

The Big W of the Universe

(Copyright) by Gregory Diaz
(Wayne, New Jersey)

PAGE 2 **Articles**

A House of Prayer for All Nations

(Copyright) by Jeffrey Caldwell
(Arkansas)

PAGE 5 **Articles**

Truth is Truth

(Copyright) by Ray Daly
(Bismarck, ND)

PAGE 6 **Articles**

Are We a Nation of Nominal (Name Only) Christians?

(Copyright) by Eddie Hyatt
(Tulsa, Oklahoma)

PAGE 6 **Articles**

America Is a Stranger Unto Itself

(Copyright) by Richard Markland
(London, Ohio)

PAGE 8 **Articles**

What Does Domestic Violence Look Like?

Copyright © 2008 Brenda Branson
(Hanson, Kentucky)

PAGE 9 **Articles**

Feast Day Typology in the New Testament Holy Day Charts

(Copyright) by Craig White
(Australia)

PAGE 11 **Other Items**

To Unsubscribe from this newsletter:

Send a blank email to church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

To Subscribe to this newsletter:

Send a blank email to church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

To Submit Items for Print: Send to: church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com or Mail to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502

The "New" Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

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

Contributors: Brenda Branson, Jeffrey Caldwell, Ray Daly, Gregory Diaz, Eddie Hyatt, Richard Markland, Craig White

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

Articles

The Big W of the Universe (Copyright) by Gregory Diaz (Wayne, New Jersey)

In the comedy classic movie "It's a Mad Mad World" a few people witness an accident. They then make their way down to the driver. Before he "kicks the bucket" the driver tells them about a stash of money buried under a "Big W." Rather than cooperating and sharing the money they each race to the park where the money is buried to try to claim it first. When they all finally arrive at the park they earnestly begin searching. However, at first they cannot seem to find the big W. They keep walking past four palm trees that have grown into the shape of the letter. Eventually someone notices that the palm trees are what they have been looking for.

Since the beginning of our existence man has gazed into the night sky with wonder and amazement. Psalm 19:1 (NKV) tells us "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." We see that the universe is extremely beautiful. Yet could we be missing the most incredible and fascinating idea about it? Is there something hidden in plain sight? Is there a kind of "Big W" of the universe?

In order to explain, first imagine how God may have come up with the idea for creating a universe. Let us first assume that before God created anything there wasn't anything else. Since only He existed it would be logical for Him to draw on His own attributes as the inspiration for its design. Attributes of God in addition to His righteous character include His ability to create, think and learn. Keeping in mind that God made man in His own image (Gen 1:27) this raises a fascinating question. When we look at the universe are we seeing a model of God's thinking and learning process?

Could the universe be a physical representation of God's consciousness? For example, could galaxies represent swirling collections of thoughts and ideas? Could space and time represent knowledge and imagination? Is energy the physical equivalent of curiosity? Could space and time unite to form matter the way that knowledge and imagination unite to form thoughts?

A newly discovered and interesting piece of evidence seems to support this. It concerns patterns of galaxy networks that have an uncanny resemblance to brain cell networks. A web search of "neuron galaxy similarities" will bring up several articles and image comparisons on the subject that explain the finding. It would be ironic if a new scientific discovery inadvertently led to evidence supporting the existence of a creator since many scientists reject this idea.

Most people would agree the universe is beautiful. It is filled with symmetry which exemplifies beauty. Symmetry conveys the idea of two separate parts having been joined together. Therefore, it appears evident that beauty exists whenever multiple parts come together to make a whole. Unity and beauty could be thought of as synonyms. Beauty is interesting as it gives evidence of the intelligence necessary to create it. Harmonious unity and relationships are underlying themes of the universe.

Consider the inexplicable motion of electrons within atoms. Known as the Uncertainty Principle the exact motion of electrons cannot be predicted. Yet there exists a relationship between uncertainty and predictability. The universe beautifully combines these two opposing properties by limiting the random motion of electrons to specific energy levels. Although the precise location of an electron for a specific time cannot be known before hand, it will be found within the boundary of its energy level. The same idea is seen throughout nature. For example, the exact size and shape of leaves on a tree cannot be predicted. However, each leaf will follow the same basic pattern. Likewise in our thinking process we

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

are able to unite imagination with knowledge. We do this by guiding our imagination to stay within the boundary of what we know. In this way we focus our creative ability to form thoughts and ideas.

Consider how we learn. We compare our observations and experiences. This forms a kind of union that provides us with new information. We also compare our thoughts together learning through logic and reasoning. Naturally it requires two parts or aspects in order to make any comparison.

The universe mimics the way we learn. Consider the relationship between space and time. They exhibit unity, beauty, and cooperation. The cooperation of space and time allow for the motion of objects through them. When any two objects are in motion the universe displays a comparison between them. The closer they are to each other the more obvious that comparison becomes. The universe in a sense comprehends any difference or similarity through the comparison. Of course, this is not to say that the universe has any awareness of its own but seems to be the facsimile of it.

There are two fundamental ways that we learn. One is by the scientific method. The other is through communication. The scientific method is a laborious process. In contrast communication is a kind of rest from the labor of the scientific method. For example, when scientists share their findings, they save each other time spent setting up and carrying out experiments.

When using the scientific method, we are comparing observations, experiments and thoughts in order to gain knowledge. As previously mentioned there must be two observations or experiments in order to make the comparison. Likewise, two facts are required when reasoning. Now consider how this method of learning is modeled in the laws of the universe. Objects move through three-dimensional space. Likewise, we may utilize three different approaches within the scientific process of learning.

The steps of the scientific method are themselves each different approaches to learning. If we think of these learning approaches as paths for motion between one understanding to another and from one idea to another, we can see there is an identical pattern in the way the universe functions. Like the scientific method the universe also has three categories, its three spacial dimensions for the motion of objects. As with our learning process the universe also compares in various ways for its ability to function.

Both our learning process and the universe have a fundamental numeric pattern. Our learning process utilizes the three approaches of observation, calculation, and experimentation while the universe utilizes three spacial dimensions. Our learning process and the universe both use comparisons. The numeric pattern therefore is three times two plus one. The "plus one" represents communication as it is also a learning method.

In the creation account of the bible the same numeric pattern is seen. The bible tells us that God used six days to create before resting on the seventh day. It also explains how the first humans initially observed, then reasoned before eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If we now consider that the primary message of the bible teaches us faith in God, and that the bible is communication from God, it strongly indicates that the bible is likewise authored by God. Communication creates unity but requires faith and the fruits of God's spirit to do so.

Consider some ways that the universe represents or enables communication. For example, through electromagnetic radiation the universe shares information with other areas of itself. Electrical charges transfer information and join atoms together. With the phenomenon of quantum entanglement entangled particles will remain connected despite being separated by a distance. Actions taken on one particle will affect the other. The laws of physics make communication by telephone, internet, radio, and television possible. We also see that space and time clearly function as a union.

Now consider an interesting possibility. The prospect that seeing the universe this way, as a representation of thinking, may give us a more complete understanding of its nature. Specifically, we might gain insight into the nature of time. Since the universe operates by symmetry and by relationships this may provide a logical reason to compare time with space. Perhaps space and time are symmetrical. Perhaps like space time is three dimensional. Of course, thinking of time this way isn't what we are used to. It may seem incomprehensible. If we aren't careful it may seem to cause brain damage. However, there is no need to panic. We may not need to completely give up our current understanding of time.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

Perhaps there are two types of time. In order to understand this first consider how we travel through space. In a sense we are continually moving forward through space. For example, when a person drives a car, he continually accumulates mileage. Even if he drives backwards, he is still adding to the car's actual mileage. He can never erase it or the amount of space he traveled through; not even if he were to roll back the odometer. Yet space is three dimensional. We therefore could say there are two types of space. The space that we accumulate as we travel through it as well as the three-dimensional space which gives us the ability to travel through it in every direction.

Now apply this same idea to time. We continually move forward through time accumulating events to create history. One type of time therefore concerns our accumulated experiences. We keep track of events by comparing them with the rhythmic patterns of nature. We think of time as continually moving forward. Yet this does not seem to be the complete explanation of time. There must be another type of time.

Clearly time must also exist as a physical property of the universe. It is a property that allows us and matter to move through space. It is evident that time has many similarities to space. It therefore seems reasonable to consider that the physical property of time should be three dimensional. Now if so, time would not itself be in motion. It would not flow. It would need to be stationary in the way space is stationary.

It is obvious that time is necessary for motion. Motion is also needed to perceive time. For example, in order to comprehend how long a train ride will last, we would have to compare its speed to the motion of a clock's hands. We could also compare its speed to the speed of another train or any other moving thing. Since we perceive time through the motion of objects through space, we must conclude that space is necessary to our understanding of time.

We can also perceive a multi-dimensional nature of time through motion. Again, if time were symmetrical with space, then perhaps it may be more clearly understood when compared with space. For example, anything in motion has both a speed and a direction. Since both are required, it would seem to be that an object's speed through time is a property of time just as it's direction through space is a property of space.

Both speed and direction can be altered by degrees. Both speed and direction have a limit to the range of change they can use. For example, when light moves away from its source it does so in the most direct manner possible. It moves at a ninety-degree angle. It also travels through time in the most direct way by the fastest possible speed. Therefore, just as there is a maximum limit to the number of degrees in a right angle the speed of light is the maximum speed any object can travel within the universe. We can also draw a comparison between the directions of space to the range of speeds allowed by time. The dimensions of space are understood by length, width, and height. The dimensions of time might be understood by rate of speed, rate of acceleration and rate of jerk or change in acceleration.

In other words, we clearly perceive the dimensions of space since we are able to change directions both horizontally and vertically through it. We may likewise perceive the dimensions of time from the way we adjust our speed through time. We may increase or decrease our speed. We may also increase or decrease the rate of our acceleration.

The interesting idea is that if time is three dimensional it would provide us with a clear, simple, and comprehensible explanation for gravity. Three-dimensional time would not flow. It would be comparable to space in that it would be a boundless extent which allowed matter to exist and move around. Like space matter could move through time from one location to another and back again. Since matter occupies space, it will likewise occupy time. This provides a simple explanation for the existence of gravity.

In order to understand the significance of this consider how that the effect of inertia and the effect of gravity are exactly the same. For example, a person traveling in an accelerating rocket would feel the same force as a person held down by gravity. We feel the effects of inertia any time we accelerate. If we accelerate while in a car we are pressed toward the back of the seat.

Another way to think of acceleration is how it is creating a difference between two points in time. In other words, an acceleration creates a difference in the time of your arrival to a point in space. For example, you might come to a traffic light a second sooner after accelerating than you otherwise would have before doing so. If you were to have a constant acceleration you would be constantly creating that difference.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

The same idea applies to matter. Matter is occupying time the same way it occupies space. Each atom exists in a different location of time causing a slight difference in the time between each atom. Since the difference of time between atoms is permanent the effect is continuous. This explains why there is gravity.

Now consider Einstein's famous equation $E=MC^2$. From this equation we understand that matter may be converted into kinetic energy. In other words when matter is annihilated it produces a force opposite to that of gravity. Compared to gravity this force is strong, pushes outward and is temporary. Gravity on the other hand is weak, pulls inward and exists permanently. Consider a logical reason that may explain the force produced when matter is annihilated.

Since time may be the mechanism causing gravity, it may also explain why annihilating matter also produces force, a force opposite to gravity. Keeping in mind that annihilated matter no longer occupies space and time a logical possibility could be that matter is a fusion of space and time. When annihilated, fused atoms comprised of space and time then separate becoming in a sense new space and new time. The sudden increase in space and time creates force as it contrasts the existing time with the newly added time.

As previously mentioned, the fusion of space and time may be compared to the way we fuse knowledge with imagination producing thoughts and ideas. Imagination fuels curiosity just as time produces force. By this we are inspired to learn new things.

God created our minds and has given us the ability to learn. God also seems to have created the universe as a model of thinking and learning. God communicates with us through the bible. It is clearly stamped with a numerical fingerprint that corresponds to numbers both in our learning process and in the universe proving God as its author. However, there is yet an additional example of this theme in God's creation.

The bible tells us in Acts 17:26 that God has "made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." God created mankind in His own image. He created our diversity. Understanding what God had in mind by creating our diversity could give us a greater respect for our differences. It seems that God may have created major differences in us as a representation of our learning process.

The theme of the universe is the unity and the beauty of relationships. Since relationships require love it could be said that love is the theme of the universe. God has an incredible plan to unite all of mankind to each other and to Himself. Therefore, when we view the universe and the complexity of nature let us not miss what is plain to see. Let us not fail to see the big W of the universe.

A House of Prayer for All Nations

(Copyright) by Jeffrey Caldwell (Arkansas)

To those who say the Sabbath was given only for the Jews:

Jesus, driving out those selling in the temple area, quotes Isaiah, "My house will be a house of prayer" (Luke 19:46, Isaiah 56:7).

In the same place the LORD says, "my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" He also says "foreigners ... who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it ... I will ... give ... joy in my house of prayer" (Isaiah 56:6-7).

Jesus says, "the Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27) -- for humanity.

Astronomically, the seven-day week is the one major calendric pattern that seems completely arbitrary ... the day, the month, and the year are repeatedly marked and defined by the motions of the heavenly bodies, but not the seven-day week. The seven-day week originated when they, and we, were made (Genesis 2:2-3). The week is an *historic* God-ordained cycle -- a commemoration of Creation!

The Sabbath helps to fulfill the Creators purpose in fashioning men and women "in his own image" (Genesis 1:27). It is

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

"a day of sacred assembly" (Leviticus 23:3) and a day of rest. The Sabbath was created as a taste and a type of "entering his rest" (Hebrews 4:1) -- as when the faithful are gathered to Abraham in "the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

Truth is Truth

(Copyright) by Ray Daly (Bismarck, ND)

The above title is based on the words of 2 Tim. 2:15, "Study to show yourself approved unto God. A workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the truth."

Note the underlined word, "dividing". It should seem evident that this is referring to separating truth from falsity. We will see an example of this shortly. As well, we will also see evidence separating "truth from truth".

The main point I am trying to get across in this study, is to encourage believers to become as those spoken of in Acts 17:11. "These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind. And searched the Scriptures daily, to see whether those things be so."

Let's examine one of the examples of truth being separated from that which is false. First, let's view the Sabbath, as it is spoken of in the book of the law of Moses'. Ex. 31:16, "Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations." Which law most Sabbath congregations today, practice to greater and lesser degrees.

The question is, what is "false" about the above truth? Well, it is not in the sabbath itself being observed, but what Scripture shows is false, is the fact that almost all ordained ministers over those churches, teach that there is a command that believers must "assemble" on the Sabbath as well as observe it.

Now comes the part that today's Sabbath observers need to do. That being to act like the Bereans and search the Scriptures. For, if they do, they will find that there is no such command to "assemble" on the Sabbath. There are a few Scriptures in both the OT and the NT, that shows that the citizens did not have to assemble.

Not that assembling is wrong, simply that to do so as a command is not required. And also note that, when there were assemblies on the Sabbath, it was by those of the "citizens" that sent appointed "representatives" to present their needs and thoughts at those assemblies. The Truth is, that the "church" was a democracy, based on the form of government established via the "10, 50, 100, 1000" system established when Israel was at Mt. Horeb. Which system we see in the event of the two women claiming a baby to belong to them. It went through the 10-50-100 levels until it had to go to Solomon at the 1000 level. The "citizens" were in charge Not as the system of "Diotrephes" of 3rd John.

Let's now look at a truth being divided from another truth. We have already seen what the "book of the law of Moses" has to say about the need to "observe" the Sabbath. Which is a truth. But note what the "other Law" says of the Sabbath. "Remember the Sabbath". (Ex. 20:8) "Bereans". Look up the word "remember" and see what it says. And ask yourself if the definitions you read say anything about having to even "observe" the seventh day.

Another topic of "Truth from False" can be studied regarding the topic of tithing. A thorough study will show that there was only one tithe, and that it was to be used only for the observance of the feasts.

Are We a Nation of Nominal (Name Only) Christians?

(Copyright) by Eddie Hyatt (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

I read with interest Dr. Michael Brown's commentary on Brady 'Phanatik' Goodwin's announcement that he was renouncing his Christian faith. What caught my eye was the informal and sterile nature of the faith he was renouncing. In explaining his decision, Goodwin said,

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

I sent a letter to my church withdrawing my membership and saying that I am denouncing the Christian faith that I have believed, professed, proclaimed, and defended for the last 30 years of my life.

My heart goes out to Mr. Goodwin, but it sounds as though his Christianity was rooted in externals such as church membership and a set of doctrinal beliefs that he has “defended” for much of his life. There is little indication of a warm and personal heart relationship with Christ.

By contrast, if you read the words of the early martyrs of the church, it is obvious they were not laying down their lives for an institution or set of doctrines. Their testimonies are warm and passionate concerning their love and commitment to Christ.

For example, Polycarp (ca. 69-155), pastor/bishop of Philippi, was martyred for his faith late in life. Brought before the pagan proconsul of the region and given the option of renouncing Christ or being burned alive, Polycarp passionately replied,

For eighty-six years I have been his servant, and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?

Polycarp obviously did not see himself dying for a mere set of doctrines. It was a Person he was representing, and this Person meant everything to him. This is not to downplay the importance of doctrine, but to remind us that it is a Person that saves us, not a doctrine.

John Wesley discovered this in a very dramatic fashion. He was ordained as a minister in the Anglican Church and even went to Georgia as a missionary; but according to his own testimony he was a Christian in name only, for his faith was in the external forms of Christianity and not Christ Himself. This all changed when he visited a Moravian society where someone was reading Martin Luther’s Preface to Romans.

As Wesley listened to how Luther described the change that comes when a person puts their faith in Christ and Him alone, he had a life-changing experience that he considered to be the time of his conversion. He wrote,

I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt that I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sin, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

Wesley was never the same. After this conversion experience, he spearheaded the great Methodist Revival that transformed the British Isles and impacted the church around the world.

I am not suggesting that Goodwin was not truly saved. Only God knows the heart. His words, nonetheless, remind me, not only of Wesley’s experience, but also that of Pandita Ramabai, a remarkable Christian woman whose life was transformed when she came to the realization that she too was a Christian in name only.

Pandita was reared in a devout Hindu home but decided to convert to Christianity as a young woman while studying in England. She, therefore, joined the Church of England, was baptized, and began studying to defend her new religion to family and friends.

But two years after her conversion, Pandita came to the realization that she had, as she put it, merely “changed religions.” Her faith was in the external formalities of Christianity, not the Person of Christ. She realized she was a Christian in name only.

She bowed before the Lord and gave herself completely up to Him. Her life was revolutionized as she experienced the new birth of which Jesus spoke. Her faith was now in Christ Himself, and it was very personal, heart-felt, and dynamic.

In 1905 she began a prayer meeting with the 500 residents of the orphanage she had founded. She announced that the purpose of the prayer meeting was to pray for the conversion, not of the Hindus or the Muslims, but of the Christians in India.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

She realized from her own experience that many who called themselves Christians had only a superficial faith based on the outward formalities of Christianity. Their faith was in church membership, or the fact they had once been baptized, or the fact they attended church. Their faith was not in Christ Himself.

Out of this prayer meeting, a great revival was ignited that spread throughout India. Multitudes of “Christians” encountered the living Christ, and their lives were transformed. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, young orphan girls went out preaching the Gospel in the surrounding Indian villages.

The revival attracted visitors from far and near, including American missionaries who were in awe of what they observed. So great was Pandita's social impact that in 1989 the Indian government issued a postage stamp in her honor with her picture.

If Goodwin's faith was like that of Wesley's or Pandita's before their conversion, I pray that he will turn to Jesus with all his heart and come to know Him in a real and personal way. This is what Christianity is all about, for Jesus Himself said in John 17:3, *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

I think it is safe to say that this nation is filled with those who are “Christian” in name only. Perhaps we would do well to pray for their conversion. When such nominal (name only) Christians awaken to their condition and turn to Jesus with all their hearts, the Church comes alive and becomes a transformative force in society.

It happened with Wesley in 18th century England and Pandita in 20th century India and it can happen in 21st century America as well.

Reprinted with permission from: God's Word to Women
<http://www.godstowomen.org/>

America Is a Stranger Unto Itself

(Copyright) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

To ask what has happened to America is a question with disturbing answers. Radical changes are overtaking every attempt to stop what can only be described as unadulterated godlessness that is going to result in deadly consequences the country in no way is prepared for.

Immoral behavior has become the norm and anyone who takes a moral stand is banned by mainstream media outlets and considered a social pariah. Labels with expired expiration dates are attached to anyone who has views based on moral principles, especially from the bible.

A Nation Plagued by Indifference

For decades, the Jews of World War Two Europe have been criticized for turning a blind eye to the rise of Adolf Hitler and fascism's reign of terror. Is the condemnation, however, justified when the American people do not see precious freedoms eroding by the day, big Tech and government leaders at all levels playing the role of Big Brother, and a pandemic that has resulted in the abuse of power by officials who have caused more devastation than the Covid-19 virus ever could.

How can America survive with an economy in complete disarray, unparalleled political corruption on a national, state, and local level, the nonstop slaughter of babies in America's concentration camps called Planned Parenthood, the utter failure to stop the drug epidemic, and broken homes, the backbone of every civilization in a state of shambles?

America is a disgrace before the world because it is incapable of blushing. What has the nation become when a man decides to become a woman and a woman a man, but anyone who states it is wrong can be charged with a hate crime? What has America become when being white can be a crime due to accusations of white privilege, white supremacy and

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

being an extremist? What kind of a nation is America when black anger prevents the shackles of the past from being removed because the poisonous attitude refuses to forget? America has become a land of the strange and the home of the estranged.

Apathy is eating away at the heart and soul of the nation’s leaders and people. America is a nation suffering from the gift of gab because talking about problems is far easier than taking the necessary steps to do what is required to solve them.

America is a lumbering giant that takes two steps forward and six steps back when it comes to looking at itself in the national mirror. What we have become is blurred because we refuse to face what we have become as a nation.

The United States is a modern-day Titanic. It is headed for a colossal iceberg, far, far bigger than itself. The iceberg is deeply entrenched and it is a foregone conclusion that the nation’s leaders and people are completely unprepared for what is coming.

An Age of Scoffing, Jeering and Ridicule

Problems have to become personal before people are willing to admit there is a crisis. Warnings are falling on deaf ears. Stating that spiritual answers are the only way the nation will be saved from itself is the last thing people want to hear. America can’t afford to continue to maintain a naïve and Pollyanna attitude that the American spirit has always prevailed and always will, no matter what. It has lulled the nation into a stupor.

The bible warns against an attitude of scoffing, jeering and ridicule. II Peter 3:3-6- “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts (personal inclinations) (4) And saying, where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers (or in relation to America, its founding fathers) fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation (or in relation to America, when it was first established) (5) For this they willingly are ignorant of (6) whereby the world, that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.”

America is a far cry from the nation it was when first established, and because it is spiraling out of control, the title to a classic rock song, “You Ain’t Seen Nothin Yet,” is exactly what is ahead. The bible describes such a time. Matthew 24:21- “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

How to Prepare for What’s Coming

Jeremiah 26:13- “Therefore now amend your ways and your doings and obey the voice of the Lord your God; and the Lord will repent him of the evil that he has pronounced against you.”

Mark 13:33, 37- “Take heed, watch and pray: for you know not when the time is (37) And what I say unto you I say unto all, watch.”

Luke 21:36- “Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy (live in a worthy manner) to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Even if America will not repent as a nation, there is still time for individual repentance. Isaiah 66:2- “...but to this man will I look, even him that is poor (humble) and of a contrite heart (a repentant attitude) and trembles at my word.”

What Does Domestic Violence Look Like?

Copyright © 2008 Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky)

Domestic violence is “*any behavior that is intended to control another human being through the use of fear, humiliation, and verbal or physical assaults*”, according to Dr. Susan Forward, Ph.D., author of *Men Who Hate Women and the Women Who Love Them*.

Domestic violence includes:

- **Physical violence:** slapping, hitting, burning, punching, choking, shoving, beating, throwing things, locking out, restraining, pushing, grabbing, twisting limbs, pinching, pulling out clumps of hair, etc.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

- **Emotional abuse:** shaming, ridiculing, insulting, demeaning, name calling, threatening, withholding, manipulating, insulting, financial control, undermining, etc.
- **Sexual abuse:** rape, forcing reproductive decisions, forcing someone to engage in sexual acts she finds unpleasant or frightening, sexual assaults which may or may not involve force, and include such things as grabbing, fondling, or verbal threats, etc.

Emerge, a Boston counseling program for abusive men, defines domestic violence as *“any act that causes the victim to do something she does not want to do, prevents her from doing something she does want to do, or causes her to be afraid.”*

Myth: *“I am not an abuser because my wife has never had any injuries that required a doctor’s care or hospitalization.”*

Fact: Any assault upon another person is a crime! Severity of assaults are classified into two categories:

Simple assault: an attack without a weapon resulting either in minor injury (bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling) or an undetermined injury requiring less than two days of hospitalization. It also includes attempted assault without a weapon and verbal threats of assault.

Aggravated assault: an attack or attempted attack with a weapon regardless of whether or not an injury occurred, and attack without a weapon when serious injury results. Serious injury includes broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness, and any injury requiring two or more days of hospitalization.

What is the difference between an occasional spat and domestic violence?

- Vicious attacks are repeated over and over again whenever the abuser loses control or becomes angry
- One partner dominates and controls the other through fear, threats, and verbal or physical abuse

What does domestic violence look like?

- Usually starts with degrading behavior, insults, put-downs
- Abuser convinces victim she is the one causing problems in the marriage, and she needs to change
- Abuser insists on knowing victim’s every move, monitors her phone calls, and often isolates her from family and friends
- Abuser projects his faults and failures onto the victim, and refuses to take responsibility for his own actions
- Abuser makes her financially dependent by controlling all the family finances, refuses to give her money for necessities in order to make her a virtual prisoner
- Abuser refuses to give her money for clothing and haircuts, etc., but criticizes her appearance
- Convinces victim that she is stupid, worthless, and unable to function without his help
- Verbal abuse escalates into physical violence to keep her in line and instill fear
- Victim has to walk on eggshells to avoid further incidents
- This cycle of abuse repeats itself over and over again until the woman becomes so beaten down that she gives up hope and submits to an abusive lifestyle (much like a prisoner of war) or until she confronts the evil and seeks safety and help.

Shocking statistics:

- Up to **six million** women are believed to be beaten in their homes each year. Four million incidents are reported. Up to **90%** of battered women never report their abuse.
- On the average, a woman is battered in the United States by a partner every **12-15 seconds!**

If you are being physically abused, seek help immediately! Call 9-1-1 if possible. If you cannot safely call from

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

where you are, place the call as soon as you are out of the house and out of danger. If you are injured, go directly to the emergency room and ask that your injuries be documented and photographed. Contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline number at 800-799-SAFE (7233) for information about help in your area.

Make a safety plan and know what you will do if you are attacked again. **Whatever you do, don't ignore the problem . . . talk to someone. Part of the abuser's power comes from secrecy!**

Feast Day Typology in the New Testament Holy Day Charts

(Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)

Charts extracted from *What is the 'Better Resurrection' in the Letter to the Hebrews?*

Holy Feast Day/Book of Revelation Parallels		
Chapter	Prophecy/Event	Holy Feast Day
1	Introduction – Christ the Lamb of God	Passover
2-3	Seven Churches – sin in spiritual Israel and examining the self	Seven Days of Unleavened Bread
4-5	Christ the Lamb, Redeemer, worthy to open the scroll	Sheaf of the Firstfruits during the DUB
6 – 8:6	Seven Seals of the Scroll	Pentecost
7:4,9; 14:4	Two Wave Loaves and Two Multitudes – Israel and the Gentiles	Pentecost
8:7 – 11:19	Seven Trumpets	Trumpets
12	INSET	
13 – 19	Great Tribulation & Day of the Lord	Trumpets
20:1-3	Satan bound	Atonement
20:4-6	Millennial reign of the Messiah	Tabernacles
20:7-15	Judgment	Last Great Day

(The above chart is based on the information contained in David Hill's booklet on *The Correlation between the Holy Days and the Book of Revelation*)

Paul's Epistles to the Churches are each based on a Holy Day Theme

Epistle	Holy Day	Approx. date of the Epistle	Comparison to the 7 doctrines of Heb 6:1-6
Romans	Passover and Pentecost	56-58AD	Perfection & Repentance; Laying on of Hands
ICorinthians	Passover	55AD	Perfection & Repentance
IICorinthians	Passover	56AD	Perfection & Repentance
Galatians	Days of Unleavened Bread	53AD	Faith & Baptism
Ephesians	Pentecost	61-62AD	Laying on of hands
Philippians	Pentecost	53AD	Laying on of hands
Colossians	Pentecost	53AD	Laying on of hands
IThessalonians	Trumpets	50-52AD	Resurrection
IIThessalonians	Trumpets	51-53AD	Resurrection
Hebrews	Atonement, Tabernacles, Last Great Day	62AD	Judgment

Holy Day Inferences in the Letter to the Hebrews

Chapter	Holy Day
Two	Tabernacles

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 63

Four	Tabernacles
Six	Final Judgement & Last Great Day
Eight	Atonement
Nine	Atonement
Ten	Atonement
Twelve	Final Judgement

The book of John is based on the Holy Days

Chapter	Holy Day Theme	Chapter	Holy Day Theme
Two	Passover and Unleavened Bread	Twelve	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Three	Passover and Unleavened Bread	Thirteen	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Four	Allusion to Pentecost	Fourteen	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Five	Tabernacle theme	Fifteen	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Six	Passover and Unleavened Bread	Sixteen	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Seven	Tabernacle's theme	Seventeen	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Eight	Last Great Day theme	Eighteen	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Nine	Last Great Day theme	Nineteen	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Ten	Last Great Day theme	Twenty	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Eleven	Allusion to the Last Great Day		

(The information for the above chart was extracted from Fred Coulter's book *Harmony of the Gospels*)

Lord's Prayer – an Outline of the Holy Days

7 Aspects of the Lord's Prayer	Holy Day
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us	Passover
Give us this day our daily bread	Unleavened Bread
Lead us not into temptation	Pentecost
Your Kingdom come	Trumpets
Deliver us from the evil one	Atonement
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven	Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day

(The model disciple's prayer focuses on the plan of God and reminds us of what our focus is to be on a daily basis. Author unknown)

History Research Projects
GPO Box 864, Sydney, Australia 2001
www.originofnations.org
www.friendsofsabbath.org

No limitation is placed upon reproduction of this document except that it must be reproduced in its entirety without modification or deletions. The publisher's name and address, copyright notice and this message must be included. It may be freely distributed but must be distributed without charge to the recipient.

Our purpose and desire is to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.