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(Fort Wayne, Indiana)

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Articles

Lost a Job – God Will Help You **Sent by Glen Walker (Fort Wayne, Indiana)**

God watches His children

Years ago, when Colorado was going through hard economic times, I lost my job, and it took me six months to find another. My unemployment ran out, I had no income coming in, and I was behind on my rent.

Eventually I was evicted from my apartment, and my 7-year-old daughter and I were living in the car with everything we could fit in it.

We sold everything that wasn't absolutely essential and used that money to buy food. We washed up in gas station bathrooms, and I tried to find well-lighted parking lots to sleep in. Even though it was still fall and hadn't snowed yet, the nights were very chilly.

I got my daughter to school daily and put in more applications, giving a friend's phone number for call-backs. I told my friend my phone was disconnected, but not that we were living in the car. I didn't tell anyone that we were living in the car, out of embarrassment, I guess.

After about two weeks, I found a job. I went to see the friend whose phone I'd been using, visiting her at the video store where she worked.

She told me I looked really tired, had big bags under my eyes, and asked what was going on. I told her the true story and added that when I received my first paycheck in two weeks, I'd be able to rent an apartment.

I didn't know that a young man was standing in the next aisle over until I finished my story, and he came up to me and placed a key in my hand. He said he had just moved to a bigger apartment and his old one was empty and paid for until the end of the month -- three weeks away. He apologized that there was no furniture in the apartment and said he would call the utility company and tell them to leave the electricity on until the end of the month. He then gave me the address.

By this time, I was crying and trying to tell him that when I got back on my feet, I would pay him back. He told me not to worry about it; if the apartment was empty and paid for, someone should use it.

I never got that gentleman's name, and he never got mine. The fact that he trusted me to live there, not knowing if I was the type of person to damage the apartment or not, simply amazed me.

The three weeks that my daughter and I stayed there allowed me to get myself back on track, and I was able to get an apartment when I got paid. I have had a lot of help from various people throughout my life and I have helped as many people as I could in return, but what that young man did for us that day was moving beyond words.

The Love of God and Enduring till the End **(Copyright) by Tommy Willis (New Orleans, Louisiana)**

The trials of life have increased with the Coronavirus, with a rise in suicides, domestic violence, drug abuse, and we could make a long list. Some are having frightening, pandemic-induced dreams. That's the reality of the times we are living in—increased tribulation. The Plague has made us think more about our mortality. I heard some social psychologist say recently that we in this society were not ready to face our mortality; and the plague is forcing us to; and many are terrified. Too often we live in denial of death and suffering; and the plagues could get worse and even more serious trials could come, as some talk about the rumblings of war in an unstable world.

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Things seem to be changing for us. For a long time, we were spared a lot of things that happened in the past; I remember my grandfather telling me about the plague in 1918 called the Spanish Flu; and how many people were dying. It caught your attention when he told what he saw. Our forefathers understood more that life was also a veil of tears, and not just “fun,” as the commercials often try to convince us. And many often looked to God more because of the difficult life they had to live. We will need to do that as the trials and tribulations of life increase—to look to God more and get our foundation down in Jesus Christ.

We don’t know what tomorrow will bring. The Bible reminds us of the brevity of life.

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” (James 4:14) NIV.

“Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.” (Ps 90:12) NLT.

What’s important to understand is we don’t have to have the terror of death as the social psychologist mentions above, if we have faith in God. He has made a way for us to face death unafraid. We are not to fear death. A good example of this is what Paul said:

“For to me, living means opportunities for Christ, and dying—well, that’s better yet! But if living will give me more opportunities to win people to Christ, then I really don’t know which is better, to live or die! Sometimes I want to live, and at other times I don’t, for I long to go and be with Christ. How much happier for *me* than being here!” (Phil 1:21-23) TLB. This doesn’t mean we should seek death, because life is a blessing, and God has a work for us to finish; but we need to realize even death is a promotion to something better. Paul loved life; but he realized to depart this life would be far better, because he says we go to be with Christ!

Part of the problem is the above scripture is often not real to us because we don’t spend enough time with God; and we grasp these doctrines intellectually, but often fail to see the reality. This is why serious trials can bring us closer to God. An encounter with death can increase our faith: “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” (2 Cor 1:8-9) NIV.

Paul says the trials were so great they despaired of life. This increased their trust in God. I’ve heard some brethren talk about how with the increased trials with the coronavirus, it made them realize more their mortality, and it helped them draw closer to God. Some talked about “gold refined in the fire,” as trials increased. Trials will come. And therefore, we must seek God to teach us how to suffer and endure through them.

Keep in mind, the pressure of life can run us down, and we may need to get a rest. A good example of this is Elijah (1 Kings 19). Even after being used powerfully as God’s prophet, he let fear come in and became depressed and wanted to die! If you will notice in verse 5, he lay down and slept, and then got even more rest after that. If we continue reading, we see he needed a fresh awareness of God’s presence. He had lost sight of the reality that God was with him. All of us have a breaking point; and it will also help to back off from matters at times, pray, rest, and get a fresh awareness of God’s presence. God promises to never leave or forsake us. Sometimes we will need to slow down and get some rest and pray and reevaluate matters.

Another thing to keep in mind in the affairs of everyday life, is we often take ourselves too seriously. The pressures of life can sometimes steamroll over us if we don’t learn to lighten up a bit and laugh at ourselves. I learned more of this principle while taking care of my invalid dad; we were both under pressure, for I have health problems also, and I’m up in age too, and he would call us “Two old men.” And he and I would often joke around. I would tell him about the saying: “Old age is not for sissies.” And we would have a good laugh. Laughing would really lighten things up and help us with the struggle of it all. Try to find the humor in life trials; it will help you deal with it all. We all take ourselves too seriously at times; and will need to lighten up a bit.

Yes, it is getting difficult. Jesus said a nation divided cannot stand. Any keen student of history should be seeing that this nation is headed for more and more chaos, and many do. Many Christians are angry at the way the world is going, and

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some have said they want to throw things at the TV and are becoming hurt and offended in record numbers; some are so angry they can't think soundly. Keep in mind the world will do what the world does; but we have to stay in focus with it all.

When I see such chaos in the minds of Christians, I think of Paul's admonishment to the Galatians: "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." (Gal 5:14-15) NIV.

Keep in mind that Paul is warning Christians of the danger of their human nature which will destroy them if they are not careful. Having seen division in the churches for almost half a century now, it's no mystery why we would need to be warned as Christians.

Therefore, keep in mind that the world will do what the world does; but I see many Christians already becoming offended and hurt, and taking things in the personal hurt way the world does, and becoming offended. Brethren, we get out of focus when we become offended, and it is dangerous. To have the kind of love that Jesus said we should have, we don't have the right to become offended. "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." (Ps 119:165) KJV. Let us keep in mind that law without love is Pharisaical.

Think of the scripture in Matthew 24:10-13 "At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." NIV.

Since the love of many Christians will grow cold, keep in mind the connection here between love and enduring till the end!

I used to be selective in whom I would love; when God showed me my lack of love, I realized I didn't know God like I thought I did: "He who does not love does not know God: for God is love." (1 Jn 4:8 RSV).

If we will be praying and meditating as we should and staying with God, then He will give us His ability to stay with His mercy and love, and not become offended and not take things in the personal hurt way the world does, but instead we will react with His mercy and love. And this will enable us to endure till the end.

I share this with you as one who became offended for many years, and I had an unforgiving heart towards those in and out of the Church. It was many years before God got my mind straight. Once God showed me how without the work He did on the cross, I would be lost; then He brought me to repentance, and I have not held anything against anyone for over 25 years now. I know that only by Christ in me can that be done, and I thank God. But I went through many years of failure before God taught me different. Once God gave me the ability to forgive, the big war I had going on inside ended! And I was at peace. O' the price I paid for an unforgiving heart.

As we study the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks about the Golden Rule and the love we should have that Paul mentions to the churches in the above Scripture. And He talks about forgiveness. Jesus says: "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matt 6:14- 15). I see many Christians angry at those "in the world", when they fail to see the danger of our own nature, the same problem and danger I was in many years ago until God brought me to repentance, as He showed me the danger of my human nature. We will be safe brethren if we stay with the love and forgiveness of God, and He will give us His peace not to become offended.

Let us keep in mind what Jesus said:

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father

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is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:32-37) NIV.

Jesus instructed us: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12 NIV). We can quibble about picky points of doctrine for the remainder of our lives, but we had better make sure we are seeking God for His love. No, the law was not done away with. Yes, we should obey the Law; but again, let us remember, that law without love is Pharisaical.

Seek God's ability to apply Jesus words on the Sermon on the Mount, then we won't become offended and hurt as the world does when things don't go our way. But we will learn to react with the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. And we will stay in focus.

Are we not to follow the example of Jesus Christ? When they crucified Him, He prayed for them, and asked God to forgive them. Spend time with God. Don't let the busy rushing schedule of the world take you away from Him. Spend time with the best Friend you will ever have. I used to look at prayer as a "duty." Now I look at it as a time of intimacy with the best Friend I will ever have, and I have learned the joy and intimacy in prayer. He has shown me how much He cares for us. Now I want to spend time with Him. I sit in a chair talking with God, and often feel the peace of God all around me.

The cares of this life can destroy us if we let it. Don't let the chaos of the world pull you down. Things could continue to deteriorate. Slow down; and make sure you are not neglecting your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Sit and talk with Him. Spend time getting to know Him personally. As we seek Him diligently, He will have us see what we need to see about prophecy, or anything else we need to stay in focus as we learn to stay with Him in prayer. Let us not pass up this wonderful opportunity to go to Him with all our cares and worries, for He cares for us: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Pet 5:7).

As we learn to do this, He will give us His peace amidst a world of chaos.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27) NIV.

Get Your Foundation Down in Jesus Christ

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." (Mt 7:24-27) NIV.

Too often many make the mistake I made with giving lip service to Jesus words on the Sermon on the Mount about forgiveness. Study the Sermon on the Mount and seek God for his ability to apply what Jesus told us to do.

Get your foundation and trust down in Jesus Christ. And as this old world gets shaken as Scripture says it will, it is the love and peace of God that will enable us to endure till the end.

A Short Study of Five Common Beliefs
About the Scriptural Calendar
(Copyright) by Gary Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

The Scriptural calendar has been a matter of differing views since time immemorial. A major cause for this uncertainty is the loss in antiquity of the knowledge of the patriarchal astronomers.

Although only sketches remain within the Scriptures, enough details are there to set weekly and annual Sabbaths, New Moons, Land Sabbaths, and Jubilee years. This is not unexpected since Yahweh commands observance of those times in their seasons (Lev. 23:4; Gen. 1:14). How could He command us to keep His Sacred times, which is the sign He sanctifies us (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20), but leave no record in His Sacred Scriptures showing how to set those times?

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A survey of writings on this subject clearly shows numerous calendar dates for those times based on a variety of assumptions which must be compared with Biblical definitions. Separating Bible facts from tradition and private interpretations is often a thorny task.

This short study cannot possibly cover all details of such a vast topic but is intended to focus on a few common views found in literature on the subject.

What follows is a brief study of five common beliefs about the Biblical Calendar.

(1). THE SUNSET-TO-SUNSET DAY

(a). Leviticus 23:32: One of those traditions is the sunset-to-sunset day which the vast majority of Sabbatarians use. Somewhat surprising perhaps, this nearly universally accepted definition has no Biblical basis; especially including Lev. 23:32 which in context, can at the very most, only refer to Atonements; not all Sabbaths (Lev. 23:27-32). Note in verses 27-31 only the tenth of the seventh month is mentioned. Pulling Lev. 23:32 out of context and applying “...from evening-to-evening shall you observe your Sabbath” to all Sabbaths is a common mistake. The complete explanation of this verse requires more than just those facts; but is left to another discussion.

(b). Evening and Morning: Is not the six times the Genesis record (Gen. 1:5,8,13,19,23,31) says “...and the evening and the morning were the first day...the second day...the third day....” definitive; that a Scriptural “day” starts at sunset, at evening, and runs through the night to the next sunset?

(c). The Place to Start: No, and for this reason. The place to begin defining the Biblical day is not with those phrases, but the first two lines of verse five that precedes them: “And Elohim [KJV “God”] called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.” These are His unequivocal definitions of Day and Night. What is “light”? “And Elohim saw the light [was visible] ...and Elohim divided the light from the darkness.” (v. 4; separated one from the other). What light? “...the greater light to rule the day...” (v. 16) which is the Sun (Psa. 136:8).

Clearly, when the Sun’s light rules, that period is by Scriptural definition, the Biblical Day. Equally certain is the period of its rule starts at the earliest light of dawn long before sunrise, until night sets in about an hour or so after sunset. Simple observation shows us the same thing.

The Scriptural Day from dawn-to-dark is 12 to 17 hours or so depending on the time of year. In the summer daylight is longer. Shorter daylight time occurs in winter. The Biblical day is just the light portion of the 24-hour period. That is why day and night are mentioned separately numerous times (Gen. 7:4; 8:12; Ex. 10:13; 13:22; Num. 9:21; 11:32; Deut. 28:66; Jer. 33:20; Matt. 4:2; 12:40; Rom. 13:12...etc.)

No amount of ingenuity can explain away those absolute facts of Scripture defining the Day as light, and darkness as Night. Once we find a solid definition in Scripture, we must stick with it. No other verses can change nor contradict these definitions.

(d). Contradiction: Claiming the evening starts at sunset and continues to include the night too, contradicts the clear fact it has already been defined six times as part of the light: evening and morning were...the Day.

All further conclusions about the Sabbath or other Biblical days must conform to those established facts that day is light, and darkness is night. What is left to do is believe, accept, and apply them.

(e). Where Israel got their Sunset-to-Sunset “Day”: Now, since the sunset-to-sunset day is not Biblical as shown beyond controversy, where did Israel get that idea?

Notice the historical fact that some Israelites adopted the sunset-to-sunset day while in Babylonian captivity as shown by this frank admission from J. Z. Lauterbach: “There can be no doubt that in *pre-exilic times* the Israelites reckoned...The day began with the dawn... [notice] *in post-exilic times*, however, ...a change in the system of reckoning the day was made, and the day was reckoned as extending from the preceding to the following evening...” (“*When Does the Sabbath Begin?*”, *Rabbinical Essays*, by Jacob Z. Lauterbach, Hebrew Union College Press Cincinnati, 1951; pp. 446-451; my emphasis). The facts of history do not lie.

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But there is little doubt such a huge change did not happen overnight. Gradually as apostates seized control of the seats of authority and influence, the non-biblical sunset-to-sunset day prevailed. This is a recurring theme of history in which the truth is pushed aside to make way for apostasy. Once apostasy becomes tradition, eventually the traditions become the “truth” which are then rarely questioned.

The widespread use of Babylonian calendrical methods has replaced the Scriptural Calendar which set the *true Sabbaths* of Yahweh. As a sign of sanctification (plural; Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:10, 20), they clearly are a vital part of His plan of salvation; a role not to be underestimated.

(2). THE VERNAL EQUINOX VERSUS “THE TURN OF THE YEAR”

(a). The Vernal Equinox is commonly used as a Biblical marker to start the year. This mimics Constantine’s Nicaean Council edict which connected Easter with the vernal equinox. Where is any reference in the Bible to the vernal equinox?

The method generally used is to spot the new crescent in the evening sky relative to the vernal equinox to begin the first month of the year. One choice is the new moon on or next after the vernal equinox of spring (March 21). Another is the new moon closest to the vernal equinox.

The reason given for these methods is to prevent the first month of the year, Easter, or Passover from falling *during winter*; as one typical view states, “...This seasonal shift from winter to spring can only occur at the time we call the vernal equinox.... we begin our count from the new moon after the vernal equinox.”

Where does the *Bible* say winter ends and spring begins with the vernal equinox? Where does it show the count of the months begins with the new moon on, after, or nearest the vernal equinox? The fact is, the Bible says nothing regarding the equinoxes setting the seasons of spring and fall nor the first month of the year. The equinoxes are arbitrary secular dates setting spring and fall.

An early Jewish tradition decrees that Passover (14th day of the first month) cannot occur earlier than six days after the vernal equinox. The Bible nowhere says nor implies that.

Additionally, the Hebrew calendar, following current Jewish usage, defines the *tekufah* as both the equinoxes and solstices (Arthur Spier, *The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*, Arthur Spier; Feldheim Publishers, 1986, p. 19).

(b). Turn of the Year; not the Equinox: The Bible emphasizes the solstices, the sun’s yearly turning along the horizon; not the equinoxes. Those turns, the solstices, are in summer [about June 21] and winter [about December 21]. There is no turning of the sun’s path at the equinoxes.

Notice a clear Biblical reference to the winter solstice: “...arises it [the sun] there...Going toward the south and turning around to the north...” (Eccl. 1:5,6; *Green’s Interlinear Bible*; *Companion Bible*, p. 907 footnote to Eccl. 1:6; also, the LXX).

The Bible again refers to this turning motion: “...you are to make for yourselves...the Pilgrimage Festival of Ingathering at the turning of the year.” (Ex. 34:22; Hebrew: “*tekufah*”; *Schocken Bible*); “...turn of the year,” (*Green’s Interlinear Bible*).

The turning of the sun along the horizon is also indicated in Deut. 33:14. Notice this translation of verse 14: “...turnings of the sun...” (*Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint* (Lust/Eynikelp/Hauspie, Part II, p 482),

Also, “...turn, turning, turning around...of the solstice...” (Deut. 33:14). (*Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament*, Arndt-Gingrich, p. 824)

And notice how *tekufah* is translated in Psa. 19:6: “...turning (of the sun at solstice) ...” (*A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holiday, p. 394).

“...coming around...circuit... of the sun...” (*Brown Driver Briggs Heb-Eng Lexicon*; p. 880) ...

Clearly **the turn of the year** (Heb. *tekufah* used in both Psa. 19:6, Ex. 34:22) **is at the solstices**.

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Since there is no turning of the sun at the equinoxes, this Pilgrimage Festival of Ingathering (Ex. 34:22) must be at a solstice. But not the winter solstice, for as this verse indicates, this Feast of Ingathering closely follows the wheat harvest of the 49-day Feast of Weeks. It cannot be the Feast of Tabernacles which at no time occurs when the sun turns at some point along the horizon. So, what is this Festival at the year’s turning, solstice? Pentecost.

(3) THE JEWISH CALENDAR

(a). Must be Derived from the Bible: The Jewish calendar has clearly dominated Sabbath and Holy Day observance through the centuries. It is presently the calendar of choice for many professing the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath, New Moons, and annual Holy Days. Others, while differing from that calendar on some few points, generally follow its tenets. If unproven by Scripture, we cannot use the traditional modern-day Hebrew calendar nor one of its surrogates.

(b). Jewish Calendar is not Biblical: Though many remain convinced the Jewish calendar in use today comprises the hallowed oracles of Yahweh: “...hallowed order and rhythm...” (Arthur Spier, *The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*, Arthur Spier; Feldheim Publishers, 1986; foreword p. ix.), where is the Biblical justification for that claim? The oracles the Jews preserved were the Old Testament books (Rom. 3:1,2), and though you may search from Genesis to Malachi, you will not find the Hebrew calendar. Its postponements, sunset-to-sunset day, first visible crescent New Moon setting the first day of the month, its specific nineteen-year cycle of additional months [changed in 142 A.D.], and alternate 29 and 30-day months are all not there. Many oracle advocates do not observe the Jewish Pentecost (Shavuoth) on Sivan 6, an established date on the Jewish calendar.

Remember Yahshua said, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth (John 17:17).” The Bible is the truth; not Jewish or other traditions unless they can be proven from the Scriptures.

(4). THE “PHARISEES” ARGUMENT

(a). Yahshua versus the Jews: Did Yahshua agree with the Jews of His day (Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes) regarding the Sabbath or annual Feasts? If so, the Jewish calendar must be correct with its first month of the year, New Moons, and Feast Days. Many claim this is the case.

If Yahshua did agree, then why did He warn His followers about the doctrines of the Jewish sects of Pharisees and Sadducees? Here are His words: “...ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees...then understood they...he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the...doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees (Matt. 16:12; also v. 6).”

(b). Did Not Agree: “Beware of their doctrines” included their calendar, because it set their new moons and holy days. He told them openly “... Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, *but cannot discern the signs of the times?* (Matt. 16:3; NAS).” What were those “times” He was referring to in that exchange? Yahweh’s feasts? Notice the meaning of that word “times” used in Matt. 16:3 (Gk: *kairos*, SEC 2540): “3. *definite, fixed time. Abs...festal seasons* (Ex. 23:14; Lev. 23:4) ...” (*Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament*; Arndt-Gingrich; p. 396).

As this reference also shows, the Greek *kairos* is grammatically the same as the Hebrew *moedim* translated “feasts” in Lev. 23:2,4,14, etc.

Also, the ancient LXX [*Septuagint*, Greek Old Testament] translates *kairos* “feasts” in Lev. 23:2,4 where the Hebrew is *moedim*, translated “feasts” 17 times in the Old Testament.

These festal [festival] seasons could only be Yahweh’s feasts, and Yahshua was definitely telling the Jews of His day, they could not discern the signs of Yahweh’s Festivals, the Holy Days. This was a major issue, for He knew they did not know exactly when they occurred, and boldly told them. We should still beware of any stealth Pharisical and Sadducean doctrines.

(5). FIRST VISIBLE CRESCENT: The Hebrew calendar (*The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*, Arthur Spier, Feldheim Publishers, 1986) sometimes misses the Biblical New Moon by one-to-two days. This is due to its new-crescent adjustments: “...the months are generally adjusted to the days on which the Sanhedrin would have sanctified them on the basis of the observation of the new crescent...” (Spier; p. 15; “Historical Remarks on the Jewish Calendar”, p.1).

(a). Crescent in Scripture: Does the new crescent begin the months of Scripture? The word “crescent” occurs three

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times. "Crescents" or "crescent ornaments" are mentioned In Judges 8: 22,26 and Isaiah 3:18. None of these references show the crescent set the Scriptural new moons.

In Judges 8:22, 26 we find: "...ornaments [KJV]..." should be translated "crescents" (*A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* Holiday, p. 349; *Green's Interlinear Bible*); "crescent ornaments" (*New American Standard, The Living Bible*).

Crescent is also mentioned in Isaiah 3:18 (*Green's Interlinear Bible, Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, p. 213; *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* Holiday, p. 349).

The Isaiah prophecy (Ch. 3:18) tells us Yahweh will take away those pagan symbols of the Midianites Israel had adopted (Judg. 8:5, 21).

So where did Israel get their practice of using the first visible crescent to begin each month? We know they adopted the sunset-to-sunset day during the Babylonian captivity. We know too, the first crescent method was also a Babylonian practice: "...the Babylonian calendar was at all periods [before Israel's capture in 597 B.C.] truly lunar...the month began with the evening when the new crescent was for the first time again visible shortly after sunset..." (*The Exact Sciences in Antiquity*, O. Neugebauer, 1957; Brown University Press; Dover Publications, Inc.; New York, 1969; p.106).

Since we find no Scriptural evidence of looking for the New Crescent to start the month (including the often cited, Deut. 16:1) it appears highly probable Babylon was Israel's source of this practice.

In all probability it is a carryover from ancient Babylon where the observation of the new crescent set the beginning of the months. Remember, Israel was a captive, subject to their captors.

Regardless, being a Babylonian practice, we must *come out* of Babylon, not embrace its ways:

"Come out of her [Babylon, v. 2], my people that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. (Rev. 18:4; also Isa. 48:20)."

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O'Biden Care: No Voice, No Choice, No Rejoicing (Copyright) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"Use your freedom to put to silence the foolishness of ignorant people (and the over-educated)." – Peter (paraphrased)

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE a very "Christian" thing to do, but the apostle Peter wasn't going woke and advocating censorship. He was advocating living a blameless life and being prepared to give a good answer if asked to explain your faith (the perfect squelch).

Peter was addressing the "scattered tribes" in Asia Minor where people weren't under the Roman boot as much as in the Holy Land. The apostle Paul was free to say about anything he wanted to say on Mars' Hill, where people gathered to hear "some new thing." He told the public about his God, their "unknown god." And who were these people? Some of them were of the "tribes scattered abroad" to whom Peter wrote, exiles from the northern House of Israel. Now how should his words in 2 Peter 2 be applied today?

We have been warned that "unto whom much is given, much is *required*," and we have been given even more Freedom than the people in Asia Minor had been given, so we are even more required to USE our Freedom of Religion, conscience, and the right to speak what's in our hearts than those people were (some people say "just believe"; that's the only thing we have to do).

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"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, THERE is Liberty." – Paul

In other words, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is *not*, *THERE*, there is no Liberty." That's what is so deadly about secularization and godless cultures. The history of the last three centuries has confirmed Paul's words! Some cultures and governments are a mixture from "the tree of good and evil," but the old Greek "democracy" wasn't anything like the Republic we were bequeathed by our Founding Fathers. God was working with them, and the early Pilgrims and Puritans must have had some degree of the holy Spirit. Our representative form of government germinated among them and sprouted the town halls of the early northeast.

See "Did God Have a Plan for America," by Peter Marshall, Jr. and David Manuel.

The "over-educated" class promotes godlessness, lawlessness, Nihilism (belief in nothing, NIL) just as Balaam did in ancient Israel. Do you remember the story? He's the guy who got chewed out by a jackass. He had been offered gold and silver if he could curse the children of Israel. God told Balaam he couldn't do that, but he knew God would curse them if they could be corrupted, so he set about trying to corrupt them (just like our "modern Progressives")! Do you get it now, why the Left works so hard corrupting our public-school kids? And like the two-story outhouse, the icky stuff comes down from the top, the institutions of "higher" learning. As for healthcare and the virus mandates:

Go to RenewAmerica.com and read the articles on the home page and in the columns (on the year 2022).

Senator Ron Johnson says, "We have a race to win because we have a nation to save [before it's too LATE]."

P.S. I could write a whole column regarding the identity of the "tribes" scattered in Asia Minor and their location today. **HINT:** All the nations we've fought in foreign wars have been Gentile nations.

PPS: If you rearrange the letters in Balaam, they spell L' Abama, and an **aboma** is a variety of boa constrictor. Google it. Just reporting; you decide if you know what I mean. More to come.

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Other Items

Common Sense Safety Tips

Sent by Michael R. Zaeske (Kalamazoo, Michigan)

Everyone should take 5 minutes to read this. It may save your life or a loved one's life.

Crucial

Because of recent abductions In daylight hours, refresh yourself of these things to do in an emergency situation...

This is for you, and for you to share with your wife, your children, everyone you know.

After reading these 11 crucial tips, forward them to someone you care about. It never hurts to be careful in this crazy world we live in.

1. Tip from *Tae Kwon Do*: The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do!
2. Learned this from a tourist guide. If a robber asks for your wallet and/or purse, **DO NOT HAND IT TO HIM.** Toss it away from you. Chances are that he is more interested in your wallet and/or purse than you, and he will go for the wallet/purse. **RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!**

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3. If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back taillights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you, but everybody else will. This has saved lives.
4. Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc.) **DON'T DO THIS!** The predator will be watching you, and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go. **AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE.**
5. If someone is in the car with a gun to your head **DO NOT DRIVE OFF**, Repeat: **DO NOT DRIVE OFF!** INSTEAD gun the engine! and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your Air Bag will save you. If the person is in the back seat they will get the worst of it! As soon as the car crashes bail out and run. It is better than having them find your body in a remote location.
6. A few notes about getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage: A.) Be aware: look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor, and in the back seat B.) If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars. C.) Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger side... If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, you may want to walk back into the mall, or work, and get a guard/policeman to walk you back out. **IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.** (And better paranoid than dead.)
7. **ALWAYS** take the elevator instead of the stairs. Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot. This is especially true at **NIGHT!**)
8. If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, **ALWAYS RUN!** The predator will only hit you (a running target) 4 in 100 times; and even then, it most likely **WILL NOT** be a vital organ. **RUN**, Preferably in a zig -zag pattern!
9. As women, we are always trying to be sympathetic: **STOP** It may get you raped or killed. Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well-educated man, who **ALWAYS** played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked 'for help' into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he abducted his next victim.
10. Another Safety Point: Someone just told me that her friend heard a crying baby on her porch the night before last, and she called the police because it was late, and she thought it was weird. The police told her 'Whatever you do, **DO NOT** open the door.' The lady then said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window, and she was worried that it would crawl to the street and get run over. The policeman said, 'We already have a unit on the way, whatever you do, **DO NOT** open the door.' He told her that they think a serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone dropped off a baby. He said they have not verified it but have had several calls by women saying that they hear a baby's cries outside their doors when they're home alone at night.
11. Water scam! If you wake up in the middle of the night to hear all your taps outside running or what you think is a burst pipe, **DO NOT GO OUT TO INVESTIGATE!** These people turn on all your outside taps full blast so that you will go out to investigate and then they attack you.

Stay alert, keep safe, and look out for your neighbors!

Please pass this on. This information should probably be taken seriously because the Crying Baby Theory was mentioned on America 's Most Wanted when they profiled a serial killer in Louisiana.

I'd like you to forward this to all the women you know. It may save a life. A candle is not dimmed by lighting another candle. I was going to send this to the ladies only, but guys, if you love your mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, etc., you may want to pass it onto them, as well.

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Send this to any woman you know that may need to be reminded that the world we live in has a lot of crazies in it and it's better to be safe than sorry. send it on . . .

A Blast from the Past

“They Sang as it were a New Song Before the Throne”
by Author Unknown (Minnesota)

In Rev. 14:1-5, God speaks of 144,000 redeemed from among men--first fruits--virgins--who follow the Lamb wherever He goes--not defiled with women {church groups}--having the God-Family Name written on their foreheads. It is these redeemed that begin “singing” {speaking of} the new way (Ps. 138:5) to rightly worship God and follow Christ and make Them your God and put away your idols far from you. ONLY Jesus Christ was anointed to be your Mediator--none else!

In Is. 42:8 God says no longer He will give His glory and praise to your carved images {men who lead you to err in all these groups}. Vs. 9 it is that former way, God says, has come to pass and He declares new things. Yes, it is quite new--never before heard--that one is to become detached from men who teach and rule over you in these groups! Read I Cor. 15:24; Gal. 4:1-7 where it speaks of a time when Christ will put an end to all men's rule, authority, and power over His Bride! Is. 28:9-10, explains how you must be “weaned” from Church groups (the breast) to grow in knowledge--one on one with God as your Teacher. ONLY He teaches right things! {Is. 45:19}.

No longer does God want them to receive His glory of being the True Lord (Ruler). Is. 42:16 God says, “I will lead them in paths they have not known.” Yes, it is new to think you do not need to be in a group, under a man's rule, to be saved!!! V. 7 God is delivering His people from the prison house (as He calls it) and from those that walk over them (Is. 51:23).

To be “redeemed” is to be bought for a price--Christ's ultimate sacrifice paid that price--so it is when you stop dwelling among men {Rev. 14:4} your sin of idolatry is ‘passed over’ and you know you are to follow the Lamb wherever He goes--and no longer be defiled with adulterous groups {Eze. 16:31-34} that hire men (ministers) to be your lovers instead of Jesus Christ--it is then that you become a “first fruit” and blameless before the Throne of God! A first fruit is one of the first to become ripe--best quality fruit--precious. A “first fruit” is the beginning of a great harvest of the whole land. Ultimately, the first fruits set the example for others to imitate--Christ was the Firstborn, then those that follow Him wherever He goes share in His inheritance.

No longer do the “redeemed” sing the old song {Eccl. 7:5}. **HWA** restored all things” or **HWA** is that peg in a sure place” or “you have to be in a group and have a minister rule over and teach you”. Those are the “lyrics” that give praises to a man {NOT to God}, that will be forgotten. Is. 43:18-19 “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?” And in Jer. 33:3 “Call to Me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

It is these ministers that God is angry with for putting Jerusalem in such ruins (Act 15:16-17; Is. 28:14; Eze. 34). God, Himself, makes a New Jerusalem---a job only He can do. No man is fit (Is. 59:16; Eze. 22:30).

When you step out in faith, and assemble before God, fear Him, not men, then it says in Ps. 25:14 you will be given the secret of the Lord and shown His Covenant and you will begin to “sing” the NEW SONG!! {Please read Ps. 40:1-10; Ps. 149; Ps. 98; Ps. 96:1-10; Ps. 22:22; Ps. 33:3; and Is. 42:10}. Ps. 118:8-9, “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.”

May God speed the day that ALL will lift up their voices together, in one accord, and sing praises to the One True God, before His Throne of Grace and Mercy!!

(This article has been updated and re-printed from “The Church of God Messenger” September/October 2001— Issue No. 5)