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(Little Rock, Arkansas)

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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

Contributors: Jason Darrow, Richard Frates, William P. Goff, Laura Lee, Obed Mambwe, Rod Reynolds, David Rives, Warren Zehrung

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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Countdown 466

(Copyright 04-05-2025) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

Dear Brethren,

I am sending you my attached sermon, “A Matter of Life and Death,” along with my Sermon Notes. This is the sermon I gave on Atonement Day last year. It provides a good study for Passover preparation. We have been reconciled to God the Father.

Jesus tells us that the full meaning of Passover has **not** yet been **fulfilled**. It will, however, be fulfilled after Jesus establishes His Father’s Kingdom on earth.

Luke 22:15-16 [Jesus] said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, **until** it be **fulfilled** in the Kingdom of God.

Passover and the Day of Atonement each teach us about the forgiveness of sin and our reconciliation to God through Christ’s sacrifice. The full purpose of Passover will be satisfied when **the world** will also be able to take Passover with Christ, not only the resurrected Church brethren. For the world to qualify to take Passover with Jesus and the Saints, Atonement of the world must first take place just prior to the beginning of the Millennium.

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John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into **the world** to condemn **the world**; but that **the world** through Him might be saved.

The entire world will be fellowshiping with God at that time and will be privileged to enjoy that future Passover. Atonement, coming right before the Millennium, will have brought the repentant and qualified world to the point of being included in Christ's fulfillment Passover!

The meanings of Passover and Atonement are very similar. One is for the Church, and the other will be for all those who are Christ's at His coming. Passover and the Day of Atonement each teach us about the forgiveness of sin and our reconciliation to God through Christ's sacrifice. Atonement will bring about the opportunity for the world to have a right relationship with the Father as the Church now enjoys. Reconciliation means being in favor with God, being made right with God.

The Day of Atonement pictures mankind being cleansed from sin and the reconciliation of all mankind to God. We in God's Church have already been reconciled to God the Father—the world awaits its justification at a soon coming Atonement Day.

Christ's death on His last Passover Day on earth has made reconciliation possible for those called to be the Children of God at this time. We in God's Church have been atoned for – and have direct access to God the Father. The payment of Christ's death for our sins reconciled us to the Father, paving the way for us to be His eternal Children. The world, living in sin, has not yet been atoned for. Atonement will come for the world when God's Spirit will be poured out on them.

Editor's Note:

According to scripture Christ died on the Preparation Day for the Passover. He was sacrificed on the stake with and at the same time as the Passover Lambs were killed. The Passover meal took place after Christ died. The meal that Christ ate with His disciples was just a meal and not the Passover meal. Laura Lee

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh;

As the Plan of God is unfolding, the realization of the Day of Atonement will show how God the Father will make reconciliation to Himself possible for all the sinful world. We in God's Church have been atoned for – and have direct access to God the Father. The world, living in sin, has not yet been atoned for.

For those who have not yet been called and receive God's Spirit, the Day of Atonement looks forward to the time shortly after Jesus has returned to this earth, and just prior to the Kingdom of God being set up in the Millennium. It is God's intent that all men be reconciled to Him and ultimately be saved.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, ... crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for **every man**.

1Timothy 2:3-4 ... God our Savior will have **all men** to be saved.

Editor's Note:

The goal is for all men to be saved but some people will choose not to be saved. Laura Lee

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In Leviticus 16, God gave us a foretaste of the Day of Atonement. God desired to have a sin offering that would be both **sacrificed** and yet **live** to represent both the sacrificed Jesus Christ, and the resurrected Jesus Christ—the two aspects of the Day of Atonement.

May this study present you with a comprehensive view of Passover and Atonement.
Your brother in Christ,
Warren

Editor’s Note:

The sermon notes to this are quite long, so they will not appear in order with the rest of the articles but will be printed at a later date after we have had time to go over them. Laura Lee

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Trump – Today’s “Ox” of Proverbs 14:4?
(Copyright 04-05-2025) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

“Where there is no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes abundant harvest.” God’s Spirit here, is referring to an “abundant harvest” of - Light and Truth from heaven. Example 1 Corinthians 9:9-14 “do not muzzle an ox treading out the grain” is speaking of supporting those who preach the gospel.

President Trump: Plow the hearts of democratic party leaders and judges, infested with deep darkness and deception with “light and truth.” The Demons in them will hate the light and scream like Tasmanian devils. But the chaotic disruption will make transparent to America and the world the darkness and deception that finds a home in their hearts.

Proverbs 17:15 and Jeremiah 23:14, Describes today’s democratic party leaders. “Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent; God detest them both.” “They strengthen the hands of evildoers so that no one repents of sin.”

President Trump: How the OX in Proverbs 14 - should plow today’s deep darkness and depravity from hell, that infest hearts minds of the democratic party? And that also intimidates minds of many republicans. You are already plowing the Demons possessed with the statement you made **“there are only two genders.”** Continue to dig up the consciousness of America and make these statements publicly.

Remember if the “OX” is self-muzzled: No “abundant harvest” of goodness, light, and truth. **A.** “No one can change gender.” **B.** “Transgender is a phantom” that only exists in the minds of homosexuals pretending to be the opposite gender and democratic, party officials who pander to “evil is really good” theology from hell. **C.** “Marriage is between a man and a woman.” Those statements will fish out all the devils faithful worldwide: They will be shouting with rage. And accuse “discrimination” and “marriage inequality.”

This is “marriage equality.” Matthew 19:4 “The Creator made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ We are “one flesh” in our children!

Honest constitutional - nondiscrimination law must apply to all. Three perfect “nondiscrimination” laws: **1.** “No Lawmaker or Judge is to impose their sexual practices or the sexual practices of others on anyone or in K-12 education.

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2. No lawmaker or judge is to impose their religious doctrines or the religious doctrines of others on anyone; doctrine must only apply to members of that religion. 3. In court all are the same race, no American is to be rewarded or condemned or “discriminated” against based on race: That would take money out of the, white is racist and black is not, pander for black votes uncivil civil rights law. Then blacks charging racism and their damned lawyers like vultures will fly away.

Lawmakers in Europe pandering for Muslim votes and Devil-Media's approval. Made “**non offence laws**” must honor Muslim doctrine and homosexuals or Devil Forbid, they will be offended. Speaking truth is against the law in Europe, Australia, and others western nations. America's evil motive for nondiscrimination law: **License homosexuals to parade sin against God and “discriminate” against God and those who believe God.**”

Jesus Christ preached “repent” or you will perish, Luke 13:1-5. Anti-Christ - Nondiscrimination law, hate crime law and same sex marriage law preaches “do not repent” parade sin against God instead. Thereby - unconstitutionally - establishing “Devil-Worship” as America's religion. “Honoring what God decreed evil is “Devil-Worship.”

Save the innocence of children: Ban sex education K-12 by executive order. Send a boy or girl to school and Dr Frankenstein's child comes home. Stop democrats who infest education from, exposing children to LGBT and transgender fraud, K-12. Parents pushing transgender fraud on children should be charged with child abuse.

President Trump make this - Executive Order: “Separation of Church and State” State governors and lawmakers, decide for yourselves - **if you will or will not - Worship the Devil and recognize “same sex marriage” in your state.** Five judges ruled “same sex marriage” constitutional. Thereby forcing Devil-Worship religion in America. There is no basis in our constitution for such a diabolical ruling. Congress should have rejected the ruling and removed those judges for assuming they can rewrite the constitution and make their own opinion law.

If God's word is not the anchor of your conscious Devil-Media will be your conscious. Shackled speech and slavery of minds America's future.

Testing: God is weighing hearts, and minds, Jeremiah 17:10. Forward to President Trump.

Donor Letter April 5, 2025
(Copyright 04-06-2025) by William P. Goff (Tuckerton, New Jersey)

Greetings Brethren,

Here we are one week before Passover. Time sure is passing by ever so quickly. With prophecy unfolding right before our eyes, as the coming evil beast power (the power that will eventually take control of this world) begins to rise up

We are not living at the time our Lord began to build His church, we are living at the time when He is soon to finish it, and He wants His church what scripture calls: “Complete”. In realtors' terminology it's called “Turnkey” when everything is complete and in good working order. That's the condition that our Lord's “little flock” needs to be in, as this evil age comes to a close.

The “ten toes” (Kings) of the great statue in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (The statue that represents Babylon) are already rising up and will eventually be given power for one hour with the Beast. (Revelation 17:12).

Yes, during this time the bride will have made herself ready, and our Lord will be presenting to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, like we are told in (Ephesians 5:27). This time is approaching Brethren; I hope you can see it? Look at the sobering words of Peter in (2 Peter 3:9-11).

We want to thank you Brethren for continuing to help our impoverished orphans and widows. Conditions in these 3rd

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world countries continue to be terrible; even now many of our E. African brethren are suffering (some even starving again) as we approach the Spring Holy Days.

As mentioned in our latest update posted April 1, 2025, the schools have now closed for one Month. This is wonderful that all the children will be home for the Holy days. But after paying for their transportation to return home, plus the cost we had to pay for lessons that they are compelled to take while they are home, has left us financially dry.

We also lost another widow this past week to starvation. And we continue to struggle to feed the rest of them. Your funds are helping so much, but the need is so great. We have been distributing funds as they come in. No funds sit in our church account; they go out as they come in. Even today we sent the orphans of the Getionko congregation food (they were literally starving to death) but we could only send enough to last them 3 days.

This letter is not for those who continue to go above and beyond in helping (like many of you do). But I hope others will become aware of the need and join hands with us because additional help is needed. I hope to see all of our brethren eat three meals a day during the entire feast like they did last Feast. Remember how some of the remote orphans traveled to Sengeru House to keep the Feast, and slept on the floor?



The Remote Boy Orphans.



The Remote Girl Orphans

When the Feast ended, and it was time for these orphans to go home, they were crying, they didn't want to leave. They said it was the first time they could remember when they had three square meals each day, for seven days in a row. It was wonderful. I hope we can repeat it this year.

Please help if you can. And please try to inform others of the suffering. If other brethren only knew of the suffering, they would help.

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Sincerely
Bill Goff

Website: <https://khofh.com/>
E-mail: goffb50@aol.com
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Website: [KHOFFH – Kenya Hands of Hope](#)

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Principles of Cleanliness

(Copyright 04-06-2025) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

You’ve probably heard it said, “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” Although reputed to be an ancient saying rooted in Hebrew literature, the phrase “cleanliness is next to godliness” is not in the Bible. However, the principle of cleanliness is found throughout the Bible and is linked with “godliness,” or being holy. Words relating to cleanliness or its opposite, uncleanness, are found hundreds of times throughout the Scriptures.

Cleanliness, then, is a concept very important to God, and integral to the life of a Christian. In this message, explore with us the concept of cleanliness, and how it relates to our lives both physically and spiritually.

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Creationism is Cool Again?

(Copyright 04-07-2025) by David Rives (Lewisburg, Tennessee)

Once upon a time, belief in Creation was labeled as fringe. No, it didn't start that way. Creation was the bedrock of most famous scientists and their discoveries, but a few generations ago, slowly, but surely there was a march through many institutions that pinned Bible believing Christians as extremists and fanatics.

Many school children were required to watch the 1960s classic film, *"Inherit the Wind"* in their classes. One of the well-known lines from this film was preached by Dick Tracy: *"Fanaticism and ignorance is forever busy and needs feeding. And soon, your honor, with banners flying and with drums beating we'll be marching backward."* And that film is exactly the caricature that characterized the last 50 years. The lawyer and teacher were *"enlightened"*. Of course, they believed in evolution. The ignorant, idiotic, dangerously fundamentalist closed-minded townsfolk had their heads in the sand. And... predictably, they believe in creationism.

But the tables are being turned, and another cultural revolution is happening, in part by this show and our efforts which have reached tens of millions over the last 16 years. According to Barna, over half of Gen Z, those aged 12-28 are open to Jesus, the highest amount they've seen in at least a generation. In fact, Barna's research indicated that *"Three-Quarters of U.S. Teens Want to Learn More About Jesus."* What are they open to? Some backward culture? Or are the eyes of this generation being opened to truth? Are the multiple layers of deceit being eradicated? We say: Yes.

As an example, the world's most popular podcast has been giving a decent amount of airtime to dangerous, Bible believing Christians! as well as those open to Christian teachings. In a recent episode of the Joe Rogan podcast Mel Gibson was talking about the disciples of Jesus and how they had given their lives for the truth of the Resurrection. Gibson is, by many accounts, the most popular actor of the last generation. And he ferociously, and winsomely states the powerful case of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the kinds of truths that are breaking through. Believing in God is becoming cool again. And in the same interview, Gibson doubles down and he calls evolution *"The Darwin Thing."* He makes it sound like it's crazy to believe in that kind of magic called evolution.

In fact, things seem to be turning on their head. Perhaps people are beginning to catch on that Darwinism is as crazy as it really is! In another interview, Joe Rogan says, *"If evolution is real,"* and Tucker Carlson interrupts him and retorts, *"Is it real?"* Tucker goes on to mock and deride the idea of evolution, saying that it's been rejected and that it isn't true. He dismantles the idea of the fossil record backing up evolution and makes a very strong case that it is a fantasy.

These are the most-watched conversations and personalities of the last several years. They are stirring conversations. Creationism isn't being viewed as a fringe idea by the vast majority of people anymore. These topics are beginning to fill conversations like never before.

Finally, Christian apologist Wesley Huff makes a reasoned, and methodical case of the literal and historical resurrection. Joe Rogan asks this question, *"How do you fact-check someone being raised from the dead?"* Huff goes through the list of incredible things that back up the fact that the resurrection did take place. Joe Rogan asks question after question, and Wesley Huff answers the questions, giving a defense for the hope that he has. He states with clarity that others arose to declare themselves to be the Messiah, *"And they died, and the movement dies with them."*

The truth is that people are asking questions, because we have had a web of lies spun over generations. But you, who dare to think for yourselves, are seeing through the lies. Those around you are beginning to wake up. They are beginning to see that belief in Creation, the belief that God created the world, makes so much more sense than the alternative beliefs of atheistic humanism, naturalism, and evolutionism.

We are living in a time of a truth revolution. Stand up, speak out, be bold.

I'm David Rives,
Truly, the heavens declare the glory of God.

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Distribution of Bibles and Need for Labourers

(Copyright 04-09-2025) by Obed Mambwe (Kawambwa, Zambia)

Dear brethren in the Most Highest God Greetings again in Jesus name. And the Bible teaches that " The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." This is facts about the work of God here in Zambia it's on demand we are in need of many copies of Bibles. That's why we go forth to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and this needs of humanity is outside church and inside church. The book of Mark 16:15 States " And he said unto them, Go ye into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. The book of Ezekiel 33:6-9. Quotes " But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So, thou O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

The end is near and we must go forth to won thousands of souls back to God and surrender all the sins to God. This our mission The Bible recorded in the book of Matthew 24:14 States" And the gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Additional by this, we must keep watch each and every time. Because we stay in the last days of final events. Matthew 24:15 says" When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place , (whoso readeth, Let him understand:) The coming day of the Lord: For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as oven; and all the proud, yeah and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." But unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall." The book of Malachi 4:1-2. Thank you for wonderful works what you are doing faithfully here in Zambia. People are much beneficiaries and appreciated. We believe that God will remember those who are calling by the name. Our Almighty Jehovah God is open the doors of heaven so that the blessings upon our country Zambia. We continue to pray for you all and your ministry and God is work what you are doing faithfully the world over! We pray for the days of Passover God will protect both of us so that will be together in unity and spirit. We may be few in numbers, but God does not need many to win the conflict. No, what He needs is dedicated God- fearing men and women. The Lord is willing to do great things for us. We shall not gain the victory through numbers, but through the full surrender of the soul to Jesus. We are to go forward in His strength, trusting in the Mighty God of Israel. There is a lesson for us in the story of Gideon's army the Lord is just as willing to work through weak instrumentalities. We must work with in small numbers and small quantity of material but will winning numbers of souls back to God. And we must humble ourselves like Christ. Philipians 2:5-9. Thank you and may the Almighty God continue watch you over and protect you as we labor together for the salvation of precious souls!

May God bless the days of Passover and bless all of us.

Shalom, Shalom,

Mambwe obed

Menley is Now Free

(Copyright 04-10-2025) by William P. Goff (Tuckerton, New Jersey)

Greetings Everyone,

Thank you all so very much for your prayers, the charges against Menley have been dropped, and he is now free. Let us praise our Heavenly Father for intervening. Instead of Menley being incarcerated, he was praised for helping his friend and his elderly Grandpa. (The attitude of the authorities completely changed.)

The effectual fervent prayers of the righteous sure does *availeth* much. (James 5:16).

Thank You
Bill Goff

Editor's Note:

I apologize for our oversight. We sent the prayer request out but we didn't print it, so find it below. Laura Lee

Please Pray for Menley

(Copyright 04-09-2025) by William P. Goff (Tuckerton, New Jersey)

Greetings Brethren,

Menley Machoma needs our prayers right now. Menley is one of our Sengera House orphans who came to us quite a number of years ago, along with his sister Jemima. Menley graduated High School with good grades, and with the help of a few brethren who sponsor him, he has been attending University to become a pilot and is about half way through the course.

But a few years back when he was in High School, he helped one of his school mates and his Grandfather with some food and medication. Apparently, the Grandfather at some point was Hospitalized, and gave them Menley's name, that he had helped them at some time. So, they been holding Menley responsible for the elderly man, and the police have been looking for Menley for a long time. Now they have found him and are looking to arrest him. They say he owes a fine of \$1,500. or he will go to jail.

Please pray with us for our Creator to put Menley under His wing and protect him. All of our Kenyan Brethren know what it is like in Kenya jails. It is horrible. And you always get beat up and beat up bad.

Please Pray with us for Menley. And most of all let us pray "Thy Kingdom Come" Because many are suffering all around this world, and many horrendously.

Thank You
Bill Goff

Website: <https://khofh.com/>

E-mail: goffb50@aol.com

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Kenya Hands of Hope, a 5013c charity founded in 2006 by William P. Goff

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Iron Sharpening Iron **In regard to: A Short History of the Edomites**

Article by Ray E. Daly
Comments by Jason Darrow (Unknown)

A friend sent me the link (here; <https://the-new-church-of-god-messenger.com/a-short-history-of-the-edomites/>) to the article. I wanted to send you this from Steve Collins. I think he makes good points.

https://stevenmcollins.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/15083814/4_Reasons_the_Jews_are_Judah.pdf

Journey to the Mountain of the Lord **(Copyright 2023) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)**

Introduction:

Dear Laura Lee, Thanks for the work you are doing.

Sorry I'm getting this Feast sermon out to you so late. "Journey to the Mountain of the Lord" contains an important message. In the Worldwide Church of God, we shied away from verses concerning the birth of Jesus Christ because they smacked of "Christmas" – which indeed is an abomination. I would go so far as to say that the church has been remiss, even negligent, in not proclaiming the truth about the birth of Jesus Christ **according to Scripture**. These verses in the Bible are the inspired word of God and should be considered as such. The Bible reveals so much about the timing of Jesus' conception and birth which are an integral part of Christ's life.

It was Jesus Himself who inspired these Scriptures of His nativity to be recorded for our edification and knowledge, and He gives us a great many details. The fact that the world has so horribly polluted these verses about Jesus' conception and birth to mean something pagan should in no way deter our right to rejoice and be inspired in the correct worship of God.

Warren

Feast of Tabernacles

We begin by **giving thanks** to God for all He has given us—especially His word and calling. After calling us to a knowledge of His Truth, it is His word – the Bible – that **enlightens** us.

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The beloved apostle John had quite a library – he had all of the Old Testament scriptures, and the 3 synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the epistles of Paul before him as he wrote his gospel, his epistles, and the Book of Revelation.

And John included in his writings many details, trends, times, and dates that were keys to understanding so much of the rest of the Bible.

God fulfills his purpose for things according to His specific time schedule - especially in regard to His Holy Days. John wrote all about Jesus in a way that is most enlightening to God's people — while at the same time being an enigma to the world.

John 1:4 In him [Jesus Christ] was life; and the life was the **light of men**.

Jesus is definitely our **enlightenment**.

John 1:5 And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The entire world lay in darkness until the light of Christ appeared. The darkness **comprehended** it not – meaning the world cannot properly understand the Scriptures which reveal what God is doing—but we can know.

1John 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the **darkness is past**, and the **true light** [Jesus Christ] **now shines**.

This world was in darkness until Jesus – who is the **light of men** – appeared on earth.

Brethren, we have the Berean brethren for example who received the word of God with all readiness of mind and **searched the scriptures daily** (Acts 17:11). (Berea is in southwestern Macedonia in northern Greece about 35 miles from Thessalonica.)

A good and proper knowledge of the bible is a life-time of **work** and **searching** – and still we will not find all that the bible reveals.

But that should not deter us from searching – quite the contrary – it should embolden us to search ever deeper into God's word.

This first day of the Feast **began fittingly** last evening with a beautiful and bright full moon. Sharon and I went out on our front porch – and watched it rise. I said to her, “There is a very real probability that Jesus was born on this bright beautiful night at the very beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles.”

There are a set of scriptures about the birth of Jesus Christ I would like to look at today - that the church has been somewhat reluctant, reticent – I would even say **remiss**, negligent – to preach much about.

They are beautiful and informative verses about the birth of Jesus Christ, that the Catholic church has appropriated for their music and abominable Christmas celebrations. In the past, when we came to those verses, we quickly jumped past them because they sounded too much like “Christmas.”

Brethren, that was our mistake. All these verses in the Bible are **the inspired word of God** and should be considered as such. So please do not be offended when we read from the word of God today.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and **dwelt among us**, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Greek word “**dwelt**” is derived from the word *skenoo* [pronounced skay-no-o], which literally means to pitch one's tent or **tabernacle** with.

Only John uses this word “**dwelt**” – and he uses it only 5 times! No one else uses *skenoo*.

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Dwelt among us literally means **tabernacled among us**! John is emphasizing that Jesus **dwelt among us**.

That is appropriate for today on this Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Tabernacles points to that time when Christ will literally begin to establish His Father's Kingdom. Luke 2 we see:

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

What better time to tax the people than right after harvest time?

Luke 2:2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) Luke 2:3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

From Bethlehem to Jerusalem is only five miles. This Feast is one of the three **pilgrimage Feasts** on which all male Israelites were required to journey to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices and bring offerings to the Temple. (Leviticus 23:39-40).

Joseph dutifully followed suit to be taxed:

Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) Luke 2:5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. Luke 2:6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished [all 9 months] that she should be delivered.

Jesus had “tabernacled” with the Israelites in the wilderness at the time of Moses. And, it has always been God's intention to dwell with His people. He dwells in us in order for us to be **able to complete** the journey to His Holy Mountain. The Feast of Tabernacles is a memorial of the **journey** to the Promised Land which is a type of the Kingdom, the Millennium, and the Mountain of the Lord.

Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; **that I may dwell** “tabernacle” **among them**.

And now Jesus was **brought forth** to be with His people in His physical life many centuries later.

Luke 2:7 And [Mary] **brought forth** her firstborn son [that is Jesus], and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger [a trough that fodder (like hay) was placed in to feed livestock such as cattle and sheep]; because there was no room for them in the inn.

It has **always** been difficult to get good Feast accommodations. Joseph and Mary with the infant Jesus were in a barn. I love the smell of the hay and the animals in a nice clean barn. How many people never get to enjoy the unique atmosphere a barn with a hay-loft provides?

And Jesus' birth was announced to shepherds by an angel:

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock **by night**.

Christ the Lord

Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

There is a very real probability that Jesus was born on this bright beautiful night. The angel Gabriel told Joseph:

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Matthew 1:21 [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us**. [God (Christ) **tabernacled with mankind!**]

The Bible reveals so much about the timing of Jesus' conception and birth which are an integral part of Christ's birth. Again, in the Worldwide Church of God we shied away from these verses concerning the birth of Jesus Christ because they smacked of Christmas – which indeed is an abomination.

But the words in Luke concerning the birth of Jesus are indeed the **word of God** to be read and proclaimed!

When should we hear these verses, except when Christ was truly born? I believe that Jesus Christ was born on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles in 5 BC.

Jesus' conception had to be at a precise time for all prophecy to be fulfilled exactly – even to the timing of the death of Jesus Christ on a Wednesday 'in the midst of the week' on Nisan 14th – Passover Day 34 years later on Wednesday April 5, 30 AD. [Count 1 AD – 1 BC, because there was no -0- year.] The average length of human gestation is 266 days, or 38 weeks from conception, which is exactly 9 lunar months. If Jesus was conceived on December 21/22, 6 BC, Jesus could have been born on the 15th day of the month of Tishri, or September 15, 5 BC, everything pointing to His birth being at the time the **Feast of Tabernacles** which had just begun at sunset that evening! It is noteworthy that when the autumn full moon shown at its brightest there was a lunar eclipse marking that particular Feast of Tabernacles that year. (Compare E.W. Bullinger, Companion Bible, APPENDIX 179 1. p. 198)

Luke 2:12 And this shall be **a sign unto you**; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Luke 2:14 **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

Luke 2:20 And the shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God** for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Joseph and Mary were still there in Jerusalem 8 days later – at the Temple!

Luke 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, His name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel **before He was conceived** in the womb...

More on the conception and birth of Jesus after the offertory music:

Brethren, when do we Brethren have the opportunity to likewise sing **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

There is a song that is entirely appropriate and fitting for our Offertory music today – and the words to this song are Scriptural. The lyrics of the song: **“O holy night”** are Scriptural and not offensive in any way to the Church of God.

Here is a sampling of the lyrics that we will hear.

“O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Chorus

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Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel's voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.”

And now, we will take up the offertory.

“**O holy night**,” sung by Jonathan Antoine

End Offertory

Journey to the Mountain of the Lord

The **mountain of the Lord** is a reference to the Kingdom of God.

The Feast of Tabernacles is the story of **our journey to the mountain of the Lord**. The Kingdom of God is soon to be established by Jesus Christ at His soon coming return. The Feast of Tabernacles is the memorial of the **journey to the mountain of the LORD**.

The title of today's sermon comes from:

Isaiah 2:2 It shall come to pass in the last days [that is very near], that the LORD's house **shall be established** in the top of the **mountains** [over all the nations of the world], and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

That is a picture of God's world ruling Kingdom that Jesus will set up on His return.

Isaiah 2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let **us go up to the mountain of the LORD**, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. [It will be a glorious Day indeed!]

In the same way that the Israelites lived in **temporary dwellings** (tabernacles or booths) during their sojourn in the wilderness to the Promised Land, we dwell in our temporary earthly tabernacles—our bodies. A tent of flesh as Peter and Paul describe in great detail (2Corinthians 5:1-10, 2Peter 1:13-14). I like the way Paul said it in:

2Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, while we **are at home in the body**, we are **absent from the Lord**:

“Let's get with it!” “Let's get with the program!”

When you hear the word, “Tabernacle,” what comes to mind? “Sukkoth,” or “Booth.”

God gives His people the clear sense that His desire is to **tabernacle** with them. Abide with them, be their abode, dwell with them, live in them...

Whether it is Moses' Tabernacle of Exodus 26, in the wilderness, or the Tabernacle of our body, or a Feast Booth – we need to think, “Temporary Dwelling.” “Fleeting Lives.”

In our **journey** to the Kingdom of God – we live in temporary bodies.

God wants us to remember that we currently dwell in physical, **temporary bodies** that will one-day pass away, and that this present **evil world** will also one-day pass away.

Brethren, we are merely pilgrims in this world, passing through in temporary dwellings (these physical bodies), and that our real, permanent home awaits us at a future time when we are resurrected to rule with Jesus for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4).

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We will all be given the opportunity to choose God and Life – or death. But while we are in these **temporary tabernacles** – what does God **expect** of us?

We find the answer of what God **expects** of us in the Good News Gospel message preached by King David.

Psalm 15:1 A Psalm of king David. LORD, **who shall abide** in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell **in thy holy mountain**?

We see the **title** of today's sermon again right there. And what does God **expect** of us who shall abide in His **holy mountain**?

Psalm 15:2 He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.

Just for your further study let me give you a few places where John used the Greek word *skenoo*, which literally means to pitch one's tent or **tabernacle** with.

God Tabernacles With Us

God will Tabernacle With Us in the **Millennium**.

Revelation 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sits on the throne **shall dwell** among them...

Alternate translation: He that sits on the throne **shall tabernacle** among them. [*skenoo* [skay-no-o]] John wanted to drive this **point of tabernacling** home to us. Then God Tabernacles with Us forever more:

Even in the **Last Great Day**, especially in the **Mountain of the Lord**, God will tabernacle with His Saints (Daniel 2:35 ... The stone that smote the image became a **great mountain**).

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the **tabernacle of God is with men**, and He will **dwell/tabernacle** with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Let's return to the details of Jesus conception and birth so that He would be dwelling with us.

How did it begin that: John the Baptist's father was of the priestly course of Abijah? [That is the eighth of the 24 courses or classes into which the priests were divided for serving at the altar.]

Luke 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abijah: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

They were a Godly childless family.

Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Luke 1:9 According to the custom of the priest's office, Zacharias' lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Zacharias' duties began on a Sabbath day. (1 Chronicles. 28:11-13,19) in the **month of Sivan** which would put his service in June (13-19).

We know precisely when Zacharias was in the Temple doing his service and had his vision and when he went home to his wife Elizabeth. (he was unable to even speak to her).

Luke 1:24 And after those days [Zacharias'] wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months,

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Birth of Jesus Foretold

A few months later – the Bible tells us exactly when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would conceive and bear a son and call His name “Jesus” because He would save the people from their sins.

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist had conceived six months before Mary conceived.

Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, Luke 1:27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. Luke 1:29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. Luke 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. Luke 1:32 He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: Luke 1:33 And He shall reign [as King] over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Luke 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Luke 1:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

John the Baptist was born 3 months later. It was Jesus Himself who inspired these Scriptures of His Nativity to be recorded for our edification and knowledge, and He gives us a great many details.

The fact that the world has so horribly polluted these verses about Jesus' conception and birth to mean something else – should in no way deter our right to rejoice and be inspired without having our understanding curtailed in the correct worship of God.

These verses have been **misappropriated**... dishonestly taken for their wrong use.

When is the right time of the year to preach these words from the Gospel Message? Brethren, please do not be afraid to read them from the word of God itself.

Jesus was conceived in the month of Kislev (Nov-Dec).

John 8:12 Jesus said, I am the **light of the world**:

1John 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because **the darkness is past**, and the **true light** now shines.

Brethren, these dates are my best estimates right now. You may wish to check them out for yourself.

Jesus' conception had to be at a **precise time** for all prophecy to be fulfilled exactly – even to the death of Jesus Christ on a Wednesday 'in the midst of the week' **on Nisan 14th – Passover Day**, 34 years later on Wednesday April 5, 30 AD. ([Count 1 AD – 1 BC, because there was no -0- year.])

We know that the average length of human gestation is 266 days, or 38 weeks from conception, which is exactly 9 lunar months.

Jesus came to remove darkness and bring light. The **darkest** day of the year is December 21/22. Then the **light** begins to lengthen. I believe that that is when the conception of Jesus Christ took place.

If Jesus was conceived on December 21/22, 6 BC, Jesus could have been born 9 months later on the 15th day of the month of Tishri—on the Feast of Tabernacles.

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That would have been on September 15, 5 BC, everything pointing to His birth being at the time the Feast of Tabernacles which had just begun at sunset that very evening!

It is noteworthy that in 5 BC, when the autumn moon shown at its brightest there was a lunar eclipse marking that particular Feast of Tabernacles that year.

With NASA's precise measurements of the Sun and Moon it is possible to reconstruct the lunar cycles exactly – going way back into antiquity. (Compare E.W. Bullinger, Companion Bible, APPENDIX 179 1. p. 198)

Noted Biblical scholar, E.W. Bullinger lays all this Scriptural evidence out **in exacting detail** – and comes to the conclusion that Jesus was born on the first day of the Feast of tabernacles in 5 BC!

Again brethren, that is not established doctrine, only my best estimate.

In John 1:14, the Word was **made flesh** refers to Jesus' **conception**, whereas, dwelt (**tabernacled**) among us refers to His **birth**.

Many Scriptural references help us accurately locate the season of Christ's birth. And of course we are able to count backward to His conception.

The Bible makes it very clear that Jesus was born **nowhere** near December 25th. But the pagan “Christmas” has been celebrated for 2,000 years and was being celebrated even before Jesus was born.

Luke shows that Jesus was not born in the winter by recording that shepherds were tending their flocks in the fields **by night** (Luke 2:8).

While cold temperatures generally do not bother well-fed sheep in full fleece, cold winds do—so grazing in open fields was inappropriate in the cold of winter.

Jesus, at His first coming, was **not** born at Christmas time, but born earlier in the year during the annual Fall Feast Days—very possibly the Feast of the Feast of Tabernacles.

All the Feasts of the Lord carry most significant meaning for the Plan of God.

Jesus fulfills the very meaning of the Feasts of the Lord, past present and future (Leviticus 23:2).

God deliberately made His Holy Days to be Holy Convocations for all time—each an important epoch in the history of God's people—so that we could understand what they meant, and how they accomplish the Plan of God.

Remarkably, Jesus had left His place as the Creator God in the heavens. He had set aside His **Divinity** and **Power** so as to be able to become mere flesh—and eventually **die** for mankind.

God cannot die – He lives forever. But Jesus did **die**!

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Jesus had emptied Himself of all **glory and power** – even the immeasurable cosmic power to create the vast heavens and earth in order to be made in the likeness of a vulnerable infant baby boy at nine-month's fruition, full gestation, and birth.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

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Jesus was able to save all mankind because, as Creator God, He was worth more than all the creation itself. But in death, Christ's eternal Glory as Creator God was no more... Until Jesus Christ was raised and glorified by the Father (Ephesians 1:17-20, John 17:5).

It was part of God's Plan for all of mankind that Jesus would give Himself in sacrifice for our sins.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

Jesus would die, His breath would cease – His thoughts would perish.

Hebrews 2:16 For verily he took **not** on Him the nature of angels; but He took on him the nature of children of Abraham.

{Amplified Bible} Hebrews 2:16 For, as we all know, He (Christ) does not take hold of [the fallen] angels [to give them a helping hand], but He does take hold of [the fallen] descendants of Abraham [extending to them His hand of deliverance].

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be **made like unto** His brethren [in sinful flesh], that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. (Romans 8:3).

But Jesus' Glory needed to be restored by His Father:

The Restoration and Re-Glorification Chapter

John 17:1 These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; **glorify thy Son**, that thy Son also may glorify thee: John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:4 I have **glorified you** on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gave me to do. John 17:5 And now, O Father, **glorify thou me** with thine own self with the **glory** which I had with thee **before the world existed**.

And after three days and three nights in the tomb, God the Father raised Jesus to life and **glorified Him** with the exact Glory the Father possessed (John 17:5).

In order to **glorify** Jesus, it took the most **immense power** – more power than the power it had taken for Jesus to **create the entire universe**, in order for the Father to **Re-Glorify** His Son.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, ... Ephesians 1:19 With what is the **exceeding greatness of His power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Ephesians 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church [brethren],

Jesus Christ is the head of the called out brethren. We church brethren are the Body of Christ. Jesus brought the church brethren into existence. We are brothers and sisters to Jesus because God the Father is Jesus' Father as well.

Ephesians 1:23 [the church] Which is His body, the fullness of him that fills all in all.

Jesus brings the Plan of God to fruition. At Christ's second coming, He will again “tabernacle” with mankind. He will **dwell** with people on earth for a thousand years. Christ is definitely at the **center** of this Feast of Tabernacles—as the Ruler who “tabernacles” with His people in the great harvest of the age to come.

Brethren, this Feast today points to Jesus who has literally **tabernacled** with us in the **past** and continues with His Father

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to dwell in us **now** in the flesh and will tabernacle with us **forever more** (John 14:23). Let’s thank God for sending His Son to **tabernacle** with us.

End: Journey to the Mountain of the Lord

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Iron Sharpening Iron
In regard to: Journey to the Mountain of the Lord
Article by Warren Zehrung
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Great article except for one little thing. Warren said “**on Nisan 14th – Passover Day**” however the bible says:

Joh 19:14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

Joh 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

From scripture we see that Christ was not crucified on the Passover Day, He was crucified on the “Preparation Day” for the Passover.

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

Holy Days 2025

Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)
Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025
Pentecost – June 2, 2025
Trumpets – September 23, 2025
Atonement – October 2, 2025
Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025
Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

Notes