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

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Articles

Signs and Wonders or God's Righteousness Being Exercised in Faith?

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Ensuring that our faith is not shaken during these precarious times we are living in is based on our reliance upon the Spirit of God as individual believers... Understanding our relationship with our Father in heaven through our Lord Jesus Christ is priority as HE WHO is not seen is as far greater stronghold than anyone, and thing of the creation... As scripture reminds us, we should not be moved as we experience what our Savior declared would be "the beginning of sorrows"... God is love, and WHO HE is must be our strength, and guide to ensure the fullness of growth, and faith is achieved through the Lord Jesus Christ... There is nothing, except our actions on a personal level, that can separate us from God's love for us, and what our Savior desires to achieve within our hearts, and minds... May the events occurring in the physical realm NOT be allowed to instill fear to the point of stumbling, and forgetting that when God is for us, who, or what can prevail against us... May God's righteousness, granted us through HIS SPIRIT, be our peace, and HIS TRUTH be sought, and reign supreme within our inmost being...

Worshiping God in Spirit, and in Truth is without question the most important aspect of one's calling in Christ Jesus simply because it requires the creation to show faith in the Creator through obedience... But with the understanding, and mindset that the GIFT of eternal salvation is not earned but granted through the Son of the Living God... WHO bled, and died for the remission of sins, and to bring those who believe on Jesus Christ out of a spirit of disobedience to HIS commandments...

Once trust is established by one called in the Word of God without deviation, false traditions based on lies found, and no longer practiced within one's worship of the GREAT I AM, our Father in heaven will know that individual, and be allowed to grow in the grace, and knowledge that our Savior alone defines... This is a process, and depending upon one's reliance upon the Spirit of God, will depend on how much time what growth in Christ Jesus is attained... Less reliance upon the flesh, while exercising the will of God's Spirit is essential for one's personal relationship with God to flourish depends on embracing our Creator's righteousness as one's own WAY of living life...

This was an aspect that Paul addressed with the assemblies in Corinth... This apostle did not want the focus of the brethren within Corinth to be on himself... Nor the individuals who had influenced many to follow them, and their deviation from the Truth as our Savior defines it... Therefore misguiding, and separating brethren via false doctrines, and in the process taking the power of God's righteousness within their spiritual lives away... Placing them into a position that was just as bad, if not worse than before their conversion through the Son of God... As Paul points out in 1 Corinthians chapter 1:

"²⁰ Where is the wise man (philosopher)? Where is the scribe (scholar)? Where is the debater (logician, orator) of this age? Has God not exposed the foolishness of this world's wisdom? ²¹ For since the world through all its [earthly] wisdom failed to recognize God, God in His wisdom was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached [regarding salvation] to save those who believe [in Christ and welcome Him as Savior]. ²² For Jews demand signs (attesting miracles), and Greeks pursue [worldly] wisdom and philosophy, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, [a message which is] to Jews a stumbling block [that provokes their opposition], and to Gentiles foolishness [just utter nonsense], ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks (Gentiles), Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ [This is] because the foolishness of God [is not foolishness at all and] is wiser than men [far beyond human comprehension], and the weakness of God is stronger than men [far beyond the limits of human effort]."

This is the result of one's spiritual wellbeing still being plagued by sin, and not fully purged by the blood of the Lamb... Nor the Word of God being embraced as the standard of one's calling in Christ Jesus... Instead, false, and deceptive traditions being embraced as a standard, and hindering one's growth... Notice how Paul addressed an issue that Jesus dealt with during HIS earthly ministry, and that was the need for miraculous signs, and amazing signs by the religious leaders of the Judaic sect in order to believe... Our Savior exercised many miracles in their presence... But refused to accept their form of worship... Which deviated from the Truth by the emphasis of practicing their own version of

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righteousness...Rather than embracing God's definition of what is holy, and just...

Denying the Truth because of traditional beliefs that had long replaced what God considers just, and thus exercising a worship of their Creator that was in vain... They wanted to be delivered from the Roman occupation of Judea as their great sign by an awesome show of force by the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet refused to understand that it was their refusal to embrace God's righteousness that was causing their enslavement to the Roman Empire... Which in turn meant these individuals were not repenting in accordance to God's definition of repentance... Fooling themselves into believing they were pleasing God... While living their lives, and worshiping God in a false fashion...

Our Gracious Creator rewards those who seek to worship, and define their lives after the very goodness, and lovingkindness that has, and always will be God's standard... Simply because this defines WHO GOD truly is... Seeking miraculous signs should not be used as a barometer of how one either seeks God, nor be a standard as to which one believes they are in right standing with our Savior, and truly being led by HIM... While Jesus performed many signs, and wonders in the midst of many within Judea... HE understood that it was the only way that they would be attentive to HIS ministry... Mere Words of Truth would not be convincing enough, and as many prophets of old had experienced, declaring the Truth often led to being ostracized, and even put to death...

Jesus often found Himself being rejected by a region for exercising fruits of righteousness, or being threatened with death because of the very Truth HE declared as the Word of God... Being Spiritually made clean, and awakened from one's spiritual stupor not only requires God's supernatural intervention from within via the Holy Spirit... But in order to succeed in working out the very Gift of salvation, seeking to be defined by our Savior by thirsting for the very righteousness HE alone can only complete within us, and with our submission to HIM...

As we near the end of this age believing God based on His Spiritual Word will be essential to see through the deception that will cause the world to be in awe of a man who will appear to be more than just mere mortal... With the help of entities that represent spiritual darkness, amazing, and supernatural signs will be performed on behalf of one who represents the antithesis of who God truly is... Yet, because of these wondrous works that will be viewed by the world at large at that future time, those whose lives are not based on Truth as our Creator defines Him as the Word, will worship, and believe the beast is God... The difference between being led by the Spirit of God, and being misled by what appeals to one whose spiritual life is based on sinful practice...

God's Name will be used, and blasphemed by His enemies... But these individuals are allowed to do so for the testing of the saints, and in God's impeccably perfect timing, to show the world WHO truly is ALMIGHTY by the complete destruction of HIS enemies who are in reality fulfilling what God's prophets were foretold to preserve in writing long ago for our edification, and understanding... Those who have surrendered their lives to God, and the Spirit granted, and exercised through their belief in the very Truth the Lord Jesus Christ represents, will understand, and see-through Satan's devices, and schemes... Not being misled by miracles exercised in God's Name by those who fail to represent our Redeemer in Word, and in HIS righteousness through works of faith on HIS behalf, and glory... Signs, and miracles should not be the standard by which we judge whether those performing them represent the Great I AM... Rather God's Righteous Word being exercised, and declared as HE deems Himself to be, should be the standard by which we discern the just from the unjust... As Jesus reminds us within Matthew chapter 24:

²³ “Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There he is,’ don’t believe it. ²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones. ²⁵ See, I have warned you about this ahead of time. ²⁶ “So if someone tells you, ‘Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,’ don’t bother to go and look. Or ‘Look, he is hiding here,’ don’t believe it! ²⁷ For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. ²⁸ Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.

Also remembering our High Priest's encouragement to those whose spiritual states are compared to those in the assembly at Philadelphia within Revelation chapter 3... God will not leave us as long as we remain obedient to the very Word HE represents, and in faith persevere during these very deceptive latter days:

⁸ “I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me. ⁹ Look, I will force those who belong to Satan’s synagogue—those liars who say

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were reserved for “adult-only” entertainment venues, back alleys, and the proverbial locker room.

Alas, that is no longer the case. Public discourse and what passes for entertainment are now coarser than ever. Vulgarity has gone mainstream, and few, if any, seem to care.

Nine years ago, Dr. R. Albert Mohler, as president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, penned an article decrying the growth of vulgarity in America. In it, he proclaimed:

The collapse of the barrier between popular culture and decadence has released a toxic mudslide of vulgarity into the nation's family rooms—and just about everywhere else. There is almost no remote corner of this culture that is not marked by the toleration of vulgarity, or the outright celebration of depravity.

Movie theaters and strip clubs used to be the only venues for viewing live-action, graphic sexuality. With the advent of the video cassette player/recorder, such base forms of “entertainment” entered the American living room. Today, the advancement of technology continues to play a significant role in mainstreaming our cultural vulgarity.

Pointing out technology's unfortunate impact on our culture, American writer and cultural critic Lee Seigel authored a much-read article entitled “America the Vulgar” for the *Wall Street Journal* in December 2013. Seigel opined:

Today, our cultural norms are driven in large part by technology, which in turn is often shaped by the lowest impulses in the culture. Behind the Internet's success in making obscene images commonplace is the dirty little fact that it was the pornography industry that revolutionized the technology of the Internet. Streaming video, technology like Flash, [and] sites that confirm the validity of credit cards were all innovations of the porn business. Indeed, as technology advanced, especially in the realm of the Internet, pornography and all its vile and destructive heritage became more ubiquitous, less stigmatized, and highly monetized.

As streaming platforms take over home television viewing, the most popular programming—not surprisingly—is steeped in indecency. The glorification of graphic violence, nudity, and X-rated language dominates most newer offerings. As a result, the legacy networks (like CBS, ABC, Fox, NBC) strive to compete by producing “edgier” material rife with coarser language, subject matter, and even blurred or pixelated nudity.

Even our politicians are getting in on the act. A recent trend reveals popular politicians peppering their speeches with crass, off-color language, fueling acrimony, loathing, and malice toward their opponents. And the conservative right wing of the Republican Party resorts to a rallying cry of “Let's go, Brandon!” with its euphemistic, vulgar meaning.

Following the battles in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s to keep rock and pop music as “PG” as possible, especially on the radio, the over-the-top vulgarity of Rap and Hip Hop now confronts the popular music industry. Sadly, we are witnessing much less struggle and much more acceptance and compliance throughout the industry, media, and buying public for these genres. There is still censorship and “bleeping” of the most noxious language on the radio. Still, the music available for easy purchase and streaming by most anyone is depressingly repulsive. It promotes degenerate and debased sexual behavior, drug use, and violence, making celebrities out of shallow-minded women, gangsters, and thugs.

Each year, millions of American and international viewers look eagerly to the National Football League's Super Bowl halftime entertainment show, typically performed by a popular musical artist, band, or collection of them. Often seen as a barometer of American culture, this year's troubling offering was certainly no exception.

The NFL, responsible for selecting the talent and managing the show, chose an infamous collection of Rap and Hip Hop “artists” to perform a tribute to the repugnant genres. For fifteen minutes, the massive Super Bowl audience, replete with young children, was subjected to a glorification and celebration of the Hip Hop culture—a culture awash with hypersexuality, overt drug use, gang violence, and a general assault on civil society.

Rap and Hip Hop are each over 30 years old, so few were surprised at the profane content performed. However, what was surprising was the nearly unanimous acclaim the show received from the media, politicians, cultural observers, and the viewing audience. The few conservative spokespersons that dared to criticize were immediately shouted down, vilified, and shamed on all forms of media.

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Author and columnist Steven Kalas, writing for the *Sparks Tribune*, declared in his 2017 article, “Vulgarity Won’t Make America Great”: “The wholesale surrender to vulgarity has consequences. It has an echo effect. It sets loose dark energies, ping-ponging a siren seduction of fear and anger.”

Sadly, Americans remain blinded by their Creator to these tragic consequences (Deuteronomy 28:28-29). Their wholesale acceptance of vulgarity is heartbreaking and portends a grim future. As Christians, we must remain wary about a society that celebrates openly unwholesome thoughts, speech, and activities, focusing instead on words and actions that uplift and edify everyone (Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:3-4; Galatians 5:19-22).

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Biblical Wonders in the Sky

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UFOs are flying objects that are unidentified. They are seen easier at night if they are luminescent. They are usually not “lights” when seen in daytime. In our day and age, very few people look at the skies at all. The Bible talks about many “wonders in the sky.” Some are listed below:

Signs In the Heavens. The heavens and the earth were created in Genesis 1:1, but light was created on Day 1 (verses 2–5). Where did the light come from? From God, who has light within Him as the apostle John wrote, “**God is light**” (1 John 1:5). The Sun, Moon, and stars were created, and their light was “turned on” on Day 4 (Genesis 1:14–19).

Fire From Heaven. The first instance was when a “**a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp**” went between the sacrifice Abram made to confirm his covenant with YHWH (Genesis 15:17). YHWH “**rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire**” (Genesis 19:24; Luke 17:29–30). “**The fire of God is fallen from heaven**” destroyed sheep and servants (Job 1:16).

David’s Sacrifice to God to confirm their covenant, and He “**answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering**” (1 Chronicles 21:26). Later, at the Temple dedication in Jerusalem, Solomon made a sacrifice and when he finished his prayer, “**the fire came down from heaven,**” to show God’s acceptance (2 Chronicles 7:1).

Fire Came Down. Two times “**... there came down fire from heaven**” (2 Kings 1:10, 12), each killing a unit of 51 soldiers, sent by King Ahaziah of Judah to arrest the prophet, Elijah.

A Fiery Chariot for Elijah. Later “**a chariot of fire, and horses of fire**” came and caught up Elijah, who “**went up by a whirlwind into heaven,**” meaning the first heaven (2 Kings 2:11).

Jeremiah and Signs of Heaven. Jeremiah wrote about unusual things occurring during the time of his prophetic ministry, during the last years of the Kingdom of Judah:

“Thus says YHWH, ‘Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.’”

• **Jeremiah 10:2**

What were the “**signs**” Jeremiah wrote about? We do not know, but they disturbed the people, who refused to listen to God’s prophets. “**Dismayed**” means to be *alarmed*, or *worried*.

A Prophecy in Joel. God tells how He will get the world’s attention. Joel 2:30 says:

“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of YHWH come.”

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Darius of Persia; Signs and Wonders in Heaven. After Judah, Jerusalem, and the Temple were destroyed, in the time of Daniel, King Darius wrote to all his subjects:

“King Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth ... the God of Daniel: for he is the **living God** ... He delivers and rescues, and he **works signs and wonders in heaven** and in earth, [He] who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

• **Daniel 6:25–27**

What was happening in the heavens when Darius sent Daniel to the lions? I do not know.

The Sign of Jesus’ Birth in Heaven. We are given a precise “time stamp” of the sun, moon, and stars at the birth of Christ — This alignment occurred on September 11, 3 BC.¹

“And there appeared **a great wonder in heaven**; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.”

• **Revelation 12:1–2**

Shepherds, an Angel and the Heavenly Host (Luke 2:8–20). An “**angel of the Lord**” heralded the birth of Jesus to shepherds near Bethlehem. Then angels sang of God’s glory:

“Suddenly there was **with the angel** a multitude of **the heavenly host** praising God, and saying, ‘**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men.**’ And it came to pass, as **the angels were gone away** from them **into heaven** ...”

• **Luke 2:13–15**

Pharisees Demand a Sign. In Matthew 16:1 (and Mark 8:11; Luke 11:6) the Pharisees challenged Jesus to show them “**a sign from heaven.**” Heaven is singular in the Greek, and it probably means **a sign in the sky.** Jesus answered in Matthew 16:4 that the only sign He would give them shall be the “**sign of Jonah**” — dying and made alive again.

Predictions for Before Christ’s Return. Jesus spoke to His disciples of when He would return, “**then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven**” (Matthew 24:30). It would be visible to all the world. Peter at Pentecost said, as Jesus ascended to heaven, He would return from heaven the same way to the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:1, 9–11).

Jesus, Speaking Before His Crucifixion. Jesus at the Temple spoke of the time before His return, Jesus to the people and His disciples (Luke 20:43). They asked, “**what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?**” (Luke 21:7), referring to the Kingdom of God (Luke 21:31). Jesus told of a time when “**great signs shall there be from heaven**” (Luke 21:11). He later spoke of His return when “**... the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And there shall be signs [1] in the sun, and [2] in the moon, and [3] in the stars ...**” (Luke 21:24–25).

Peter Speaking at the First Pentecost. He told what God would do:

“And I will show **wonders in heaven** above ... **The sun** shall be turned into darkness, and **the moon** into blood, **BEFORE** that great and notable **day of the Lord come.**”

• **Acts 2:19–20, referencing Joel 2:30 above**

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¹ Dr. Ernest Martin’s book, [*The Star That Astonished the World*](#) tells of other signs after Christ’s birth.

The Two Triangles of the New Testament (Copyright) by Avram Yehoshua (Flagstaff, Arizona)

The two Triangles consist of three Scripture points each that the Lord Jesus, Paul, John, and the Book of Hebrews present concerning how Christians should walk out their faith in Jesus of Nazareth. The two Triangles reveal the biblical way to follow Jesus Christ that will challenge you, but hopefully you'll see that the Lord has another Way for you to follow Him—His Way.

The First Triangle deals with Jesus being our Example and the Second Triangle speaks of the Church (the Body of Christ). If you can, please try and disprove the concept that *the six Scriptures* within the two Triangles presents, not by bringing up Scripture outside the Triangles that you think negates it, but by trying to expose any flaw you see in my reasoning. If you cannot then my understanding is valid and should lead you to reconsider how you walk out your faith in Christ. The First Triangle contains three Scripture points:

1. The Apostle Paul states, “**And He is the head of the body**, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18 NKJV)
2. Hebrews declares, “Jesus Christ is the **same yesterday, today**, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8 NKJV)
3. The Apostle John writes, “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also **to walk just as He walked.**” (1st John 2:6 NKJV)

If *Jesus is our Head* and we are His Body, and *He is the same today* as He was back in Israel 2,000 years ago, and John states that we're “**to walk just as He walked**,” shouldn't we be keeping Passover and the other Feasts of Israel, as well as the 7th day Sabbath, just as Jesus did, and not eating unclean animals like pig, shrimp, lobster and catfish? If Jesus had eaten bacon just once He would have been a sinner (Lev. 11:7).

The Second Triangle speaks of the Gentiles being *part* of the Israel of God (Gal. 6:16), and so they should be keeping the same rules and laws that God gave to Israel, just as Jesus did (cf. Rom. 3:20, 31; 7:7, 12, 14; 11:13-29).

1. Jesus says there are two Flocks and that He will make them one Flock: “And *other sheep* I have (Gentile Christians), which are not of this Fold (Jewish Christians). Them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice, and there will be **one Flock** and one Shepherd.” (Jn. 10:16; cf. Lk. 2:32; Is. 42:6; 56:6-8)
2. The Apostle Paul writes that Gentile Christians are *grafted into the Olive Tree known as Israel*: “For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, *and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree*, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?” (Romans 11:24 NKJV)
3. Paul also speaks to the Gentiles and says, “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, *being aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel* and strangers from the Covenants of Promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:11-13)

If there is one Flock composed of both Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ, and Paul states that the Gentiles have been *grafted in among them in the domesticated Olive Tree* (Israel; Rom. 11:17), and he writes that Gentile Christians are *part of the Commonwealth of Israel*, how is it that the Church meets on Sunday, Easter and Xmas, eats unclean animals that *were, and still are sin for Jesus, and therefore His Body to eat*? Why don't Christians keep the days and ways of her Savior? 25 years *after* the resurrection (Acts 21:20) the Jewish Christians were keeping Mosaic Law. Are there two different sets of rules for the Lord's one Flock?

I know there are Christians who would try and counter what I've presented with *other* Scripture from the New

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Testament that they think would overthrow the implication of the two Triangles, like we’re “no longer under the Law,” but the problem with that is twofold. Aside from the pure simplicity of the Word that I’ve listed for you that presents Mosaic Law as God’s Way to walk out our faith in Christ, *their understanding* of what it means to no longer be under (Mosaic) Law is not biblical.¹ If the 7th day Sabbath had been done away with by the resurrection of Jesus on Sunday, wouldn’t God have placed at least two Scripture witnesses to this monumental paradigm shift somewhere in the New Testament? Nowhere in the New Testament does it say that Sunday has replaced the Sabbath, something we’d expect since God had given it to Israel and She had been keeping the 7th day Sabbath since Exodus 16, which was even before Mt. Sinai and the Ten Commandments, in Ex. 20. Israel had kept the Sabbath for more than *14 centuries* by the time of Christ. In Mark 2:28 Jesus states that He’s Lord of the Sabbath. What Scripture declares He’s Lord of Sunday?²

If Easter (or Resurrection Sunday as some like to call it, trying to distance themselves from Rome’s pagan Easter) has replaced Passover (and the other Feasts of Israel; Lev. 23; Mt. 26:1ff.; 1st Cor. 5:6-8), where does God say that in the New Testament? *Easter isn’t even mentioned in the New Testament*,³ let alone observed by anyone. *The same holds true for Xmas. No mention of it whatsoever.* That’s because Sunday, Easter and Xmas, the eating of unclean animals and anti-Mosaic Law theology came into Christianity by the fiat of Pope Sixtus in 120 AD—not Jesus nor any of His Apostles.⁴

Sunday, Easter, Xmas, and the eating of unclean animals is Roman Catholic tradition that nullifies God’s Word (cf. Mt. 15:1-3). Rome’s days and ways have nothing to do with Jesus and His Days and Ways. And yes, I know all about Peter’s Vision (Acts 10), and what Jesus allegedly said, “declaring all foods clean” (Mk. 7:19), and also, what Paul wrote about eating foods (Rom 14:1ff.; 1st Tim. 4:4-5).⁵ There is no biblical justification for eating unclean foods like bacon and pork sausage.⁶ *Jesus is still Jewish*, as He Himself declares to John 60 years *after* the resurrection: “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. ***I am the Root and the Offspring of David***, the Bright and Morning Star” (Rev. 22:16 NKJV).

It really doesn’t get ‘anymore Jewish’ than Jesus saying He is the Root and Offspring of King David. Concerning Mosaic Law and the Jewishness of Jesus, the angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would sit on the Throne of His Father David and rule over the *House of Jacob* (Israel) forever:

“Then Gabriel to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold! You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and He will be called the Son of the Most High God, and the Lord God *will give Him the Throne of His Father David and He will reign over the House of Jacob forever*, and of His Kingdom there will be no end!’” (Luke 1:30-33)

Jesus will return to rule for a thousand years from this earthly Jerusalem (Rev. 20:4-6), *and Mosaic Law* will be the rules (days and ways) that all Christians will live by because as Paul states, Mosaic Law is holy and spiritual (Rom. 7:12, 14) and without it we don’t know the full extent of what sin is in God’s eyes (Rom. 3:20; 7:7). In the Lord’s Kingdom Mosaic Law will be established as the rules and laws for all the countries in His Kingdom (Rom. 3:31; cf. Is. 66:23; Ezk. 40:1–47:1f.; Zech. 14:16; Acts 21:20-24f.; 25:8).

The two Triangles are New Testament Scripture *after* the resurrection that reveal that Jesus wants you to follow Him His Way—not the Pope’s Way nor the way of any pastor who teaches against this Way of Christ. It’s time for you to prayerfully consider changing your allegiance from Rome to Jerusalem. Jesus wants His Bride to throw off Rome’s days and ways. As He says about Rome: “Come out of Her, My people! Lest you share in Her sins, and lest you receive of Her plagues!” (Rev. 18:4)

End Notes:

- ¹ See *No Longer Under the Law?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/No-Longer-Under-the-Law.pdf>, and *The Feasts of Israel and the Church* <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feasts-of-Israel-and-the-Church.pdf>.
- ² See *Why Sunday?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Why-Sunday.pdf>.
- ³ The KJV has Easter in Acts 12:4, but the Greek reads *Paska* (Passover). All other Bibles correctly have Passover.
- ⁴ *A Snapshot of Church History and Mosaic Law* at <http://seedofabraham.net/A-Snapshot-of-Church-History-and-Mosaic-Law.pdf> and *Sunday—The Catholic Sabbath* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Sunday-The-Catholic-Sabbath.pdf>.

⁵ See *Romans 14 and the Dietary Laws* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Romans-14-and-the-Dietary-Laws.pdf>.

⁶ See *Law 102* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Law-102.pdf>.

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To Separate or Not to Separate

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Most pastors and marriage counselors recommend that a couple stay together to work out major conflicts. Their rationale is that issues are best dealt with face-to-face instead of at a distance, with two people working together to come to a mutual understanding. This is true in most *safe* relationships.

However, in an abusive situation, it is sometimes healthy and wise to separate, with the separation having a structure and a goal for the restoration of the relationship, if at all possible.

If you are in a 15-round prize fight, there's nothing wrong with going into the corner where supportive people throw ice on your face, give you nourishment, heal you, stitch up your wounds, and provide advice so you can stay on your feet and be safe in the next round.

Separations are worthless when people use them just to escape from the pain for a while instead of working on the problems. Then when they go back home, nothing has changed, and another separation is inevitable.

Some people bail out without making any effort to work through painful issues. They say things like, "I never want to talk to that slime-ball again!" or "He's ruined my life, so I'm going to give him a taste of his own medicine."

A good separation has to have a structure with particular goals and tasks for each side, some rules by which they both abide, and a timetable to evaluate their progress. If there is a lot of conflict, the parties may need to agree to meet only with a referee (a counselor or an objective third party) for a few months.

Often when a wife separates from an abusive or alcoholic husband, he insists upon her immediate return. He may promise to change and beg for forgiveness. His desire to restore the relationship should be validated, but it is just the start to rebuilding a broken, damaged relationship.

In a "Monday Night Solutions" talk, Dr. Henry Cloud gave the following illustration: "*The greater the chaos, the greater the structure that is needed. If you get hit by a car, you don't need a band aid from Rite-Aid. You need a very structured environment that is germ-free (nobody there to hurt you, no new toxins) where experts will help you heal.*"

If you are trying to decide whether to separate from a troubled marriage, here are some guidelines:

- Are you and your children physically safe if you remain in your home? If not, find a safe place immediately and surround yourself with people you can trust as you begin to heal and work on hard issues from a safe distance.
- Does your husband seem willing to seek help through a pastor or counselor? If so, and **if it is safe**, stay put, be willing to admit your part of the problem, and commit to working on specific issues until they are resolved.
- Don't rely on feelings! Anger and discontent can cloud your judgment and entice you with the message that you deserve to be happy, and happiness can only be found if you leave. If you are physically safe, it will be worth the effort it takes to stay and work closely together.
- Are you emotionally stable? If you are having anxiety attacks or suffering physical ailments from repeated verbal or emotional abuse, it may be wise to retreat to a safe place where you can heal and become stronger emotionally and spiritually before you return.

Goals for Separation (example):

- Safety from physical or repeated emotional abuse

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- Time to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually (6-12 months recommended if dealing with physical abuse or addictions).
- Discover the real issues in the breakdown of the relationship, seek help to resolve them and make lasting changes in behavior and attitude.
- Reconciliation, if possible

Structure of Separation (example):

- Decide where each party will live and how communication will take place. If you are afraid of further physical abuse, either file for a protective order or agree that you will not meet except in a public place or with a third-party present.
- If children are involved, agree on a visitation schedule. If violence is an issue, plan to meet in a public place to drop off or pick up the children.
- Decide whether or not you will be counseled jointly or separately. In most domestic violence cases, it is recommended that counseling begin separately.
- Agree on financial issues such as who will pay the bills, child support, etc. while you are separated. If you are unable to agree on anything, meet with a third party (pastor, counselor, attorney).
- Determine at what time intervals you will evaluate whether reconciliation should take place.

Rules (example):

- Verbal, emotional or physical abuse will not be tolerated by either party.
- Each party will take responsibility for their part of the problem and will work diligently until real change has occurred.

Tasks (example):

- Abuser must attend domestic violence counseling (or alcoholic must attend AA meetings) for a specific time.
- Victim must attend a support group or receive counseling for a specific time.
- The goals, rules, and structure will be different for each relationship and should contain flexibility and grace.

Day of – ATONEMENT – and Suffering **(Copyright) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)**

Leviticus 23:26-27 “The Lord said to Moses - The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves.” V28 “Do not work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God.” The Day of Atonement is an invitation and command, calling believers to identify with the death and sufferings of Christ by fasting on this day. If not fasting, then how else would you “deny yourselves?” It is also a prophecy that Christ would suffer and has been fulfilled in the sacrifice of the Son of God.

The high priest entered the most holy place once a year on the Day of Atonement. **Hebrews 9:1-8**, Verse 8 “The Holy Spirit was showing by this that - the way - into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed.” **John 14:5-6** “Thomas said to him, Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know “the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

*This is teaching that the - Holy Place was symbolic of the Father’s Presence. We know that eternal life or Salvation, is to know the Father and his Son Christ Jesus. **John 17:3** “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Leviticus 23:29 “Anyone who does not - deny himself - on that day must be cut off from his people.” Verse 32 “It is a Sabbath of rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth Day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your Sabbath.”

When speaking of his death and suffering, Jesus Christ said: Luke 9:23 “If anyone would come after me, he must – “deny himself” – and take up his cross – daily and follow me”; the same words “deny himself” was also said in Leviticus 23:29. This teaches that we identify, with Christ, in his suffering and death by - denying ourselves - on the Day of

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Atonement.

The concept of Christians willingly “denying” yourself extends to repentance; that is a lifelong battle. Repentance is, turning away, and denying yourself the sins of this world. The word “daily” that Christ used in Luke 9:23 is referring to “daily” turning away from sin, “denying” yourself.

Jesus Christ commands all to “deny” themselves in Luke 13:3-5 by saying: “unless you repent you too will all perish.” That is the same as saying: Leviticus 23:29 “Anyone who does not – deny himself - on that day must be cut off from his people.” Jesus Christ called on all, to “deny” themselves, at the beginning of the gospel, Matthew 4:17 “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is here.”

All those who are called to believe in the God of Israel, are commanded to fast on the Day of Atonement so that we may identify with Messiah; by taking part in the sufferings of Christ. What other reason would there be for God to say, “anyone who does not deny himself must be cut off from his people?” God teaches believers to accept, persecution, hardships, and trials in our lives as discipline from God; Hebrews 12:7 “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons.”

Sadly, many Christians today are looking for acceptance by the world. If the world loves you, you do not belong to Christ. We should accept and expect to be rejected and persecuted by the world, as Jesus Christ was, and wear that persecution like a crown.

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

1 Peter 2:20-21, if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is commendable before God. “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps”. **1 Peter 4:12-13** “rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ”.

The fulfillment of the Day of Atonement is when God gives the nation of Israel and all Jews his Holy Spirit and reveals the sacrifice of his Son Christ Jesus to them.

Ezekiel 36:24-36 is speaking of God’s Holy Spirit being poured on the Jews and the nation of Israel. Verse 25, “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new Spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. This will be - reversing what the Apostle Paul said in Romans 11:25 NIV “Israel has experienced a hardening in part.”

V24 “I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back to your own land.” V27, “I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. This is something new and will be the first time God’s Spirit is given to an entire nation. The Day of Atonement will be a time of National Repentance: V31, “Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loath yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.” V32, “Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, O house of Israel!” This attitude of repentance will spread to all the remaining nations.

Zechariah 12:10 - I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a Spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced”. They will “grieve bitterly for him.” “On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great.” Christians, observe the Day of Atonement, by “denying ourselves” and as we hunger, remember, we are identifying, with the great suffering and death of the Son of God. On the Day of Atonement read: **Isaiah 53:3-12**, that describes the great suffering of our Savior. Christ Jesus Crucified is Light that shines beyond the Grave! Praise God.