

Our Heavenly Citizenship

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Articles

Our Heavenly Citizenship

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"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20)

Many of us appreciate the concept of order. Disorder causes us to become anxious and even feel threatened. We want to either get out of such an environment or fix it. The ongoing unrest in this country, with all the protesting, looting, and burning that carried on for months in several of our major cities, gives us great cause for concern. Since their peak, things

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have improved somewhat, but a sense that the nation is unraveling still hangs in the air.



It appears that left-wing politicians wish to see this country destroyed so that they can remake it in their image. They seem to believe that chaos helps their cause, so they do little to stop such devastating and injurious turmoil from continuing in their jurisdictions. By calling for the defunding of police, they have removed a primary means of restoring order to our cities. And now we are dealing with economic destruction as our dollars shrink daily.

Because we desire order and peace, we tend to root for political movements and leaders that seek to return them to daily life and enact policies that will keep them in place. In this situation, we may privately—or even publicly on social media or in conversations—advocate for right-wing lawmakers and stricter laws. Some in the church have decided that the situation has gotten so out of hand that they have voted in elections and begun to participate in political and social groups to help “clean things up.”

The problem with our desires for good government at every level is that we may very well be opposing what God’s will is in the matter. Of course, clashing with God’s will is something we never intend to do. We need to stop allowing ourselves to think as we are often tempted to think—as ordinary citizens. We need to remember who we are and where we are headed in relation to our Maker, who has called us out of this world (John 15:19).

In Opposition to God

As a reminder, we need to see from Scripture what God actually does in these matters of changing governments and nations. Notice Daniel 2:20-21:

Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes the times and seasons; *He removes kings and sets up kings*; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding . . .” (Emphasis ours throughout.)

Similarly, in Hosea 8:4, God accuses Israel of setting up kings and princes without seeking His counsel, leading to Israel’s eventual downfall.

As the universal Sovereign, God sets up kings and other leaders, and He removes them at His convenience. When people—who lack His wisdom—choose a leader, they often make abysmal choices. We have been witnesses to that in recent years in this country. The history books are full of the incompetent decisions of human beings.

As Americans, we think it is so noble to speak of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Have we thought that through from God’s perspective? It should remind us of the scenario in I Samuel 8, when the elders of Israel

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gathered themselves together and demanded that the prophet Samuel anoint a king to judge them like the nations around them. What were the Israelites really doing? They demanded that Samuel replace God—their King—with a man (1 Samuel 8:7-9).

They wanted to be like every nation around them. Human nature always wants to join the crowd; people do not like to stand out as oddballs. Neither does man’s nature care to advocate for an unpopular higher standard. Human beings want others to think of them as “team players.” We want everybody to be “cool” with us.

Have we ever considered how scary those terms, “team player” and “cool,” can be? Both are flattering terms that can—and are! —used by people to control others’ decisions. Being called “cool” in high school makes most people conform to a certain image, one that is contrary to the sterling character of Jesus Christ!

In the same way, “team player” can be an organization’s way of controlling those under it. It sounds good. It urges a person to cooperate for the good of all. In actual practice, it often forces the individual to suppress or even abandon his convictions in favor of the goals of the group’s leadership. Such leaders often say things like, “How selfish can you be to let your scruples get in the way of completing this project?” or, “Don’t you realize how many people are depending on you to do this? Take one for the team!”

A New Identity

The problem for those of us whom God has called, to whom He has given His Holy Spirit, is that we have chosen to take on the identity of the most righteous standard of all time: God’s perfect righteousness. We have committed ourselves to stand against this very world that surrounds us and throw in our lot with the Kingdom of God. We likely began taking criticism from the outset of our conversion because responding to God’s calling immediately drew Satan’s attention.

We need to consider deeply our true identity as God’s people. Revelation 5:10 and 20:4, 6 indicate that the elect of God have stunning futures: as rulers of Earth and eternal members of the God Family. Our calling culminates with us joining the Father and Jesus Christ our Savior as the top tier of the most magnificent Beings in all of creation. Our potential is nothing short of stupendous! With that elevation to glory comes the job of ruling with God forever as part of His universal government.

How many actual members does the God Family contain right now? Many people would say just two. But what the apostle Paul writes in Colossians 1:12-13 tells us something quite different:

. . . giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power [or *dominion*] of darkness and *conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son* of His love . . .

The word “conveyed” gives a good sense of the Greek word *methistēmi* (*Strong’s #3179*). Other translations, like the *English Standard Version*, use “transferred,” while the King James Version renders it as “translated,” which is a bit archaic in today’s English. It means “to cause a change of position,” “to transfer,” “to cause to change sides,” or literally, “to cause a change in standing.” A handful of translations use “brought” or even “put.” This verse says something that many of us read over without realizing what it implies. God the Father has transferred, brought, or put us in the Kingdom of God, in His Family! If God is calling us sons and daughters right now (see Romans 8:14-17; II Corinthians 6:17-18; Galatians 4:6-7; Philippians 2:15; etc.)—and we are calling Him Father and even more intimately, “Abba”—we are right now part of the God Family. Certainly, we are not spirit beings yet (that will not happen until the resurrection), but we *are already* His children. He has changed our position or standing from spiritually dead human beings to active members of His Son’s Kingdom.

So, in considering how many members are in the God Family right now, we may not have realized that there are more than just two. Only the Father and the Son know the true count, but it is likely a number in the many thousands from the time of Abel. Perhaps several thousand people alive today are already considered sons and daughters of the Father!

Our Identity as Citizens

It is easy to see ourselves as citizens of an earthly nation because that is where we have been born and lived our lives. But God’s calling and the knowledge of our new loyalties should point us away from identifying ourselves with this world’s citizens, events, and organizations. Paul starkly reminds us in Colossians 1:13 that this world, which many of us still keep

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one foot in, is part of “the power of darkness” from which the Father has removed us. We simply cannot afford to lean back into it.

We have God’s DNA, as it were, in us now via His Holy Spirit. Jesus says in John 14:23, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” We are part of Them, and They, of us.

Is this how we see ourselves? Is this how we think of ourselves on a daily basis while living in this world? We may remember this fact occasionally, but all too often, not often enough. Sometimes, we find ourselves identifying with an aspect of what this world promotes. Doing so usually involves us in party spirit; we take sides in the world’s concerns.

In the late 1990s, while attending another church organization, I participated in its Spokesman’s Club. Given a speaking assignment, I decided to speak about patriotism and the effect it has on us as citizens of God’s Kingdom. My point was that if we pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America—or to any other country, for that matter—we would be trying to serve two masters (see Matthew 6:24).

Could we as God’s elect reasonably ally ourselves with both a government of this world and the Kingdom of God? How could we serve two governments that consider the other its enemy? Are we double agents? Of course not! The apostle James writes, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4; see also II Corinthians 6:14-15).

The speech I gave that night caused quite a commotion. I was relieved that the club director, our local pastor, had agreed with my comments during his evaluation of the speech. He said it was a point that merited further consideration.

Some of us may not have seriously considered what coming out of this world involves, but come out of this world, this Babylonian system, we must! Christ gives us a clear command to do this in Revelation 18:4, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.’” The wording of this verse implies that God’s people are taking part in Babylon, this worldwide system that has survived through the ages. Otherwise, He would not feel the need to urge them to leave it. Everything about our world today follows the Babylonian mindset: our political, financial, judicial, and educational systems, and perhaps above all, our religions.

Instead, we are called to be citizens of a heavenly Kingdom, as Philippians 3:20 states: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” His words are unambiguous.

Enlisted Soldiers

In II Timothy 2:3-4, Paul further describes us as soldiers of that Kingdom:

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

As enlisted soldiers of that Kingdom, our Captain commands us to fight against Satan’s influences in our lives, to fight against the pulls of this world’s enticements for us, and most difficult of all, to fight against our own human nature. Our Savior mentions the responsibility to overcome in each of His letters to the seven churches (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). Near the end of the book, He says, “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.” All the while, we are to be building our relationships with the Father and with our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. These activities constitute our part in the salvation process.

Further, God calls on us to produce the fruits of His Spirit in ourselves. We can see this expectation in an example Jesus gives in Luke 13:6-9:

A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, “Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?” But he answered and said to him, “Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.”

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We can understand the owner of the vineyard to be the Father, and the keeper of the vineyard to be Jesus Christ. The tree, of course, represents those in His church who are not producing the fruit that God expects to see.

Notice that Jesus intervenes on their behalf. He asks for more time to work, to do everything He can to help them produce the fruit God expects. He works with them in love to grow in character and develop right relationships with others. Note also that Jesus does not grow the fruit for them; producing fruit is the individual's job. It is a person's proper response to his calling and all that God has given and done for him.

We are to grow to be like Him. He is allowing us to take part in our own creation as God beings, family members of His Kingdom. He gives us the power, the training, and the tools to attain eternal life, but He will not grow for us, just as we cannot grow for someone else.

Indeed, we see trouble in the streets of too many cities, and the nation's morals are in the sewer. Though it is happening all around us, we must stay spiritually sharp, remembering who we are, citizens of a heavenly Kingdom, already enlisted as soldiers in Christ's army to fight a cosmic, spiritual war. That is our identity as this age winds down toward the return of Jesus Christ—citizen-soldiers of the Kingdom of God. We must not let ourselves become entangled in the affairs of a nation that fights for the other side.

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Who was in Charge of the New Testament Temple? And Why Should You Care? (Copyright) by Wily Elder (Ocala, Florida)

The answer to the last question first: The reason you should care is because it will reveal the day on which Pentecost should be celebrated. How is that possible?

“Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, when you come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest. And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it” (Leviticus 23:10-11).

“on the morrow after the Sabbath.”

Wave is from the Hebrew “nuwph”, meaning move to and fro, swing, shake, or brandish. This “nuwph” is the mid-section of another Hebrew word “tenuwphah”, also translated as wave, for example, in Exodus 29:27. The point made by historian/linguist EW Bullinger is that a wave offering is made to the four corners of the earth, waving it to the sides, not lifting it to the Eternal (Bullinger, EW, Companion Bible, page 114, marginal note on Exodus 29:27). Something lifted to the Eternal would be a heave offering, not a wave offering. For example, the shoulder of the lamb is a heave offering, pushed upward toward the Eternal.

There are two points of view of which day was the wave sheaf offering. These two points of view impinge on when one might celebrate the day of Pentecost because: the day of Pentecost is arrived at by counting 50 days from the day of the wave sheaf offering. So, if one's understanding, of when the wave sheaf offering is presented, happens to be erroneous, then the day on which one celebrates Pentecost, will also be erroneous. Notwithstanding, we are only accountable for what we know. We should follow the way of God to the best of our knowledge and the best of our ability. On the other hand, is there anyone who would continue celebrating Pentecost on the wrong day after realizing he was in error? Some apparently would. Each individual must decide based on the evidence available to him, and hopefully not be swayed by peer pressure.

The important question to ask is: Who was in charge of the temple during the time of Christ's ministry? Why does this

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matter? It matters because, once again, this answer does impinge on the decision as to when to celebrate Pentecost.

The Sadducees celebrated Pentecost by counting 50 days from the day after the weekly Sabbath occurring during the days of Unleavened Bread, believing the wave sheaf offering should be performed on the day after that weekly Sabbath.

The Pharisees celebrated Pentecost by counting 50 days from the day after the annual Sabbath, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, believing the wave sheaf offering should be performed on the day following the First day of Unleavened Bread. In other words, the wave sheaf offering was performed on the 16th of Nisan.

Unlike the Roman calendar, the Hebrew day begins at sundown.

We know that the Jews would argue with Christ over such trivial things as the hand washing ritual. So, it stands to reason that if Christ celebrated days at different times than the temple, it would have been a huge argument between the Jews and Christ. Since there is no recording of any such argument, we may reasonably expect that there was no major conflict, comparing the days that Christ celebrated and the days that the temple celebrated. Now, all that remains is to find out who was in charge of the temple activities, and it is then an easy task to figure out when the wave sheaf was offered and when Pentecost arrived.

In addition to the fact there was no recorded argument over the celebration days, Christ's followers were waiting for the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. There is no record that they were told to switch to a different day. They knew which day it was. So, once we figure out who controlled the Temple (and therefore the calendar) during that time, we will also know when they celebrated Pentecost and when we should celebrate Pentecost.

First, let's cover some history.

Herod the Great was ruling in Judea from about 37 BC to 4 BC. His first major act was to execute several members of the Sanhedrin. Why? They had sought to uphold the Mosaic law in secular matters. He appointed high priests mainly from the Egyptian and Babylonian Diaspora (Paul Johnson, [A History of the Jews](#), p. 111). On the other hand, Herod built up the temple, adding huge Corinthian pillars and a massive 35-acre foundation. This was the temple that the disciples of Christ were impressed by (Matthew 24:1), the physical temple that Christ predicted would not have one stone left upon another (Matthew 24:2).

Herod downgraded the importance of the high priest, who was usually a hated Sadducee. The Sadducees were hated because they were mostly political rather than religious and, even though they were a minority, they had support from much of the rich, particularly the Romans. Their cooperation with Rome was looked upon as despicable by most of the Pharisees.

Herod appointed a Pharisee to be the deputy. The job of the deputy was to supervise the regular temple functions, including insuring that the high priests (Sadducees) performed in a Pharisaical manner (Paul Johnson, [A History of the Jews](#), p. 118).

Herod the Great had a son, Herod Antipas. That is the same Herod who tried to kill Jesus by killing all the babies 2 years old and younger (Matthew chapter 2). The Sadducees were the minority upper crust by the time of Christ's ministry. They were politicians more so than religious, ignorant of the resurrection from the dead and the existence of the spirit world (angels, demons, etc.). They were clueless about most spiritual matters, which is the reason they had Pharisees as their supervisors, even in their temple duties.

To give you some idea as to how closely the Pharisees supervised the Sadducee High Priest, consider how the High Priest was required to submit to the instructions of the Pharisee appointed to him for the Day of Atonement, the most intense of the celebration days. This was important because if the Sadducee High Priest made a bad mistake, God would strike him dead. There are stories of the High Priest wearing bells and having a rope around his ankle so that if he was struck dead someone could pull him out. The High Priest did wear bells. It was required. Some Jewish sources deny that he ever had to have a rope around his ankle. Which is

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true? There appears to be no source to prove it one way or another. Many Jewish sources deny it because it applies a comical twist to something they consider to be profoundly serious.

Before the day of Atonement, a Pharisee would require the Sadducee High Priest to bind himself with an oath, to perform during the Day of Atonement according to the Pharisee pattern of belief, for example, lighting the incense after entering the Most Holy Place, not before entering (*Edersheim, The Temple, Its Ministry and Services, page 245*).

Needless to say, the Pharisees monopolized what was done at the temple. They monopolized when everything was done in spite of the fact that the Sadducees were charged with carrying out the temple service.

The annual celebration days, centering around the temple, were scheduled according to God's calendar. Had it been otherwise, Christ would have done more against the Jews in the temple, than simply throwing out the money-changers.

In regard to the wave sheaf offering, most splinter groups, that came out of the Worldwide Church of God, believe the expression "the morrow after the Sabbath" (Leviticus 23:11) to mean the day after the weekly Sabbath occurring during the Days of Unleavened Bread. This is in line with the belief accepted by Herbert Armstrong, who accepted the Sadducee pattern. The belief that the wave sheaf offering occurred on the day after the weekly Sabbath occurring during the Days of Unleavened Bread was a Sadducee notion. However, this notion was suppressed from making an impact on the temple service because the Sadducees had to submit to the will of their supervisors, the Pharisees.

Referring to the Sabbath from which the countdown to Pentecost is made, Edersheim reports: "The testimony of Josephus (Antiq.3.248-249), of Philo (Op. ii. 294), and of Jewish tradition, leaves no room to doubt that in this instance, we are to understand by the "Sabbath" the 15th of Nisan, on whatever day of the week it might fall" (*Edersheim, The Temple, Its Ministry and Services, page 204*).

To this day the Sadducee example is followed by many groups that came out of the Worldwide Church of God. The present leadership of the Worldwide Church of God has no respect for the celebration days of God or for the Sabbath. They have joined Evangelical Protestantism in the quagmire of Paganism and seem to be comfortable in it.

The thesis of this presentation represents a minority view. I can see entirely rational reasons people may have for keeping a Sunday or Monday Pentecost. It is not my purpose to recruit people away from what they truly believe to be the correct time corridor for any particular celebration. However, I would point out a line of logic that may not have been considered by most. If you celebrate the Feast of Trumpets, using the Pharisee pattern of timing, the Day of Atonement, using the Pharisee pattern of timing, and the Last Great Day, using the Pharisee pattern of timing, what would be the reason for adopting a Sadducee pattern of timing for the Day of Pentecost (Firstfruits)?

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(Note: Inclusion in Information Sources is simply for the purpose of giving credit where credit is due. Inclusion in the list does not pre-suppose agreement with the entirety of the documentation or the theology to which it is keyed.)

Fiery Flying Serpent

(Copyright) by David Sielaff (Portland, Oregon)

What Did Isaiah Mean?

I quote a verse in Isaiah about a strange flying creature that God uses as a punishment to plague the Philistines oppressing the people of Judah in the time of Isaiah:

“Rejoice not thou, whole Palestine, because the rod of him that smote you is broken: for out of the serpent’s root shall come forth a cockatrice [a viper], and his fruit shall be a **fiery flying serpent.”**

• Isaiah 14:29

The words translated in the King James Version as **“fiery flying serpent”** translate one Hebrew term *seraph* as two English words **“fiery ... serpent.”**¹ Combining words that should have not been separated, a better translation would be **“flying fiery serpent”** or more precisely **“flying seraph.”**

The same **“fiery flying serpent”** is presented later in Isaiah in the same straightforward way other dangerous creatures of the Negev desert are described. Also listed are pack animals, a colt, and a camel. All these other animals were well known in desert areas:

“The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and **fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them.”**

• Isaiah 30:6

Did such a creature as a **“fiery flying serpent”** truly exist in the time of Isaiah? They are described similarly to lions described as sent by God to punish Samaritans (2 Kings 17:25–26). And yes, there were lions in Judea and Samaria (Judges 14:5; 1 Samuel 17:34, 36–37; 1 Kings 13:25–26, 28, 20:36), likely in Syria, and definitely in Assyria around the time of Isaiah, as attested in Assyrian writings (search the internet for “lions in Assyria” which will yield several articles).

Dr. Ernest Martin understood that Scripture teaches that new animals continue to be created after the flood and even today. They are mostly microscopic creatures, fewer insects and even fewer small animals, and only occasionally large animals. He wrote on this in his article [“Creation of Life in Contemporary Times.”](#) (Also found in Issue #58 of this newsletter). One of these post-flood creations may have been the **“flying, burning serpent,”** with no mention of such a creature in Scripture before Isaiah 14:29. Read the article and decide for yourself. Keep in mind that fossilized remains of flying reptiles are well known and they were God’s creations as well.

One excellent internet presentation on this topic is [“The Fiery Flying Serpent.”](#)² For even more information look at the internet search results of “fiery flying serpent.” The links below come from an “Ask Historians” website, [“Flying Snakes](#)

¹ The Hebrew word “seraphim” is the plural of “seraph.” It sometimes identifies a spirit being that attends YHWH depending on the context.

² From *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 42, No. 4, March 2006, pp. 241–251.

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[With Bat-Wings. Origin?](#)

[The History of Esarhaddon](#) (681 BC)

“According to the command of my lord Aššur, ... I mobilized the camels of all the kings of Arabia and loaded them with [water skins and water containers]. ... I stepped repeatedly on two-headed snakes [... whose touch] is deadly, but continued; ... – yellow snakes spreading wings.”

[The History of Herodotus](#), Book II (440 BC)

“In the neighbourhood of Thebes [in Egypt] there are some sacred serpents which are perfectly harmless. ... I went once to a certain place in Arabia, almost exactly opposite the city of Buto, to make inquiries concerning the winged serpents. On my arrival I saw the backbones and ribs of serpents in such numbers as it is impossible to describe: of the ribs there were a multitude of heaps, some great, some small, some middle-sized. The place where the bones lie is at the entrance of a narrow gorge between steep mountains, which there open upon a spacious plain communicating with the great plain of Egypt. The story goes that with the spring the winged snakes come flying from Arabia towards Egypt but are met in this gorge by the birds called ibises, who forbid their entrance and destroy them all. The Arabians assert, and the Egyptians also admit, that it is on account of the service thus rendered that the Egyptians hold the ibis in so much reverence. ... The winged serpent is shaped like the water-snake. Its wings are not feathered but resemble very closely those of the bat.”

[The History of Herodotus](#), Book III (440 BC)

“Arabia is the last of inhabited lands towards the south, and it is the only country which produces frankincense, myrrh, cassia, cinnamon, and ledanum. The Arabians do not get any of these, except the myrrh, without trouble. The frankincense they procure by means of the gum styrax, which the Greeks obtain from the Phoenicians; this they burn, and thereby obtain the spice. For the trees which bear the frankincense are guarded by winged serpents, small in size, and of varied colours, whereof vast numbers hang about every tree. They are of the same kind as the serpents that invade Egypt; and there is nothing but the smoke of the styrax which will drive them from the trees. The Arabians say that the whole world would swarm with these serpents, if they were not kept in check in the way in which I know that vipers are. ... Now with respect to the vipers and the winged snakes of Arabia, if they increased as fast as their nature would allow, impossible were it for man to maintain himself upon the earth. ... Vipers are found in all parts of the world, but the winged serpents are nowhere seen except in Arabia, where they are all congregated together. This makes them appear so numerous.”

[The History of Animals](#) by Aristotle (350 BC)

“Of animals that can fly some are furnished with feathered wings, as the eagle and the hawk; some are furnished with membranous wings, as the bee and the cockchafer [a large beetle]; others are furnished with leathern wings, ... The creatures that have feathered wings or leathern wings have either two feet or no feet at all: for there are said to be certain flying serpents in Ethiopia that are destitute of feet.”

[On the Nature of the Gods by Cicero](#), Chapter XXXVI (45 BC)

“... the ibis, being a tall bird, with legs that do not bend, and a long beak of horn, destroys a vast number of serpents; in killing and eating the winged snakes that are brought in by the south-west wind from the Libyan desert, it preserves Egypt from plague ...”

[Geography of Strabo](#), Book XV (23 AD)

“Megasthenes says that ... in other places there are reptiles two cubits long [about 3 feet] with membranous wings like bats, and that they too fly by night, discharging drops of urine, or also of sweat, which putrefy the skin of anyone who is not on his guard.”

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[Characteristics of Animals by Aelian](#) (200 AD)

“The Black Ibis does not permit the winged serpents from Arabia to cross into Egypt, but fights to protect the land it loves, while the other kind encounters the serpents that come down the Nile when in Flood and destroys them. Otherwise, there would have been nothing to prevent the Egyptians from being killed by their coming.”

[The Roman History of Ammianus Marcellinus](#), Book XXII (353 AD)

“Among Egyptian birds, the variety of which is countless, the ibis is sacred, harmless, and beloved for the reason that by carrying the eggs of serpents to its nestlings for food it destroys and makes fewer those destructive pests. These same birds meet the winged armies of snakes which issue from the marshes of Arabia, producing deadly poisons, and before they leave their own lands vanquish them in battles in the air, and devour them.”

[The Etymologies of Isidore](#), V (600 AD)

“The iaculus is a flying snake. ... For they spring up into trees, and whenever some animal happens by, they throw (*iactare*) themselves on it and kill it, whence they are called iaculus (cf. *iaculum*, ‘javelin’). Also, in Arabia there are snakes with wings, called sirens (*sirena*); they move faster than horses, but they are also said to fly.”

God’s Ongoing Creations

Perhaps God operates a system of continual renewal filling ecological niches after post-flood animals became extinct. Extinctions happen continually, not just because of human actions which are actually very few, but imbalances in creation needs to be corrected. Understand that God not only creates, He sustains His creation, maintains it, and replaces necessary missing elements. We are told that sustaining, maintaining, and replacing is one of the functions Christ does continually:

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

• *Colossians 1:16–17*

Next, the apostle Paul wrote this about Christ, said to be at God’s right hand:

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

• *Hebrews 1:3*

In the Book of Revelation past and current creation is mentioned.

“Thou are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are [meaning, at the present time or at least at John’s time] and were created.”

• *Revelation 4:11*

Conclusion

So, what should we think about the “burning” description of the flying serpent? There are at least two possibilities. First is that these flying serpents did in fact breath fire, hence “fiery” or “burning” flying serpents.³ God describes another of his marvelous creations called “leviathan”:

³ See “[Bombardier Beetle](#)” (CreationWiki website) which spray a boiling hot mixture of caustic chemicals as a defense mechanism. There are over 500 species of [Bombardier beetles](#) (Wikipedia).

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“By his sneezings a light shines, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth go burning lamps [torches], and sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goes smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth.”

• **Job 41:18–21**

Does this sound familiar? This is a description of flying dragons in many folklore stories around the world, some of the dragons reportedly breathed fire.

A second possibility is that the “burning” describes a fiery-like appearance of the flying serpents. A luminous creature flying at night would have a glow or a florescence to them, like fireflies (abundant in Wisconsin where I grew up) probably seen by most of you, inherent to the animal’s natural characteristics. There are self-luminescent fish (including giant squids!) in the deep oceans. Search the internet for “[luminescent animals](#).” Whatever the case, the “fiery flying serpents” were created by God through Christ at some time.

God will increase physical creations after Christ returns. The earth will be in a state of near total destruction after the Day of YHWH, but it will be renewed and become like a paradise during the 1,000-year reign of Christ. More new creations occur as circumstances require them. Still later God will create a new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:16–17, 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1–5). Then the New Jerusalem will come down from the old heaven to the new earth (Revelation 3:12 and chapter 21). New Jerusalem is being prepared (created) at present as Jesus indicated in John 14:2–3. At that time YHWH and Christ will dwell on the new earth. New Jerusalem will be His domicile and Temple. God through Christ continue to create marvelous creatures up to today and will create more.

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Other Items

Homemade Baby Formula

(Copyright) by The Weston A. Price Foundation (Washington, D. C.)

prep 15 mins
total 15 mins
author weston price foundation
yield 72 ounces

Ingredients*:

- 2 cups of filtered water
- 2 tsp [collagen protein](#)
- 4 tbsp. [lactose](#)
- 2 cups [raw whole, grass-fed milk](#)
- 2 tbsp. [heavy cream](#)
- 1 capsule contents [Lacto](#) (optional, for lactose digestion support)
- ¼ teaspoon [acerola powder](#)
- ¼ teaspoon of [infant probiotics](#)
- 2 teaspoons [nutritional yeast flakes](#)
- ½ teaspoon of [cod liver oil](#)
- 1 teaspoon expeller pressed [sunflower oil](#)
- 1 teaspoon [extra virgin olive oil](#)
- 2 teaspoons [coconut oil](#)
- (optional) ¼ teaspoon butter oil

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*This recipe has been adapted from the Weston A Price Foundation. Please visit their site for many answers to your [homemade baby formula questions!](#)

Instructions:

Step #1 Take 2 cups of filtered water pour about half the water into a pan and turn heat on medium.

Step #2 Add 2 teaspoons of collagen protein and 4 tablespoons lactose to the warming water and let dissolve, stirring occasionally.

Step #3 While the collagen and lactose are dissolving, place 2 cups of raw whole milk in a clean, glass blender and add the remaining ingredients:

- 2 or more tablespoons cream
- ¼ teaspoon acerola powder (vitamin C)
- ¼ teaspoon of bifidobacterium infantis
- 2 teaspoons nutritional yeast flakes
- ½ teaspoon of [cod liver oil](#)
- 1 teaspoon expeller pressed sunflower oil
- 1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil

Step #4 Then remove the pan from the heat and pour in the remaining half of the water to cool.

Step #5 Next, add 2 teaspoons coconut oil and (optional) ¼ teaspoon butter oil to the water to melt.

Step #6 Add the water mixture to the blender ingredients and blend for about 3 seconds.

Step #7 Pour the blended ingredients into glass jars and refrigerate.

Notes

***You can purchase this whole package at a discounted rate through [Radiant Life here](#)

***The nutrition info for this recipe is based on the linked ingredients above**

Editor’s Note: This may be a little confusing. We were sent the Dr. Jockers Homemade Baby Formula which apparently is a revision of “The Weston A. Price Foundation”. We printed the Dr. Jockers revised formula but on “The Weston A. Price Foundation” website are other adaptations of homemade baby formula and lots and lots of information. We hope this helps someone out there. Laura Lee

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<https://www.westonaprice.org/health-topics/childrens-health/formula-homemade-baby-formula/>

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<https://drjockers.com/homemade-baby-formula/>

Holy Days 2022

Pentecost – June 5, 2022

Trumpets - September 26, 2022

Atonement – October 5, 2022

Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022

Last Great Day – October 17, 2022