made toward accomplishing your goals. The following are some suggestions as to how to produce a personal action plan for spiritual success.

1. Let the Father know through prayer (and fasting if you feel the need) that you are serious about knowing and understanding his will for your life, growing in grace and in the knowledge of him, his son, his truth, and his way of truth, and serving him to the best of your ability. Ask the Father to provide you with spiritual knowledge, understanding, discernment, and gifts of the spirit that are necessary for you to fulfill his purpose for your life.

Will the Father hear and answer this type of commitment and request? Absolutely, he will. While speaking to a multitude of people, Jesus said the following about the Father's willingness to give good things to his children: *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you: For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"* (Matt. 7:7-11 KJV). See also Jn. 14:14, 15:7; Heb. 4:16, Jms. 3:16-18,

Phil. 2:12-13.

In this example, Jesus reveals a major key that will help unlock the great truths to be found in the Bible. A person must not only desire to have spiritual knowledge and understanding but also go to the Father and ask to be given this knowledge and understanding, and then diligently seek it by making a sincere effort to study and meditate on his words: *"Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled"* (Matt. 5:6 Para.). See also Psa. 119:33-40; Jer. 10:23-24.

The Father is more than willing to give knowledge and understanding of the things that will benefit those he has called to salvation. It is his desire to give us the spiritual nourishment that is necessary for spiritual growth. See 1 Pet. 2:2.

2. Define your goals. What is the ultimate goal that the Father has for each individual he calls during this age of salvation? The Father's goal is for each individual he calls to become a member of his heavenly family and kingdom as an immortal spirit-being. Therefore, your primary goal should be the same (See 1 Cor. 15:35-54; Rev. 21:5-7). All other goals are merely an extension of this primary goal and should serve to accomplish it.

3. Develop a personal action plan for success and then put this plan into action. The following are three important reasons that you must develop a personal action plan for success:

- It is evident that during this age, no central authority exists on earth governing the Sovereign Father's family of king-priests scattered throughout the nations or teaching them his truth and way of truth clearly and concisely.
- There are many who teach within the congregations of the elect who are unqualified to teach truth for one reason or another. See Matt. 7:15, 24:11, 24; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 Jn. 4:1.
- Each individual the Father calls to salvation is totally responsible for their own spiritual success or failure. See Phil. 2:12-16; Eph. 4:21-24; Rom. 12:1-2, 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10.

Read the entire article at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-036-01.htm>

**\*\*to be continued in Issue #39\*\***

**("Questioning True Roots..." continued from page 1)**

On the fifth day it occurred to me our nostalgic traditions we add -- Frosty,

Rudolph, Bing and Jimmy -- are harmless sentiments we build on a foundation of sand.

On the sixth day I learned God hates when people try to worship him using heathen customs (Exodus 32). Honor the Druids with mistletoe, holly and yule logs -- and honor God the way he wants to be honored, with obedience (1 Samuel 15:22).

On the seventh day I noticed Santa Claus is more popular with the kiddies than Jesus is! Santa is the fictional creature we created to receive credit for giving of gifts when, in fact, Jesus is the one we owe for everything (James 1:17).

On the eighth day I read that Jesus is no longer that helpless babe in the manger but a glorified spirit-being (Revelation 1). He is not amused at the quaint customs and traditions we so dearly hold. His message is clear -- repent, or fight him at his return.

On the ninth day I discovered the Madonna and child is an old concept of worship not only depicted as Mary and Jesus but also Semiramis and Tammuz, Shingmoo and child, Isis and Osiris, Isi and Iswara, Virgo-Patitura, Fortuna and Jupiter-puer and so on. In ancient cultures they were both to be worshipped - is there a subtle hint Mary and Jesus are to be worshipped as one?

On the 10th day of Christmas I heard the reports of the fallout of Christmas. Overspending has hurt, Families and strained marriages. The maxed-out credit will keep people paying for months. The season of joy is also the most depressed time with the most suicides and alcohol abuse. People's unrealistic, high expectations cannot be met.

On the 11th day I realized the futility of putting Christ back into Christmas, as he never was in it in the first place.

On the 12th day of Christmas my true love, Jesus Christ, allowed me to worship him in spirit and truth, not with the shadows of bygone cultures, but with the acceptable ways, revealed in his holy word - the Bible.

Article found on line at:

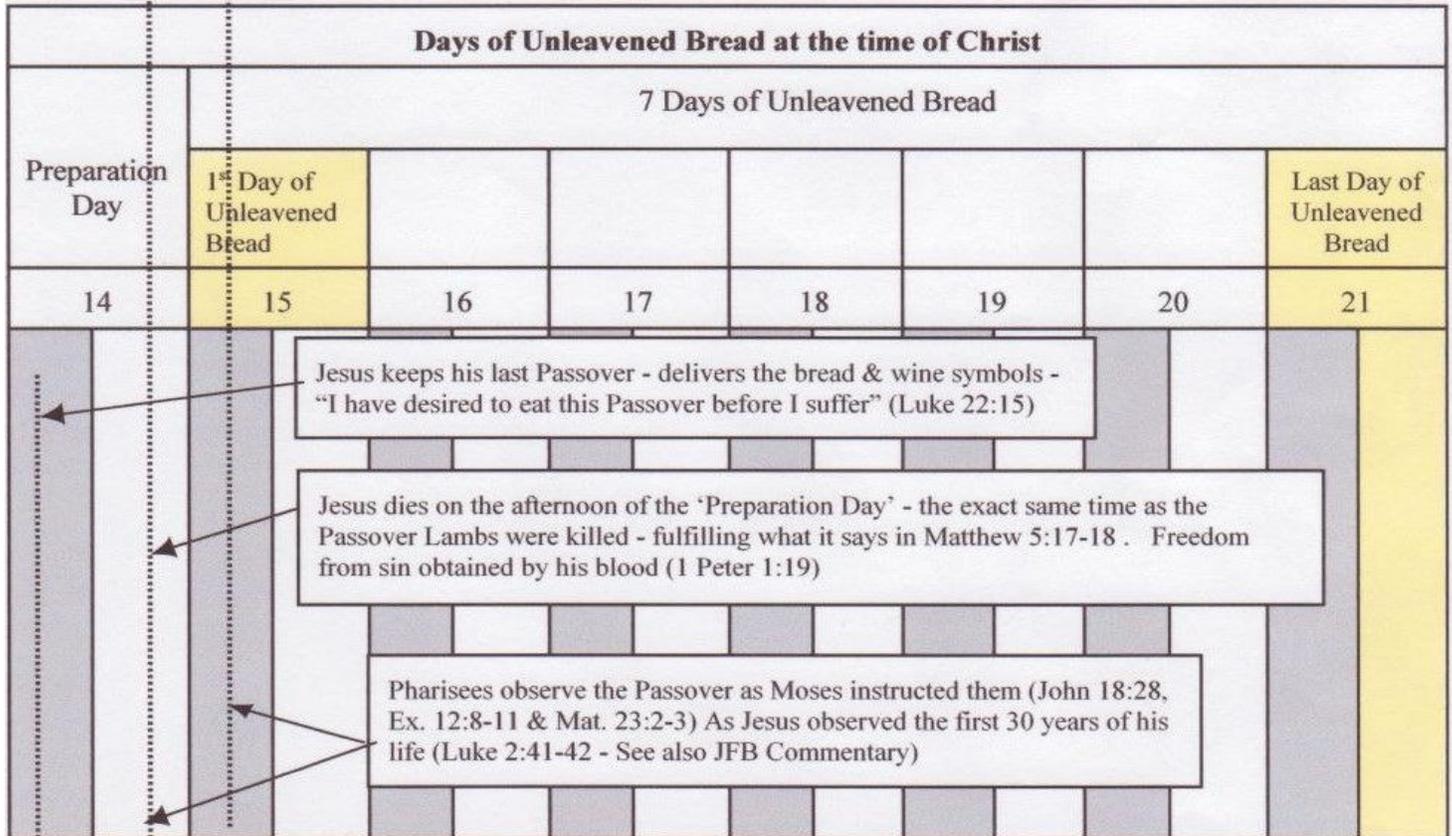
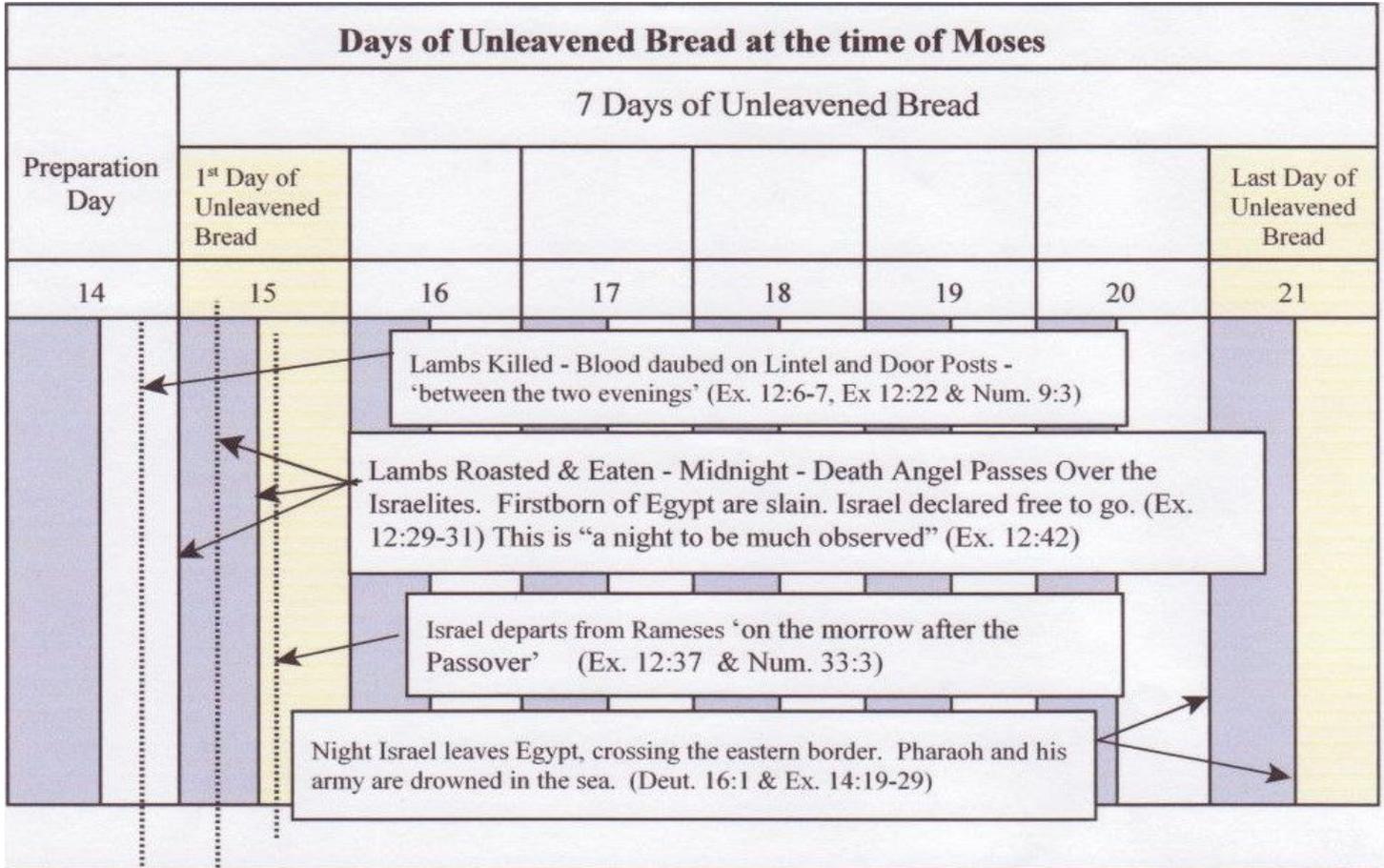
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**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\***

**("The Night Israel..." continued from page 1)**

Passover..."

If we analyze these two verses closely, do we see absolute proof that the Israelites left Egypt on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib? How so? Here in Numbers 33:3 it only says



they "departed from Rameses". It does not say it was the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Rather it says they left on the "**morrow after the Passover.**" Furthermore it says they went out "in the sight of all of the Egyptians." Can this really be a night time event?

For years the Worldwide Church of God taught that the departure from Rameses was the same as coming out of Egypt. But was it? The church was taught to observe the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib for the Passover and the next night... the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>... for the night they actually departed from Egypt. It was designated as the 'night to be much remembered'.

In a Pastor General's Report dated March 21, 1980, Herbert Armstrong writes to the ministry to counter claims that some ministers were beginning to believe the Passover occurred the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> instead of the previous night of the 14<sup>th</sup>. On page 3 of that report Herbert Armstrong writes:

"If, as some would TWIST God's sacred word, they killed the lamb late afternoon near the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> day, then they were to remain in their houses all the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>, until morning, and in the morning burn what was left of the lamb. HOW, then, could they have gone out of Egypt on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan (or Abib) **BY NIGHT**? 'For in the month of Abib the Lord thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt **BY NIGHT** (Deut. 16:1)"

Here in this Pastor General's report, Mr. Armstrong makes the assumption that the departure from Rameses was a night time event. But when we consider closely what Numbers 33:3 really says, it hardly can be thought of as occurring at night.

Look again closely and consider the wording. It says they departed Rameses "on the morrow after the Passover... in the sight of all the Egyptians." Does this sound like something that was happening at night?

Could it be possible then that the "by night" event, referred to in Deuteronomy 16:1, relates to a different time other than the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib? Some ministers at that time thought so. However, Mr. Armstrong felt strongly that they were 'twist(ing) God's sacred word' and that no other explanation was possible.

But were these studies of certain ministers trying to twist God's word or were they sincere in their attempts to answer some questions. Questions they may have had about some things that didn't add up; questions they may have had to answer from some of their congregations as well. To this writer, it appears these queries at that time were sincere. These questions yet remain, which go contrary to what the Worldwide Church of God taught and observed back

then. Yet most church of God groups continue to follow the traditional teaching. Who is right? Can we know for certain?

The purpose of this article is not to criticize or demean Herbert Armstrong's attempts to make plain Biblical truths and it certainly is not trying to twist God's word. If Herbert Armstrong were alive today, and if he would be true to his own words, he would honor attempts to get at the truth of things. That is if he were humble enough to look at them. That is if we, ourselves, are humble enough to change when we are also proved wrong on some points.

Herbert Armstrong often advocated that we ought to let the Bible interpret itself and that we ought to remain unbiased in our approach to seeking understanding. So it is with that frame of mind this study paper is undertaken.

### **The Night Israel Crossed Egypt's Border**

So what night did Israel actually leave Egypt? Clearly, the one description given in the Bible where Israel exits the land of Egypt is when they were taken through the depths of the sea on dry ground, while Pharaoh and his army perished in it's depths. This event is one of the most awesome displays of God's power in all of the Bible. It clearly shows the Israelites walking between two walls of water **at night** with the light of the fiery pillar to guide them. Ex. 13:19-27

19. "And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:
20. And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud of darkness to them, but it gave light **by night** to these: so that the one came not near the other **all the night**.
21. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind **all that night**, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.
22. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground; and the waters were a wall unto them on the right hand, and on their left.
23. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.
24. And it came to pass, that in the **morning watch** the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of

Egyptians,

25. And took off their chariot wheels, that they drove them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians,
26. And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.
27. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength **when the morning appeared**; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea."

Again these few verses clearly show the Israelites crossing a formidable body of water, doing it **at night**, while the Egyptian army is completely annihilated to the last man. This is a clear description of Deuteronomy 16:1 where it says, "The Lord thy God brought thee forth **out of Egypt by night.**"

It's important to understand that up to that time, until the Israelites had crossed this body of water, they were still in Egypt. (Figure 2) They may have started their journey on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib, but not until days later did they actually cross Egypt's border. Notice Numbers 33:5-7.

5. "And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth.
6. And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham, which is in the edge of the wilderness.
7. And they removed from Etham, and turned again unto Pihahiroth, which is before Baalzephon: and they pitched before Migdol."

Here it indicates they camped twice before they finally arrived at the place where they were to cross this insurmountable body of water. If they camped each of the nights after leaving Rameses, that would make it three day's journey. However, it says they traveled by day and by night (Ex. 13:21-22), so it's quite reasonable, considering the urgency, that they may have traveled more than three days? Therefore, wherever this body of water was in relationship to Rameses, it was a considerable distance.

Figure 1 shows what the Worldwide Church of God taught regarding the route they were assumed to take. It is a copy of the sheet taken from the Ambassador Correspondence Course - Lesson 34. This route assumes two things (1) that Mt Sinai is located where tradition says it is - in the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula and (2)

that the body of water the Israelites crossed was on the western edge of the Sinai Peninsula. (Gulf of Suez - Figure 3)

Recently, within a year or so ago, a school teacher from the Chicago area stated that there is absolutely no evidence to prove that the Biblical Exodus ever occurred. His reasoning was that no evidence had ever been discovered to prove the Biblical account. When we investigate the traditional sites, such as the Sinai Peninsula for Mount Sinai, and the Gulf of Suez, that statement is absolutely true. There is virtually no evidence in these places to prove these things happened. But does it prove the Biblical account to be fictitious, or does it only prove that those, searching for the answers, have been looking in all the wrong places?

Since Herbert Armstrong died in 1986, other discoveries, such as those of Ronald E. Wyatt, have brought to light a good deal of evidence proving the locations where all these events happened. This archaeological evidence points to the Gulf of Aqaba on the eastern shores of the Sinai instead of that on the West. (Figure 3) The real Mt. Sinai is located in Arabia (present day Saudi Arabia) as indicated in Galatians 4:25. The mountain is known today as 'Jabal Al Lawz (Figure 3).

### Two Nights

So if Deuteronomy 16:1 is describing when the Israelites actually crossed the border of Egypt, what night is it talking about in Exodus 12:42?

40. "Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years
41. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the self same day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the lord went out from the land of Egypt.
42. It is a night to be much observed unto the Lord for bringing them out from the Land of Egypt: **this is that night of the Lord to be observed** of all the children of Israel in their generations.
43. And the Lord said unto Moses and Aaron, this is the **ordinance (statute) of the Passover...**"

As we read these verses with the story flow, there doesn't appear to be a break between verses 42 and 43, but that verse 43 goes on to describe what should be observed as happening on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>. It was not the crossing of the Red Sea but rather the observance of the Passover. Yes, we should remember the night when God parted the sea and brought Israel through it on dry land. But the **night**. . .the night we are to observe by statute is the night of the Passover (v. 43)

Again, the Church under the leadership

of Herbert Armstrong concluded that the night Israel exited Egypt and the night to be observed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib are one and the same. But as we can see there are **two nights**; (1) when they were given their freedom - Passover night and (2) when they actually crossed Egypt's border.

When the death angel went through the land of Egypt on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib killing all the first born Egyptians, sparing the Israelites, this is what gave them their freedom. The Passover is an event that also happened **at night** and it signaled the beginning of the Exodus, even though they were to remain in their houses all that night, the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib. (Ex 12:21-22)

The Passover was what finally broke the bonds of slavery and freed them. The Egyptians could see by this mighty supernatural act that God's hand... the true God's hand was in it. The Egyptians were not about to argue any longer with this power. Notice Exodus 12:33

33. And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, we be all dead men"

Israel was prepared to go on the night of the Passover. They were fully dressed and ready. The only thing they were waiting on was the announcement that they were free. This came on that same night of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib, the night the death angel 'passed-over' their houses. (Ex 12:29-31) It was the night they were to remember because of what it finally took for them to hear that good news that they were free and could finally be on their way. (Ex 12:26-27)

Through the previous nine plagues, God sent upon the Egyptians, they had their hopes built up where they would finally be free, only to see Pharaoh renege on his promise. But this time... this time it was different. This time they were told, "Be ready. Be dressed. Have your shoes on because as morning comes you're leaving..." They were not about to hang around all day and leave the next night. For it says, "on the morrow after the Passover" they departed from Rameses. (Num. 33:3)

### Archaeological Discoveries

In a book titled '[The Exodus Case](#)' by Dr. Lennart Moller, new evidence is

presented, which confirms the historical Exodus. Dr. Moller traces the route the Israelites took showing proof of the chariot debris on the sea floor. It also shows conclusive proof that the real Mt. Sinai is really in Arabia (modern day Saudi Arabia) just as Galatians 4:25 of the Bible says. The mountain is known today as Jabal Al Lawz (Figure 3)



Figure 1

**Figure 1** -- This layout of the Exodus was taken from the Ambassador Bible Correspondence Course - Lesson 34.

It shows the route that the Worldwide Church of God proposed as that taken by the Israelites when they left Egypt.

The route showing the Red Sea crossing has since proven unsubstantiated by any historical or archaeological data.

At the time of the Exodus, Egypt's eastern border was the Gulf of Aqaba which included all of the Sinai Peninsula. No evidence has been discovered to indicate the real Mt. Sinai was on the Sinai Peninsula. (Figure 2) Rather substantial amounts of data show Mt Sinai, the mountain Moses received the Ten Commandments on, is located in Arabia. (not shown on this map)

From the archaeological evidence presented by Lennart Moller, the actual 'Red Sea' crossing that the Israelites took is shown on Figure 3. This Channel is now known as the Gulf of Aqaba. The Red Sea shown on the map above is now known as the Gulf of Suez.

**Figure 2** -- This map is copied by

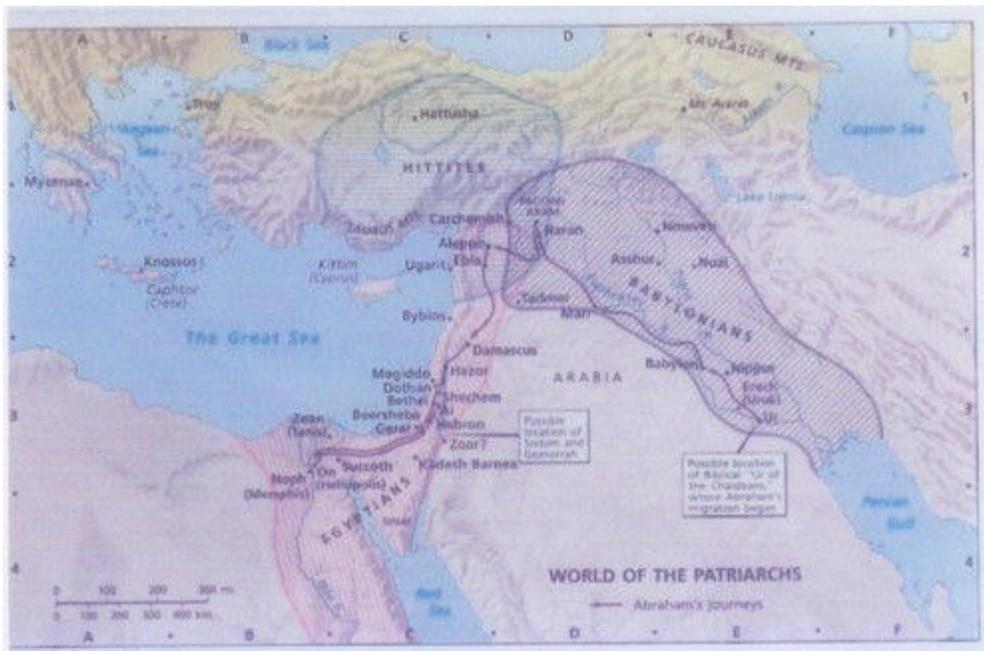


Figure 2

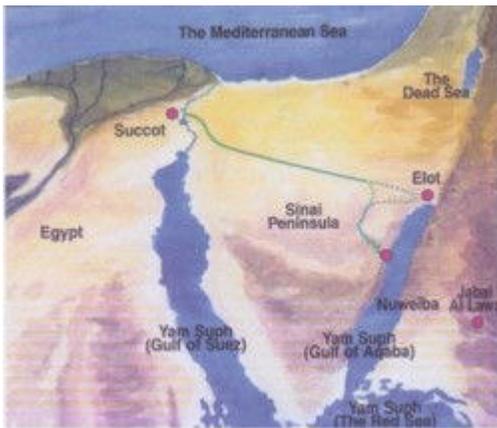


Figure 3

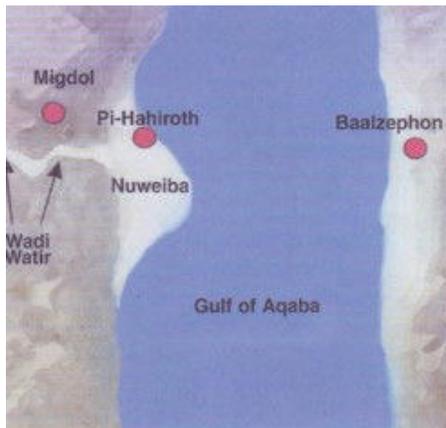


Figure 4

permission from the Bible maps published by Zondervan. Note that the territory shown as Egyptian territory included all the Sinai Peninsula. The eastern border was the Gulf of Aquaba. (Figure 3)

**Figure 3 & 4** -- These two pictures are taken from the Book **'The Exodus Case'** by Lennart Moller. The one on the left shows the route the Israelites took when they left their homes in Egypt.

The western finger of the Red Sea (Gulf of Suez) is the traditional location thought to be the Red Sea crossing. The eastern one (Gulf of Aqaba) is where the underwater debris from Pharaoh's army has been found.

At the time of the Patriarchs Egypt controlled all the Sinai Peninsula up to the Gulf of Aquaba. The Israelites were not out of Egypt until they had crossed this Gulf. This

was the Eastern Border. (See Figure 2)

The country bordering the eastern shores of this Gulf was called Arabia. (present day Saudi Arabia -Fig. 2) This is where a great amount of archaeological evidence has been found revealing the real mount Sinai. The mountain is known today by the name 'Jabal Al Lawz'.

The picture at the right shows the Nuweiba Peninsula where the Israelites were held up with no way of escape from the pursuing Egyptians. Except for the Wadi Watir the coast was lined with high mountains. It's from this point then that God commanded Moses and the people to go forward.

The underwater land surface between Nuweiba and Baalzephon is a land bridge that has a sandy bottom smooth enough to

travel on if the water was removed. This land bridge is strewn with debris from Pharaoh's Army. Full description of the discovery can be found in the book and video titled **"The Exodus Case"** by Lennart Mouler.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-038-02.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\***

**("What Does the..." continued from page 1)**

should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

3. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows [margin: pains] and acquainted with grief [margin: sickness]; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

6. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

7. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.

8. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of My people, to whom the stroke was due.

9. His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was as a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

10. But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; [margin: He made Him sick] if He would render Himself [margin: His soul] as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure [margin: will of] of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

11. As a result of the anguish [margin: toilsome labor] of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.

12. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty

with the strong; Because He poured out Himself [margin: His soul] to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.

To receive a healthier spiritual benefit from this "song" let's further examine the individual verses in depth.

Isa. 53:1 is a prophecy applied to Christ. In the New Testament gospel of John, chapter 12, verse 37-38 is written: 37. But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. 38. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" These verses confirm that the author of the GOSPEL OF JOHN found fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in Jesus. The Apostle Paul also referred to this prophecy in Rom. 10:16.

Isa. 53:2 confirms a prophecy found earlier in Isa. 11:1: 1. Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

Isa. 53:3 also confirms a previous prophecy in Isa. 49:7: 7. "Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, to the despised One, to the One abhorred by the nation, to the Servant of rulers, kings will see and arise, princes will also bow down, because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You." A New Testament fulfillment of Isa. 53:3 can be found in Luke 18:31-33: 31. Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32. "For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked, and mistreated and spit upon, 33. and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again." (These verses also are affirmation that Jesus Himself knew He was/is the Messiah.) We should also look at John 1:11-12: 11. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. Let's look at the noun "sorrows" in Isa. 53:3. STRONG'S #4341, mak'owb, mak-obe is a feminine form of mak'obah, mak-o-bah, from #3510, ka'ab, kaw-ab, to feel pain, also anguish, affliction. According to BROWN-DRIVER-BRIGGS, #4341 when applied to the "Suffering Servant" passage of Isa. 53, both physical and mental pain are meant.

Isa. 53:4 finds fulfillment in the New Testament scripture, Matt. 8:17: 17. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."

Isa. 53:5 is the "heart and soul" of the "Suffering Servant's" song. I have divided it into 4 sub-sections and will quote this verse from the KJV: 5. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. The Amplified Bible reads: 5. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole. Rotherham's Emphasized Bible shows this verse as follows: 5. Yet [[he]] was pierced for transgressions that were ours, was crushed for iniquities that were ours,--[the chastisement for our well-being]] was upon him, and <by his stripes> there is healing for us. The 4 subsections using the words of the KJV:

A. But he was wounded for our transgressions 1. wounded -- pierced through (NASB), tormented (KJV margin), STRONG'S #6588. pasha peh'-shah; a revolt (national, moral or religious)-- rebellion, sin, transgression, trespass. **Note:** THIS CLEARLY TELLS US THAT JESUS DIED FOR EVERY NATIONAL, MORAL AND/OR RELIGIOUS SIN EVER COMMITTED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PANORAMA OF HUMAN HISTORY. Comparable verses for this sub-section are Old Testament Psa. 22:16 and Zech. 12:10 and New Testament John 19:34. Psa. 22:16. For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet [alternate reading: like a lion my...]. Bullinger's The Companion Bible comments on this verse: "As a lion [they break up] my hands and my feet". The Amplified Bible reads: 16. For (like a pack of) dogs they have encompassed me: a company of evildoers has encircled me, they pierced my hands and my feet. Zech. 12:10. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. John 19:34. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

B. He was bruised for our iniquities 1. bruised -- STRONG'S #1792. daka', daw-kaw'; to crumble; tran. to bruise (lit. or fig.) -- beat to pieces, break (in pieces), bruise, contrite, crush, destroy, humble, oppress, smite 2. iniquities -- STRONG'S #5771. 'avon, aw-vone; perversity, i.e. (moral) evil: -- fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment (of iniquity), sin Comparable New Testament scriptures are Rom. 4:25 and 1 Cor. 15:3:

Rom. 4:25. He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification. 1 Cor. 15:3. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. **Note:** PAUL AND EVERY OTHER New Testament WRITER WERE ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT JESUS FULFILLED THIS PROPHETIC VERSE.

C. The chastisement for our peace was upon him 1. chastisement -- STRONG'S #4148. muwcar, moo-saw'r': from 3256; yacar, yaw-sar'; a prim. root; to chastise, lit. (with blows). prop. chastisement; fig. reproof, warning or instruction: also restraint--bond, chastening, chastisement, check, correction, discipline, doctrine, instruction, rebuke Heb. 12:5-8, 10-11:5, and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6. FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." 7. It is our discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8. But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 10. For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11. all discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

**Note:** Jesus was chastened, disciplined, not because He deserved it, but to reconcile us to (bring us peace with) God the Father. Comparable New Testament scripture: Heb. 5:8: 8. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 2. peace -- STRONG'S #7965. shalom, shaw-lome': safe, i.e. (fig.) well, happy, friendly; also (abstr.) welfare, i.e. health, prosperity and peace. **Note:** HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO REALIZE THAT JESUS DIED SO THAT WE MAY PROSPER AND LIVE IN PEACE BOTH WITH OTHER HUMANS AND ALSO WITH GOD?

D. With his stripes we are healed 1. stripes -- STRONG'S #2250. chabbuwrah, khab-boo-raw'; or chabburah, khab-boo-raw'; or chaburah, khab-oo-raw'; from 2266; prop. bound (with stripes), i.e. a weal (or black-and-blue mark itself): -- blueness, bruise, hurt, stripe, wound Comparable Old Testament scripture: Isa. 50:6 and New Testament Matt. 26:67-68, 27:30, Mark 14:65, 15:19, Luke 22:63-64 and 1 Pet. 2:24: Isa. 50:6. I gave My back to those who strike Me, and my cheeks to those whose pluck out

the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. Matt. 26:67. Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped [margin: beat Him with rods] Him, 68. and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ, who is the one who hit You?" 27:30. They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. Mark 14:65. Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers received Him with slaps in the face. 15:19. They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him. Luke 22:63. Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him, 64. and they blindfolded Him and were asking Him, saying, "Prophecy, who is the one who hit You?" 1 Pet. 2:24. and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. **Note:** PETER ASSERTS THAT OUR "HEALING" HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. WE SHOULD REJOICE GREATLY IN THIS.

Isa. 53:6 has fulfillment in 2 Cor. 5:21: 21. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Isa. 53:7 demands our attention to the noun "oppressed" which is STRONG'S #5065. nagas, naw-gas'; a prim. root; to drive (an animal, a workman, a debtor, an army); by impl. to tax, harass, tyrannize A New Testament scripture showing fulfillment of this verse is Acts 8:32 where we find the Ethiopian eunuch reading: 32. Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearers is silent, so He does not open His mouth. (Other New Testament scriptures that apply are Matt. 26:62-63 and Mark 15:3-5.)

Isa. 53:8 is fulfilled in Matt. 27:11-26: 11. Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." 12. And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer. 13. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" 14. And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge [margin: word], so the governor was quite amazed. 15. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the people any one prisoner whom they wanted. 16. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. 17. So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18. For he knew that because of envy they had turned Him over. 19. While he

was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night [margin: today] I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him." 20. But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death. 21. But the governor said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22. Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Crucify Him!" 23. An he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "crucify Him!" 24. When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." 25. And all the people said, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!" 26. Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified. (See also Luke 23:1-25).

Isa. 53:9 is fulfilled in Matt. 27:57-60. 57. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60. and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. "Death" in v.9 is in the intensive tense in the Greek which means simply that Jesus died many deaths. Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus out of an act of love because he himself had been forgiven much. (Compare Luke 7:47). There is also a tradition that he was the uncle of Jesus. This verse in Isa. 53 can also find a fulfillment in 1 Pet. 1:21-22: 21. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22. WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH.

Isa. 53:10 "putting Him to grief" has note in margin: Lit. He made Him sick. "He would render Himself as a guilt offering" turns us to the following scriptures: Lev. 5:16, 6:5, John 1:29, 1 Cor. 1:30, Rom. 3:25, Heb. 7:26, 1 Pet. 2:22 Lev. 5:16. "He shall make restitution for that which he has sinned against the holy thing, and shall add to it a fifth part of it and give it to the priest. The priest shall then make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and it will be forgiven him." **[Note:** 2 Cor. 5:21: He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.] Lev. 6:5. or anything about

which he swore falsely; he shall make restitution for it in full and add to it one-fifth more. He shall give it to the one to whom it belongs on the day he presents his guilt offering. John 1:29. The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." 1 Cor. 1:30. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption. Rom. 3:25. whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation [margin: a propitiatory sacrifice] in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God, He passed over the sins previously committed. Heb. 7:26. For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens. 1 Pet. 2:22. WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH. "Offspring" refers to "spiritual descendants".

Isa. 53:11 "anguish" (travail in the KJV) is STRONG'S #5998-99, 'amal, aw-mal, aw-mawl and means "toilsome labor". Other scriptures relevant to this passage are John 10:14-18: 14. "I am the good shepherd, and I know my own and My own know Me, 15. even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16. "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. 17. "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18. "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I have received from My Father." Phil. 2:8. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. The Amplified Bible has this: 8. And after He has appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! Isa. 45:25. "In the LORD all the offspring of Israel will be justified and will glory." Rom. 5:18-19: 18. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. "Servant" refers us to Isa. 42:1: 1. "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations." "Justify" finds New Testament references in the following

scriptures: Acts 13:38-39: 38. "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39. and through [margin: by] Him everyone who believes is freed [margin: justified] from [margin: by] all things, from which you could not be freed [margin: justified] through [margin: by] the Law of Moses." Rom. 5:15-16: 15. But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. 16. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. The Amplified Bible renders Rom. 5:15-16 as follows: 15. But God's free gift is not at all to be compared to the trespass [His grace is out of all proportion to the fall of man]. For if many died through one man's falling away (his lapse, his offense), much more profusely did God's grace and the free gift [that comes] through the undeserved favor of the one Man Jesus Christ abound and overflow to and for [the benefit of] many. 16. Nor is the free gift at all to be compared to the effect of that one [man's] sin. For the sentence [following the trespass] of one [man] brought condemnation, whereas the free gift [following] many transgressions brings justification (an act of righteousness).

Isa. 53:12 includes the phrase, "And He was numbered with the transgressors" which leads us to the New Testament scripture. Luke 22:37 where Jesus attests that this prophesy is fulfilled in Him: 37. "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has its fulfillment."

**In conclusion**, it is greatly important to note AND TO REMEMBER that whatever our doctrinal differences may be, the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, His suffering which words can never adequately describe, must ever be THE ONE UNIFIER in our walk for Him. I would like to close with this verse found in the gospel of John; words which Jesus Himself uttered on the same night in which He was betrayed: John 15:13: 13. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.." (NKJV).

\*All scriptural references are from the NASB unless otherwise noted.

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Article found on line at:  
<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-038->

03.htm

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*



means please let us know so we might change over to them. In the mean time I suggest that you read the email before you open your mouth and spew out these kinds of false accusations against people (us or others).

**Keith Slough writes:**

11/18/2006 2:17:06 PM

Dear Brethren:

You wrote:

Dear Keith Slough,

I believe that you have a problem.

**What are you doing accusing us of something which is not true. Where is your proof?**

If you read my email carefully, you will also see I *did not accuse* you of anything. I asked a question. SATAN is the accuser of the brethren. I did not accuse but asked a question. I'm glad to know your answer. In this day of spiritual declension and Church of God APOSTASY, naturally, we want to know, so thank you for answering -- however you could have been kinder in the response. But again, thank you anyway for responding to my inquiry. (Asking a question is not making an accusation). Keith

**Laura Lee writes:**

11/19/2006 7:45 AM

Dear Keith Slough,

Perhaps you should go back and reread your own emails to us: The first thing you said on a public list was as follows: "You don't NOW keep the PAGAN HOLIDAYS do you??????? That is disappointing. Keith" The first part is a question, but the second part is an accusation. **The question was:** "You don't NOW keep the PAGAN HOLIDAYS do you??????? **The accusation was:** "That is disappointing." When you make us guilty before we answer as you did, it is an accusation. You made this accusation on a public unmoderated forum using an advertisement for Christmas which was clearly marked as originating from "**Answers in Genesis**" and not from us.

Even though I answered your accusation publicly, approximately 2 hours later you sent me yet another email with a question, an accusation and sarcasm all mixed in. You said: "I saw your ads and..... I hope you

are not now promoting CHRISTMAS....do you now observe the PAGAN Holidays with the Worldwide Church of Tkach?" **The accusation was:** "I saw your ads and....." (The ad(s) did not originate from us, they originated from "**Answers in Genesis**" which is a feed we use to send out Archeological Information to our unmoderated Archeology list.) **The statement was:** "I hope you are not now promoting CHRISTMAS...." **The question was:** "do you now observe the PAGAN Holidays with the Worldwide Church of Tkach?" **The sarcasm was:** "with the Worldwide Church of Tkach?"

You then sent me an email two days later telling me you were not accusing us of anything, and yet there are the accusations in your own emails. You are claiming you only asked a question and that asking a question is not an accusation. If you word a question or a statement in a certain way they can be accusations and yours certainly were the way they were worded.

You also accused me of not sending you a kind answer the second time. Since I had already answered your accusation once in a kind way and you had ignored it, I made my second answer to you very short and to the point. If you viewed my answer to you as unkind, I am sorry, I did not word it that way with the intent to be unkind to you. I however did not view either one of your question/accusation/sarcasm emails as kind. If you were only asking a question because you wanted to know, then the wording should have been something like follows: Do you now keep Pagan Holidays? or Are you now promoting Christmas? or something similar. The question should have been asked without accusation or sarcasm and would have been far kinder than what you did write.

You also claim that the accuser of the Brethren is Satan and you are absolutely correct on that point. So does Satan then manifest himself to the Brethren as a cute little red demon with pitchfork in hand to accuse the Brethren **or does he influence the Brethren to accuse each other?**

My thought is that if one wants a kind answer then write a kind question void of accusations and sarcasm. If you are unable to read the email ad as being clearly marked as being from "**Answers in Genesis**", knowing full well as you do that the Archeology Exchange email list is unmoderated and if you cannot see your own mistake of accusing us when it is pointed out to you, then you are clearly blind and do have a problem. Hope this will help you in understanding both Biblical principle and your own deception via Satan's Influence. I have tried to be kind to you in this letter, unfortunately most people do not take

correction as a kind act from someone who truly loves you and wants you to succeed in making it into the Kingdom of God as I and Darwin want you to.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-02.htm>

\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*

**Book Reviews (6-4-06)**

**by Dale & Beverly Smith (Olney, Illinois)**

Thank you for the letter that you wrote to me and also for the latest newsletter.

I sent the articles to you for your information to do with as you think best. I know there was a lot to digest, but the truth is always that way.

I have recently read two books that are very informative and educational. The first is titled **Ill Fares the Land, the Planned Famine for America**. It has many quotes from the governmental agencies and also excerpts from the speeches of the many presidents from the early 1920's. It was published in 1966 and has so much information in it that everyone should read it, since the things are coming to pass that they planned for us.

The second book is titled **The Thirteenth Tribe**. When I got it I thought it was about the tribes of the Israelites. How wrong I was!!! It is the farthest from the truth about the tribes of Israel. It is about the biggest fraud and hoax that has ever been perpetrated on us and the world. When you read it, you will understand. It also has all the documentation needed to tell what happened.

Our best to you and we are very sorry that Richard Nickels is very sick with cancer and that it has spread to other parts of his body. He may be cured with the help of our Heavenly Father. Our prayers are with him.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-03.htm>

\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*

**Turn Down the Volume (12-21-06)**

**by Mel Tennant (Louisville, Ohio)**

**Mel Tennant writes:**

Please get rid of the music on your website. It is very intrusive when you are trying to look for information. It does not sound like you must **think** on the other end. Thanks.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Many people as well as us, like the

music, so it stays. Did you ever **think** to turn your volume down or mute it, so everyone will be happy?

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-04.htm>

\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*

**Impressive Website (3-24-06)**

**by Leslie A. Turvey (Canada)**

**Leslie A. Turvey writes:**

You have an impressive website, but I have one problem with it. I am visually impaired, and the perpetual motion makes it difficult for me. Despite that, I am going to bookmark it, as you fill a definite need for the world. Brother Leslie (A servant of the only true and living God)

**Laura Lee writes:**

Dear Leslie,

We will admit that the opening page is a little wild, but if you can get past that, many of the other pages have a lot less action. We are sorry for your handicap but hope you will visit our Web Site often. Thank you for the nice entry in our **Guest Book**.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-05.htm>

\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*

**Confused (7-28-06)**

**by Peggy Wales (Hartford, Wisconsin)**

**Peggy Wales writes:**

I would like to unsubscribe from all your lists and whatever. As much as I would like to offer our services to your subscribers or readers of your site, we just get entirely too much email from you, especially the **advertising list**. I find your method of organization confusing, but it could be me. Continue on with the good work that you do, but I would like you to do it without sending me so much email. Please feel free to leave a link to our **feastgoer site** on your web pages or any other link, but if you can't leave them on without sending me so much mail, then please do what you have to do. We still have a link to your site on our webpage. Thanks for letting us advertise with you. No hard feelings, but I am tired of having to go and empty our email box. Thanks, May God bless your efforts.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Sorry you were confused. The **"Advertising List"** is an unmoderated email list where those on it can advertise their

articles, books, feasts, church events, etc. It is meant for it to generate email which might be helpful to those who are on the list. We are sorry that you felt it was a burden.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-06.htm>

\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*

**Passover (4-8-06)**

**by Arlan Weight (Bismarck, North Dakota)**

**Arlan writes:**

Hi Darwin and Laura,

How are you? Hope everything is well with you. I want to ask you if you are willing that I may observe the Passover with you this year?

**Darwin & Laura write:**

Now how is that going to work after the way you treated us?

**Arlan writes:**

I am willing to put all of last year's events behind me and am hoping you may also.

**Darwin & Laura write:**

We're fairly sure that you have already moved on without us, not giving much thought to the hurt you have caused here by the lying and division you and you alone are responsible for having caused.

**Arlan writes:**

I believe the Passover ought to be kept at it's proper time, which is the night of the 15th of Abib. I believe this is quite important but there is something that is of more importance. In 1 Corinthians it says we can have all understanding of mysteries and all knowledge etc, but if we have not charity, we are as nothing.

**Darwin & Laura write:**

We guess you should have thought about how much love you had for us as your brethren when you got angry and started your own group to the exclusion of us. We guess you should have thought about how much love you had for us as your brethren when you decided to tell us one lie after the other. We guess you should have thought about how much love you had for us as your brethren when you totally quit talking to us since January 2, 2006. You want to tell us about love after all that you have done to us your brethren?

**Arlan writes:**

So even though you and I can agree that



# The Church of God Messenger

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

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the Passover is properly kept on the night of the 15th it means nothing unless we can have that basic ingredient of charity toward each other. I recognize there are areas I could have done a better job at and am willing to work at those. If you can agree to work harder to build bridges, I believe we can continue on a pathway of growth.

#### Darwin & Laura write:

We did nothing but try to build bridges with you ever since July of 2005, but you would have nothing to do with it. You were the one that wrote the "**Go to your brother...**" article and then when your brother came to you, you deleted him as your brother. You were the one that wrote the article about **not disfellowshipping people** and then you turned right around and solidly quit talking to us since January 2, 2006. So add to the rest of the problem between us your sin of hypocrisy.

#### Arlan writes:

With that in mind, I say again I am willing to keep the Passover with you this year. If you don't feel comfortable yet, let me know. Maybe we can give it some more time.

#### Darwin & Laura write:

Time is not what will heal the wounds you have inflicted here. The only thing that will heal the wounds you have inflicted here is if you repent of what you have done to us. You seem to believe that the only one you have to repent to is God, but that is clearly not what the Bible says:

Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Luke 17:4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent: thou shalt forgive him.

You also seem to feel that your lying to us is something we should get over and not something you should take responsibility for and quit doing but the Bible says otherwise:

Col. 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

God also tells us that if we love God and his children, we will:

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.

A person has no love for the brethren or for God when they do not keep the

commandments of God.

#### Arlan writes:

Again, I want to be up front with you that I feel strongly to continue to meet with other groups as well.

#### Darwin & Laura write:

We never had a problem with you meeting with other groups. What we have a problem with is that you started your own group to the exclusion of us when there was a way you could have done this to include everyone. We don't believe you are getting that point.

#### Arlan writes:

But towards you, I want you to know I bear no ill will and want to forgive and forget.

Sincerely

Arlan

#### Darwin & Laura write:

You act as if we were the ones that created this whole mess, when you were the one that kept on going down that road of self destruction even though we tried our hardest to warn you that what you were doing to us personally and as a group was not right. We have no idea why you would want to come here for Passover as you and us are of two different religions. We believe that the laws of God literally need to be kept, and you seem to believe you can bend them when it serves your purpose. When we see some real fruits of repentance coming from you Arlan, that will be the time when things become right between us and reconciliation takes place. Hope this answers your question.

With Much Love,  
Darwin & Laura Lee

#### Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-07.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Thanks! (06-30-06)**

**by Ronald Barlow (Huntsville, Texas)**

The below letter was in regard to a letter "**Works/Grace**" which was printed starting in **Issue #33**.

#### Ronald Barlow writes:

Thank you for sharing with me your thought and teaching. Sincerely, Ronald Barlow

#### Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-08.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Unscrupulous Practice? (11-03-06)**  
**by brorich@scrtc.com (Via Email)**

#### brorich@scrtc.com writes:

I had contacted you previously, but I am still receiving junk emails from you. Remove my name from ALL of your lists. I never signed up for this... and since your emails come **using the email address of a friend as the "sender"** I can't even block them, as it would prevent me receiving legitimate emails from that friend. This is a very **unscrupulous practice!**  
**brorich@scrtc.com**

#### Laura Lee writes:

Wow, some days it doesn't even pay for us to get out of bed in the morning!

Until we received this email we didn't even have this email address on any of our email lists and to the day this is printed, we do not have a name or location for the email sender.

**We do not send any email out using other peoples email addresses.** So there is **no unscrupulous practice** going on here.

I believe what is going on here is that your friend is passing on emails that he perhaps receives from us directly or from someone else that your friend knows who gets emails directly from us.

We sincerely hope that next time this type of thing happens to you, that you would check with your friend first, before you start accusing people of things they **are not** doing to you.

#### Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-09.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**The Next 2 Letters Go Together.**

***Only Wanted Our Prayers (01-01-07)***

**by Lisa Burnett (Middletown, Ohio)**

#### Lisa Burnett writes:

Laura,

First, I must say that I am so very sorry for all of the chaos I caused by my "**Prayer Request**" post. Never, ever would I have posted such a request had I known I would offend anyone. At the time of my Request, and even now, I was/am simply seeking prayers. Prayers to help me and my daughters to get through such a devastating period. I am still desperate for help. I have

visited many local churches and still have no idea of where I belong... I am a truly lost soul and don't know where to turn for help. At this point, I have learned that I need to keep it to myself and not ask for help from others... When I do, I upset or offend someone and that is never my intent.

To be quite honest, with all of the searching I have done, I'm not even sure if there is a God anymore. If there is, how do I find him? What congregation do I join? I just have so many questions and no one to answer them.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Please feel free to ask us any questions you want. We will do our best to get answers for you.

**Lisa Burnett writes:**

Today, I received your "Package" of cards, the e-mail from **Sandy** (when reading this, I honestly felt hugged, loved, appreciated and accepted), and the pamphlet on **"When Will God Heal?"** These items are very, very helpful to me. And I will share them with my daughters, ages 5 & 16.

We are still grieving and some days, I feel it is getting worse. I try to hide it from my daughters and I don't share with them how I feel about "God", but I know what I'm feeling isn't right... I should never have any doubts about "Him".

Darwin and Laura, thank you so very much for sharing this package and feed back with me. Once again, I am so very sorry for the **problems** I caused by my request. At the time, I honestly didn't know that asking for such help would result in such hurt on other folks part. As with any child, regardless of age or sex my girls deserved a Christmas. The only person I knew of to ask for help was "God" and I thought your **website** was the correct one to join. I have been proven wrong.

**Laura Lee writes:**

We would like you to reconsider and subscribe to our email list again. We are sorry that some treated you as they did. We cannot prevent others from hurting you, but we want you to know that some of us do care about you.

**Lisa Burnett writes:**

As a result, we are still grieving and my daughters are doing without. They, unlike other children did not have a gift on Christmas morning. I could not even share the gift of life with them because of my unsureness now. As I said, I am truly lost. Most individuals, when faced with my problems, get out their Bible and read it for fulfillment. I don't have a Bible. And now, I don't know what kind of Bible to get if given

the opportunity.

**Laura Lee writes:**

We requested that someone send you the following, an "Old King James Bible" so that you can use it with "The Strong's Concordance" that someone else is sending to you. We also requested a CD Bible program be sent to you so you can search quickly. People have said they have sent these things to you and I know at least one person was going to send you some money to help you with food and someone else was sending you some literature. There are probably others we don't know about that will send things to you also.

We want you to know God and His Son as we do. We will give you some advise as you receive all the various items people are sending to you. Number one if you have questions please ask them. Don't ever be afraid to ask questions. Second, do not just take the word of only one person for what they tell you. Ask many people the same questions. Third, get proof from scripture for what people are telling you and then look those things up for yourself.

**Lisa Burnett writes:**

Thank you so very much for sharing these kind words. They helped me tremendously today... Again, thank you! Lisa Burnett (513) 217-6544

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-10.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Happy to Help Others (01-06-07)**  
**by Eugene DeFalco (Holbrook, New York)**

**Eugene DeFalco writes:**

Thank you for being a wonderful inter mediator. It all worked out fine. Joyce sent her address, and I responded.

I think I already told you, but Monday I will send a package to Lisa with the CD's and the Bible companion. I am sure she will be able to look up things much easier with the **E-Sword program**. I use it all the time. I also sent the address to Joyce. It is so much faster than having a bunch of books, and try to jump from one to the other. It was a time consuming thing for us that know the Bible. It would be much harder for a newbie like Lisa.

Of course the hard copy books are still a good thing for her. But she now will have more options. We should remember to pray for guidance for her. And I always think it is a good thing to do the same when we all do a study. It is amazing to me how every time I read the Bible, I always seem to see

something new. I am eighty years old, but still learning. Enjoy the Sabbath, Gene

**Laura Lee writes:**

We would like to thank Gene and Joyce and everyone who has sent things to Lisa. Thank you.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-11.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Old WCG Radio Programs (01-03-07)**  
**by Cindy Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)**

**This is in response to a letter sent by Gerald Kloss and printed in Issue #37.**

**Cindy Burson writes:**

Joyce Papay has this service. Laura you should contact her and see all they have to offer from Worldwide Church of God years. [COGcads@worldnet.att.net](mailto:COGcads@worldnet.att.net) Hope this helps, Cindy

**Laura Lee writes:**

We contacted the above email address and we were told that you should contact: COG CDS, PO Box 442, Wadsworth, OH 44281 or email them at: [COGCDS@att.net](mailto:COGCDS@att.net) and ask for an order blank. You can also download items via web links from their Web Site at: <http://cogcads.home.att.net/>

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-12.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Reminders (11-20-05)**  
**by Robert Goldman (Ione, California)**

**Robert Goldman writes:**

Dear Darwin & Laura,  
Hello! I would like to take this time to thank you both for giving me this opportunity to be a part of this medium ya'll have set up! It's very different and like nothing like I've seen to date. This is something I've prayed (for) about, to be able to share with others outside of this place, what "part" Yahweh has revealed to me in my studies of His word. I've sent just a small tid-bit of what His spirit has enlightened me with in his word, with this letter! But more will follow in the future to go on the web-site and newsletter you've set up. Plus Questions for others with "parts" revealed to them that I don't have! 1 Corinthians 13:9; Proverbs 27:17.

I did send a **question** in my first letter,

which you've stated that you have set aside. That is the only question that I have at this time, so I look forward to the answer ya'll send my way! Also with the application (subscription form) you sent for me to fill out, I've sent an **Ad**. I hope you could place this on your web-site and newsletter as a reminder to the body of those in prison and jails that have needs that takes money to buy!

I believe I also put a prayer request in to the last **letter** I sent you, about one of my sons that is missing after "Katrina" swept thru the Mississippi Gulf Coast. So please refer to the letter. Thank you again -- May Yahweh overwhelm ya'll with His love and blessings! Shalom, Robert Goldman

**Laura Lee writes:**

Your prayer request and your question were both printed in **Issue #31** in the letters section and your ad was printed in **Issue #34** in the letters section.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-13.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

**God Authors Beauty (03-16-06)**

**by Larry Graff (House Springs, Missouri)**

**This letter is in response to a letter written by Terry Ramlow and printed in newsletter Issue #32.**

Dear Laura,

I felt a little down concerning the **letter** written by Terry Ramlow in Wisconsin, concerning the internet. She complained against the intense colors as hurting her eyes, as well as the "distraction". Maybe if her eyes would weep, the tears would help them.

You are right in saying that some people like it. I am one of those. I find the different color gems, stars, boxes, animals, etc. and the bright colors are easy on my eyes. The different designs and bright colors really help me to find different things on the internet. Also the music, "Our God is an Awesome God", is relaxing. But you can turn the music off.

I believe your web site is very beautiful. That and the music gave me unspeakable joy. God is the author of beauty and quality, and love. Satan is the author of ugliness, competition and mediocre. In spite of the questionable moneys spent, Ambassador College had a lot of beauty all around. When your web site is filled up, it will have more colors and designs. Poor Terry.

Laura, you may put this or parts of it in

your newsletter. Sincerely, Larry Graff

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-14.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

**Sacred Names? (09-29-05)**

**by Richard A. Heath (Vero Beach, Florida)**

**This letter is in response to an Editor's Note which was put on an item "Sacred Names Doctrine?" by Richard A. Heath which was printed in newsletter Issue #29.**

**Richard A. Heath writes:**

Dear Brother & Sister Lee,

Thank you for publishing my 'ad.' I can only hope that YHWH uses it for good. Your comments seemed (to me) to miss the mark' concerning what I was testifying about. If you have opportunity, perhaps you could clarify some of them... for instance:

**Laura Lee writes:**

Please correct me if I am wrong, but I believe **your information ad** was geared to promote a sacred names doctrine.

**Richard A. Heath writes:**

1) When Peter proposed that, "There is no other Name given among men whereby we must be saved," are you stating that there is No Name whereby we must be saved, or that it just isn't "Yahoshua?"

**Laura Lee writes:**

The verse you are referring to reads as follows: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

A better way to render this verse would be as follows: Neither is there salvation in any other besides Christ: for there is no other power/authority under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The verse is not referring to a literal name saving anyone but a power which is Christ. There is more than one meaning in Strong's Concordance for the word "name" used in this verse.

Strongs #3686 for name: #1=name: univ. of proper names #2=the name is used for everything which the name covers, everything the thought or feeling of which is aroused in the mind by mentioning, hearing, remembering, the name, i.e. **for one's rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command, excellences, deeds etc.** #3=persons reckoned up by name #4=the cause or

reason named: on this account, because he suffers as a Christian, for this reason.

The problem with believing this verse is referring to a literal name is that it would then be saying that we are being saved by the name of God whatever you say that name is. The Bible in no way supports any such teaching that a name saves anyone. What saves us is when we show love for our Maker by following His commands.

To answer your question, I am saying that there is **No Name (literally)** that saves anyone. What Christ's real name is, is not brought into question in this verse.

**Richard A. Heath writes:**

2) I agree that simply pronouncing the Mighty One's Name without fearing & obeying Him is futile. But, are you therefore saying that He doesn't have a Name? The tetragrammaton occurs in the scriptures approaching 7,000 times!! There can be no doubt (or at least there shouldn't be!) that YHWH is YHWH's Name.

There ARE many other things necessary for salvation. However, as you said yourself, "Our salvation requires that we do something rather than JUST get His Name correct." To use the Messiah's words in a different context, "These ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matt.23:23).

**Laura Lee writes:**

I fully agree that both God and Christ have a name, however I do not believe that people should try to make that into a doctrine when there is no command in the Bible showing we are to do so. Instead of putting emphasis on having the correct name of God as being a sign, you should be putting emphasis on keeping the laws of God.

Another problem with teaching such a doctrine is that there are many sacred names groups out there and not all of them are using the same name for God or for Christ. Even when you look up "tetragrammaton" it has several listed, some are as follows: JHVH, IHVH, JHWH, YHVH, and YHWH. So tell me which one of these sacred names groups actually has the name of God or Christ correct? Then understand that God is not the author of confusion.

**Richard A. Heath writes:**

3) I don't deny that the concept of a sacred language comes from the Kabbalah, any more than I deny that 'star-gazers' have believed that the positions of celestial bodies influences our lives. But-does that mean that the stars don't exist, or that YHWH's and Yahoshua's Names haven't been preserved for us in the Hebrew tongue? (I think not.)

Finally, I have no idea whether or not the Hebrew language existed prior to Babel. I'll give you the benefit of the doubt, that it didn't! YHWH

'introduced' Himself to the writers of scripture in their 'lingua franca;' which just happened to be Hebrew! Is that so bad? I don't see the relationship. What is so bad about Hebrew? Maybe I'm misreading you, but you sound prejudiced to the Hebrew language. Please correct me if I'm wrong. A brother and fellow traveller, Richard A. Heath

**Laura Lee writes:**

Yes, the stars exist even if some people use them in a wrong and inappropriate way. Many languages exist today even though some use certain ones for a wrong purpose as shown in the Kabala.

No I am not prejudiced to the Hebrew language, however for those who want to say "Torah" for law and "Yahoshua" for Christ, then why not go all the way and learn the whole language and then only use the Hebrew language, instead of speaking part English and part Hebrew, because that is essentially what you are doing.

Hebrew was not the only language that Christ used while here on earth, so there is really nothing magical about the Hebrew language in and of itself. In Hastings Dictionary of the Bible, Revised Edition 1963, under language it says: "**Language of Christ.**--Four languages were in use in Palestine in the first century of our era, Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic, and it is at least not impossible that Jesus was acquainted to some degree with all of them; each of them, moreover, has been put forward at one time or another as the language in which Jesus habitually spoke and taught."

I will go one further than this and say that Christ being the creator of all, would know how to fluently speak every language ever created and today communicates with His people in whatever language they speak right now. He doesn't need a special language to mark his people because His people are marked by their obedience to Him.

Now with all that said, I will also add, that there is nothing wrong with speaking words in a different language, whether it be Hebrew or some other language, however before teaching it as a doctrine, you had better be able to prove it from scripture. If you cannot prove that a sacred names doctrine exists from scripture, then you should not be teaching it to anyone else.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-15.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

**Parole Denied (3-6-06)  
by P. F. Lazor (Delano, California)**

Dear Darwin & Laura,

**RE: PAROLE DENIED AND WHAT COMES NEXT**

As I expected and forewarned, yesterday (2-23-06) I was denied parole at my hearing. My next hearing was put off for 3+ years; but the good news is that that can be brought down to one year, with your prompt help. I'll explain that below.

Your outpouring of tremendous letters of support and protest were most beneficial in "making the record" to petition the courts as the next step of this process. I again thank with deep appreciation all who wrote, prayed and contributed; be assured these did IMMENSE good and were not wasted effort. They stated they'd never been so impressed (blown away) with such overwhelming community support and superb parole plans. Thanks to all of you, that is now part of the permanent record for the courts.

But the same falsehoods and tampered evidence that won the conviction in the first place were presented by the deputy D.A. in this hearing, tied into the 20+ years of prison misconduct reports. (There is truly nothing I can do to stop these, as they are maliciously generated in spite of my behavior being continually as proper as any prisoner could possibly be). I presented over **40 recent laudatory reports** about me from the honest prison staffers, proving this, but the commissioner admitted that one negative thing will overcome all the positives. (Though the law does not concur with that).

But here is what you can still do to help me correct part of this unfair decision. The present decision is "**not final**" until the oversight committee, the "Decision Review Unit" finalizes it in the coming weeks. (How long we have varies from a couple weeks to several). Governing regulations (Title 15, California Code of Regulations §2028 and §2041(f)), provide that any person (= you), can write the BPH with comments or new information to affect a more favorable result.

Based on this, I urge those of you who are not too burned out yet, to write, protesting the 3-year denial (put-off), in such a way that stands a realistic chance to be granted (as we won't challenge the denial itself, because I already know that is useless under this, or any, provision short of the courts). Also your letters sent now for this matter will become a part of

the record for the courts, which will enhance my chances for relief in my court petition. We will only be asking in this approach for the Decision Review Unit of the parole board to give me what I already have coming; hence a realistic chance to get the next hearing reduced from 3-years to 1-year from now. Everything is already explained in the attached **FORM/SAMPLE LETTER** which I'm enclosing as a model for you to use as a guideline for your own letter. You can do it VERBATIM if you wish. Since this is a pure-law type of request, it is okay if everyone's letters are the same -- or you may modify it as desired along these guidelines. If you wish to receive the Chaplain Francis documentation (proof) before you write the board, ask me immediately, but that delay may make your ultimate letter too late to the board. So, if you are willing, it's best to send your letter promptly to the board, as on this sample/model letter. You'll understand, as you review it, attached here. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE**, because they may act to finalize the decision very soon, within a couple weeks (or it could be longer-we have no way to know). If possible, send copies of your letters to me. Thank you, and bless you for your efforts.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-16.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

**Where is Church Unity? (11-19-06)  
by George E. Padgett (England)**

**George Padgett writes:**

Dear Darwin and Laura,

In a recent **Journal**, Bob Ross makes a very profound statement; "True Christianity changes men instead of men changing true Christianity." In a previous **Journal** a man from London said, "I am now of the opinion that if you do not have the internet you are not a true Christian."

Why are those two statements connected, one sadly and tragically indicative of God's true end time church?

Some time ago I phoned a minister to ask his opinion as to why the church eventually broke up. Without hesitation he said it was corruption at the top. True, but let us go back many years, to the 70's, when problems were deep rooted and never sorted out.

The problems of the Worldwide Church of God lay firmly at the feet of Herbert Armstrong; that is of course he accepted willingly he was an apostle, which he did.

From Herbert W. Armstrong, through the ranks; if God's word had been adhered to and not twisted to suit the 'power and control' that emanated from Pasadena, then gladly embraced by the ministry together with illegal bonuses at least times, we then would have had a church that followed God's word, and not a church that changed God's word to suit ministers' lust for power over the brethren.

Where has this led God's people? Look around you at the contentious, hatred filled, divided, bickering mob that comprises 'true' Christians. This present unacceptable situation is a stench to Jesus Christ, and prompted the man in London to believe nobody cares. He is right, nobody does care!!

**Darwin & Laura Lee write:**

We do care George, unfortunately there is little we can do when only a few people listen. The trend in God's Church at this point seems to be **"spiritual blindness"**. It seems that when you are a "True Christian" and have all this "Truth", you can **say** and **do** what ever you want to, to your brethren as well as the outside world and you never have to apologize for any of your mistakes or sins, even when you get caught red handed and are shown the proof right to your face. That is the state of the Church of God at this point and to us it looks no different than the rest of the world.

Some believe our letters section to be gossip, some hate it, some love it and others are somewhere in between. Which ever category you are in, it is a reflection of the Church of God at this time in history. It will not change until there is a change of heart among God's people.

In order for true reconciliation to take place, there have to be admissions of sin and wrong doing. Apologies and repentance to

those you have wronged as well as to God have to take place. If you are not apologizing/repenting to your brethren and others, then you are not apologizing or repenting to God either, because the two go hand in hand.

If you don't want to admit to your own wrong doing or sin against others than don't worry about not feeling forgiven by others. If you claim you did nothing wrong, then no one needs to forgive you for anything, so don't expect it. Forgiveness can only happen if you did something wrong and apologize/repent of it.

The trend at this time, both in the Church of God and in the world around us, whenever a problem occurs is for those who have been wronged to just forgive, forget and get over it. God doesn't just forgive you, forget your sin or get over it unless you apologize/repent to Him and so it should be among the Church of God or they are no different than the world that surrounds them. The problems no matter how painful must be resolved in order for them to ever be forgiven or forgotten. That is why the Church of God is so divided.

Many of you are angry or upset at people who don't even know that you are angry or upset at them. Many of you know that people are angry or upset at you but you don't know why. It is the responsibility of the person who is angry or upset to make it known to the person they are angry or upset at, that they are angry or upset and why they are angry or upset and then it is the responsibility of both people to try their very hardest to resolve the problem. Problems between people cannot be resolved by only one of the people involved and problems do not go away over short or long periods of time. Unresolved problems actually get worse over long periods of time because the human mind has a way of embellishing a

small matter by turning it into a very large matter the longer it goes unresolved.

For those who claim to be God's people, lets turn this around so that the outside world can truly see God's people as being different, a light to light their path rather than people who do it the same as they do, which ultimately leads to places such as World War I, II and perhaps III.

**George Padgett writes:**

Jesus Christ knows full well what it is like to be cast aside; and I am not talking about His past experience of human nature, I am talking about the present, the here and now!

As we look at the disgusting, disgraceful state of over 300 groups, brought about by people who are largely disinterested in other Christians, is it any wonder we witness this when, since the early 70's man has changed true religion and cast God aside.

Brethren are deliberately opposing, fighting against God's word by applying their own opinions and views to the true calendar, the real meaning of the words 'unity' and 'harmony,' etc.

If God's people have the Spirit of God in them, why do we have a situation that is Laodicean amongst those who have left the Worldwide Church of God?

The corporate body of the church is made up of the ministry worldwide. These people have cast aside Jesus Christ, who knocks for admission but is refused. Our Lord is reduced to standing outside and extending an invitation to individuals.

This is not something purely for the future, it is happening on a wide scale now.

**Read the entire letter on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-17.htm>

**\*\*to be continued in Issue #39\*\***

**QUESTIONS SECTION**

[the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net](mailto:the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net)

**QUESTION #61**

**I have been studying about the Giants in Genesis. I caught the tail end of an article on TV about the island where they found their skeletons and they were huge, but I didn't catch the name of the island do you know it?**

The bones of giants have been found in the Vanuatu Islands and the Solomon Islands. Some of the most famous are the giants of Guadalcanal Island, reported as having been ten feet tall.

**Answer by: Wily Elder (North Miami, Florida)**

**KIDS KORNER**

[the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net](mailto:the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net)

THE MESSAGE BOARD (ADS & INFO) --

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- February 17, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
February 24, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #162 & Lesson #163
March 3, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
March 9, 2007----Bible Study
March 10, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #164 & Lesson #165
March 17, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
March 24, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #166 & Lesson #167
March 31, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
April 2, 2007----Passover at Sunset (See Ad)
April 3, 2007----First Day of Unleavened Bread (See Ad)
April 7, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #168 & Lesson #169
April 9, 2007----Last Day of Unleavened Bread (See Ad)
April 14, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
April 20, 2007----Bible Study
April 21, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #170 & Lesson #171
April 28, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
May 5, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #172 & Lesson #173
May 12, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: April 15, 2007. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

SABBATH SERVICES

Every Saturday at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 1:00 PM for Fellowship

BIBLE STUDY

Every 6 weeks on Friday at 8:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 6:30 PM for Fellowship and Pot Luck Meal (Bring Food)

Scientific Articles of Interest to Creationists

by Jeffrey Caldwell (Redwood City, California)

I commend the Featured Link on the ABR [Associates for Biblical Research] Electronic Newsletter for May 2001: "A categorized list of articles of interest to creationists is now webbed. Go to http://www.rae.org/ and click on "Ashby Camp's Index of Articles."

This is a very impressive list and includes articles by some of the top creationist scientists.

The Associates for Biblical Research are at:

http://www.christiananswers.net/home.html

Item found on line at: http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-038-01.htm

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*

Limited Time Special Book Price Offer

by Steven M. Collins (Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

All four of my books in the 4-part series are back in print and I'm offering a special deal to the first 50 people who order the 4-book set from me at: Steven Collins, PO Box 88735, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-8735.

They will be sold for \$72 plus \$8 shipping fees for a total of \$80, but I will personalize and sign all four copies in the set for free. Some have been ordered, but there are more to send out yet if you want to let others know about it.

This deal isn't being offered at the publisher's website.

Item found on line at: http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-038-02.htm

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*

PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES --

PrayerRequestsAndUpdates @darwinlauralee.com

January 2007

DeFalco, Gene----Daughter is in Hospital Savannah, Joyce----Financial Problems

February 2007

Story, Ron----Dad is in Hospital

**PASSOVER --- DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD IN BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA**

We will observe Passover here at 320 N. Griffin St., on the evening of Monday April 2, 2007, at Sunset. We will serve a meal. Because we are serving a meal, we do need to know ahead of time whether you are coming or not, because we will need for anyone who attends to also supply some of the food which is served and we need to know so we can have enough tables and chairs set up for those in attendance. Please bring your own tub and towel if you plan to participate in the foot washing observance. The next day, Tuesday April 3, 2007, on the First Day of Unleavened Bread, we will have services at 2:00 PM. The front door will be open at 1:00 PM for fellowship. At 5:00 PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "North American Steak Buffet Restaurant" in Bismarck. On Monday, April 9, 2007, the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, we will have services at 2:00 PM. The front door will be open at 1:00 PM for fellowship. At 5:00 PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "Perkins Family Restaurant (Expressway Ave.)" in Bismarck. We realize that not all people will be observing Passover or the Days of Unleavened Bread on the same days, so with this in mind, if you need a place to observe these days differently than we do, please contact us and if we can help you in anyway, we certainly will try.

**Are They the Same?**

by Alan Croyle  
(Emporia, Virginia)

Concerning Christmas:



What's blocking your worship? Mark 7:7  
"And in VAIN they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-038-03.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Successful Scattered Brethren Contact**

by Sandy Kile  
(Palisade, Minnesota)

It's a long story how we found our way to Swanville, Minnesota, to the home of Jim & Patt Steinle to meet for Sabbath services on Feb. 4, 2006. The story actually began in the summer of 2005 while web surfing when I ran across a service I thought I could use: Called "Scattered Brethren Contact," I found it in **Servants' News**, Norman Edwards' newsletter, in print (and online) and this is how it worked: In the scattered brethren program, you send a group of postcards in an envelope to them at **Servants' News**. The only address you put on the front of the cards inside the envelope is your return address, plus the words "Scattered Brethren Contact," and the city, state and zip code of the place(s) where you hoped to find someone, leaving room for the **Servants' News** newsletter people to complete the rest of the address of someone in that location on their mailing list. I sent out 8 or 9 postcards, maybe more, to go to places across the state (but I don't remember putting Swanville on

any (or Rogers), but perhaps Edwards' crew improvised (or God intervened?), not wishing any card to be discarded, and on the back I wrote a message of wanting to find someone to meet with. So you see, we didn't really have the name of the family who got one of the cards and called us up to invite us to keep the Sabbath with them, but **Servants' News** did. Sort of.

Let me explain. Part of what makes the delivery of that postcard to Jim & Patt so extraordinary, or even a small miracle is the card was FIRST SENT to their FORMER HOME in Rogers, Minnesota, and LATER SENT to them with a handwritten address to Swanville where they've lived for three years since moving from Rogers, but the post office quits forwarding mail after ONE year, and you are extremely unlikely to get a handwritten address done by them at any time, so here is what we think happened: the card arrived at Rogers with Jim & Patt's old address because that was how they were listed on the **Servants' News** mailing list, but the people at that address who had bought the house in Rogers from Jim & Patt wrote their new Swanville address on the card and sent it on. Had those people chucked it into the round filing cabinet, or had they moved out and some new people who didn't know the Steinles moved in, that card probably never would have been delivered!

But it was, and after our initial phone conversation, then emailing back and forth for a while, and charting our course, the first Sabbath in February we headed down the highway almost straight south; a beautifully sunny but chilly day. We started out earlier than usual since we were exploring some unfamiliar territory. We made a few wrong turns, had to do some backtracking, but all in all it wasn't too hard to find. Our host Jim had said, "if you see the blue turkey barns you've gone too far." Truth is, we sailed right past the barns without realizing it, and did not see them UNTIL backtracking.

Once we found our hosts, Jim & Patt Steinle, we were welcomed into their lovely home and church family with open arms. After the opening prayer, Bryn Hendrickson and Jim conducted a Bible reading and open discussion. The study focused on I Samuel. There was also a joyful song service. The

following dinner of Chicken Pot Pie, Coleslaw, Cherry Fruit Salad, and Apple Crisp was delicious, and a perfect ending to a day that had started almost a year earlier when I saw the words, "Scattered Brethren Contact" online.

Edwards says this unique program has been very successful, connecting brethren who would never have gotten together otherwise. If you want to try it go to (<http://www.servantsnews.com/docs/scatbreth.htm>) for instructions or write "Servants' News," PO Box 474, Port Austin, Michigan, 48467-0474, Phone: 989-738-7700. E-Mail: [Info@ServantsNews.com](mailto:Info@ServantsNews.com) Internet: [www.servantsnews.com](http://www.servantsnews.com) May you have as much success as we did!

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-038-04.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Raising Money**

by Herbert Laureta  
(Philippines)

For sale to items collector, 9 pieces of old Japanese money, bill, World War II, 24 pieces, old coins used during American occupation of our country, pre World War II coins, 2 Thai coins, 100 pieces of stamps from African Nations, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, USA, etc. Proposed price US \$500.00 (Price is still negotiable.)

Contact: Herbert Laureta, 39 Jade St., Filoville Subdivision, Naga City 4400, Philippines, Telephone: (054) 472-4440

Part of the proceeds will be used for photo copying articles, postage and snacks. We have a small group of 4 people worshipping, singing contemporary praise music every Sabbath. We talk, compare teachings from literature of churches and ministries. Nobody gives sermon or sermonette. We intend to buy CD's of praise music sung by American Jewish singers.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-038-05.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*