

Traveling Through Time

by Dianne D. McDonnell (Arlington, Texas)

Some people believe that the New Testament culture was so restrictive and limited in its treatment of women that a woman could not become a minister that served a congregation of both men and women. Rather than pursuing this avenue at length winding our way through secular sources, let's go directly to a scriptural record that answers this question. We will need to go to the inspired Greek to slip past the preconceived notions of the King James translators, but hang on and I'll try to make the way clear and easy.

As we begin our journey we must understand two words of the language spoken where we are going. *(Continued on page 8)*

Role Models Abound in Bible

by Wayne Schatzle (Hamilton, Ohio)

People are forever searching for role models and usually looking in all the wrong places. Sports heroes are often put up as good or bad role models. What gets them famous is physical ability, not character. How about looking at political figures, like the president?

Sadly, people will always fail badly as role models at some point. The ultimate role model is Jesus Christ. He was and is perfect, and that is part of the problem with him as a model. Can we look to Jesus as an example of a great repenter? Remember, he never sinned. We need role models *(Continued on page 13)*

Will God Curse Our Countries for Christmas?

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

"You don't celebrate Christmas?" Well, not any more.

1 Peter 4:3-5

For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, **they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking** *(Continued on page 14)*

The Great Falling Away

by James E. Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

In these frightening times, you need to know where you stand with Christ.

Our people are rich and spoiled today—beyond any time in human history. In his autobiography, Herbert Armstrong said the most interesting and liveliest Bible studies He had ever attended were in Oregon, during the depression of the 1930's, when the people had almost nothing and they sat on bare floors or on old vegetable crates.

During the 50's and 60's in the Church of God, hundreds of sermons were preached and hundreds of *(Continued on page 15)*

Must You Use GOD'S SACRED NAME?

by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

First of all, let's solve one simple argument. It's pretty much a given that God is pretty smart. And therefore, God probably knows most of the languages on Earth. Ok, so He probably knows all of them. So we can assume that God speaks Swahili. He probably even speaks Quechua and Apache. So then we know that if someone who speaks Spanish says "Dios, socorro!!!" (God, help me!), that God will *understand* him. Granted, God may be offended that He didn't use the proper *(Continued on page 17)*

Sometimes They Come Back

An Investigative look into the Assyrian invasion and deportation of the Ten Tribes of Israel -- Part #1
by Cam Rea (Kendallville, Indiana)

Introduction:

O, Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. (Isaiah 10:5)

Not a bad way to start an introduction. This article you are about to read is based mainly on the Histories of Assyria, and Israel, from the mid 8th to the 7th century *(Continued on page 10)*

God MUST Answer Your Prayers QUICKLY!

by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

When I make bold statements like "God has obligated Himself to answer your prayers QUICKLY, and DRAMATICALLY", or "A righteous man will ALWAYS receive an answer to his prayer", and things like that, which I say often, people often object and say "But what about Paul? HE prayed 3 times before getting an answer!" or again, "What about Job?". There are usually only 5 things that people come up with as an objection to my statements.

The reason most people object to *(Continued on page 6)*

Discipleship and Stewardship

A Cure for Doctrinal Chaos and Organizational Disunity -- Part #6
by B. L. Cocherell (San Jose, California)

FAILURE TO BE RESPONSIBLE

The writer to the Hebrews gave the following reprimand to those of the Father's family who should have graduated past the beginning phases of their spiritual education and into the more advanced student-teacher function and responsibility: *"By this time you ought to be teaching others, however, you need someone to again teach you the things which are the* *(Continued on page 3)*

LETTERS SECTION

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Isaiah 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Ezekiel 33:8-9 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.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (expose) them.

1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

("Life in Prison" continued from Issue #40)

Life in Prison (06-03-07)

By Richard Markland (Lebanon, Ohio)

Richard Markland continues:

I am in a closed maximum facility and this place is more of a mental institution than a prison. The younger guys in here have done who knows what and the maturity level is about 3rd grade. Seventy-five percent of inmates don't have a GED and blacks outnumber whites by 3 to 1. Actually the Great Tribulation is the future for most of the people in here. There are 2,200 inmates, but it was built for 1,100.

You will have to excuse mistakes made. I haven't quite figured out how to correct mistakes (on a typewriter) if I miss correcting them on the small screen provided. There are a number of features offered for a typewriter.

Laura Lee writes:

Unfortunately as much as we try to get typos out of the newsletter, it never quite happens and we use a computer which as you know works far better than a typewriter. Also when we scan things in such as this letter, I noticed our spell checker doesn't always highlight scanned material so we can correct it. So if you had any spelling errors/typos we may not have caught them all either. We all just do the very best that we can.

Richard Markland writes:

The prison is headed for a crash. With the illegal immigration bill that our playful politicians are endorsing, the prisons are going to pop. Ohio already spends \$2 billion a year on inept prisons and the state is bursting at the seams. There are a lot of payoffs and it's totally corrupt. I can't even begin to tell you the graft and atrocious liberty that the judicial system, prison and state officials have. Each inmate is worth \$50,000. They

love repeat offenders because when they are rearrested, the state pays out another \$50,000. This is the initial cost and every year the money just keeps coming in for those already in. I am worth a lot of money.

I would feel hopeless and kill myself if it wasn't for God's truth. It's priceless in a hell hole like this. Homosexuality is everywhere and drugs are easily available. Every morning I wake up, I look out the window and thank God that it is one more day closer to His kingdom. It keeps me going. Letters from brethren keep me going as well. I have a cassette and CD player and so I can listen to sermon tapes. It is a real blessing.

Laura Lee writes:

Richard, please know that the people of God need you. You are one of the best writers I have run across since we started printing this newsletter in January of 2001. You have a natural way of making the words dance across the page with little effort. You are a strong writer, not afraid to speak out, and we wish that more of God's people were of the caliber of courage that it takes to speak out even if it means something bad may happen to them or that someone may not like them for what they speak.

Richard Markland writes:

Feel free to put my address in your newsletter if people would like to write. I'm not embarrassed about being in here. I am getting a foretaste

LETTERS
SECTION
CONTINUES
ON PAGE
19

The Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God

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("Discipleship and..." continued from page 1)

first principles of the words of God. You have become as infants in need of milk, and not of solid food. Everyone who drinks only milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness and is an infant. Solid food is for those who have matured through having their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:12-14 Para.).

The English word 'ought' is translated from the Greek word 'opheilo', which is a word that conveys the idea of accruing or to owe. Figuratively, it means to be under an obligation. Whoever these Hebrews were, they were not fulfilling one of the reasons for their being called to salvation during that age.

These individuals could not understand anything further about the Father, Christ, the truth, and way of truth. Because these individuals were lazy in their pursuit of spiritual knowledge, they were going backward instead of forward in their spiritual understanding. They were losing sight of the Father's vision and goal for their lives as well as the rest of humanity.

Why were they not fulfilling this responsibility? There are only two logical answers to this question. These individuals were either not mentally capable of instructing others in the Father's truth and way of truth or they were too lazy to spend the time and effort that is necessary to become well versed in the Father's truth and way of truth. Because the scriptures tell us that the Father has given the spirit of a sound mind (i.e., a mind capable of discipline and self-control) to those who are his and has given the holy spirit to lead one into truth, it must have been that they were simply lazy 2 Tim. 1:7; Jn. 16:13.

The English word 'teach' in verse 12 is translated from the Greek word 'didaskalos', which means 'an instructor' and is used in a number of scriptures in reference to the apostles and those who taught among the elect. See 1 Cor. 12:28; 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11, 4:3.

Here, we have individuals who are in spiritual jeopardy because they have not advanced past the first learning phase of their spiritual walk and have allowed the things they did learn to slip away.

Teaching

The importance of teaching is self-evident. Without being instructed in the Father's truth, way of truth, and his rules of conduct for his earthly family, no progress can be made toward the goal of spiritual perfection and the Father's truth and way of truth cannot be represented correctly.

The function of teaching within the

church carries with it the responsibility to make sure that what one teaches is truth, because if what one teaches is not correct or not thoroughly explained, it has the potential to adversely affect a person's life and spiritual growth. This is why the apostle James said, *"My brothers, Not many of you should be teachers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more severely"* (Jms. 3:1 Para.).

It should be obvious that new students of truth are not equipped to teach what they do not yet fully know or understand. However, a more advanced student who is conversant with the foundational elements of the truth and the way of truth should be able to explain basic concepts and principles to others. This type of knowledge falls well within what the apostle Peter said about sanctifying the Lord God in our hearts and always being ready to explain the reason that we have a hope of salvation (See 1 Pet. 3:15-17).

Three things are necessary in order to fulfill the teaching function:

- 1.A teacher must know and understand the subject that is to be taught.
- 2.A teacher must be able to present the subject to be taught in an understandable fashion.
- 3.A teacher must have students who are willing to be taught.

Before a person can assume the function of teaching within the Father's family, that person must clearly know and understand what is to be taught. The understanding of what to teach comes through the process of learning and experiencing the truth and the way of truth and growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Father and his Son our Savior. As a person grows in knowledge and understanding, they will naturally be able to explain what they know to another person.

The reprimand by the writer to the Hebrews can easily apply to other functions and responsibilities that are to be performed within the Father's earthly family. Many other functions and responsibilities also require a depth of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in the Father's truth and way of truth before a person can adequately fulfill them. Therefore, being a willing, diligent, and teachable student of truth is a prerequisite to fulfilling your functions and responsibilities. You cannot do what you are not equipped to do!

Not a Novice

The apostle Paul told Timothy that there are many prerequisites that must first be in place before a person who desires to serve his brothers and sisters in the faith as a bishop (an overseer) or a deacon (one who ministers to others) can take on these responsibilities. Moreover, Paul forbids a

person who is just beginning to learn the truth and way of truth to fulfill such positions. See. 1 Tim. 3:1-13.

Although it is neither necessary nor possible for everyone to fulfill every function and responsibility within the Father's family, there comes a time when you should be able to make the transition from a novice to a mature steward in order to adequately fulfill your functions and responsibilities within the family.

The goal of each student of truth should be to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Father and our Savior in order to more effectively carry out their particular functions and responsibilities within the family. This type of growth is only possible through yielding to the Father's will for one's life and through diligent prayerful study and meditation in his laws, precepts, and principles and the fulfilling of one's current functions and responsibilities in his earthly family to the best of one's ability.

FAITH, WORKS, AND STEWARDSHIP

The scriptures clearly reveal that there are two kinds of faith: faith that is belief and faith that is power. Both types of faith have a positive result within a person's life and within the Father's family to the furtherance of his purpose for his family and the work he has given it to do.

In order to successfully exercise faith that is true belief, there are two actions that must be taken:

- 1.You must truly believe in the promises of God the Father and Jesus Christ.
- 2.You must exercise this belief by doing what you know to be the Father's will in your life.

Although the Father and Christ are extremely concerned about our well-being and have great pleasure in fulfilling their promise to help us in our efforts toward spiritual maturity and perfection, they expect us to exercise faith and works as a part of our stewardship functions and responsibilities within the family.

Notice what the apostle James was inspired to record about the subject of faith and works:

James 2:14-17 LBP

"Dear brothers, what's the use of saying that you have faith and are Christians if you aren't proving it by helping others? Will that kind of faith save anyone? If you have a friend who is in need of food and clothing, and you say to him, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat hearty," and then don't give him clothes or food, what good does that do? So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is no faith

at all--it is dead and useless" (vs. 14-17). Please read and study the entire second chapter of James.

Notice that you will be judged by what you do as well as what you believe. It is very important to understand what James is saying about works. James says it takes physical effort as well as the correct attitude to fulfill God's laws, precepts, and principles in your life.

It is not enough just to have faith that is belief, because belief without works is no belief at all; it is dead and useless. However, you should not try to prove your faith by doing works; true faith produces good works itself, because it is the fruit of God's spirit being manifested in your life.

True faith that is belief and righteous works comes from an internal desire to do what is right and good, not from a desire to prove something to another person. True faith and good works are the natural result of yielding to the influence of the holy spirit, being a dedicated and responsible student of the Father's truth and way of truth, and being a good steward of the functions and responsibilities that he has assigned you as a member of his earthly family.

A Doer of the Word

Stewardship has to do with being proactive in administering your personal skills, talents, gifts of the spirit and your functions and responsibilities within the Father's earthly family. This is why the apostle James emphasized the need for faith together with works: *"But you be doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone hears the word, and does not do it, he is like to a man looking at his face in a mirror. Because he looks at himself and departs, and right away forgets what kind of man he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues in it, he is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed because of his work"* (Jms. 1:22-25 Para.).

This analogy pictures the following two categories of the elect:

1. The person who truly understands their calling and what is required of them but does nothing about it soon forgets the awesome opportunity and responsibility as a member of the Father's family of king-priests.
2. The person who truly understands their awesome calling and what is required of them, and do what they know they should be doing in order to be blessed for their effort.

Your attitude toward your calling determines which of these two categories you are in. In James' analogy, self-deception seems to be the result of truly understanding the Father's will for one's life, but believing

that it is not necessary to practice his will.

In order to avoid being self-deceived, you must truly know the Father's will and diligently practice what you know to be his will for your life.

It is important to understand that James sets this instructional analogy within the context of an active pursuit of a righteous lifestyle and the various attitudes, behaviors, trials, temptations, problems, and situations that commonly occur as you work out your salvation.

Lip Service

While speaking to those at Rome about the law (in the context of all that is set forth as a way of life for those who truly believe and follow the teachings of the Sovereign God), the apostle Paul states a principle that will help you bring the Father's vision and goal for your life and salvation into focus: *"For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified"* (Rom. 2:13 KJV).

Many people hear the law (i.e., the truth and the way of truth), but just hearing does not translate into a positive result in a person's life. Paul explains that a person is justified (made righteous) by what one does as well as what one believes. It is the application of truth that brings a positive result in one's life.

Learning the Father's truth, his way of truth, and his rules of conduct for his earthly family is meaningless unless what is learned is put into practice in such a way that it furthers the Sovereign Father's purpose for one's calling and one's existence as a member of his family.

The failure of the majority of the Father's children to diligently apply his truth, his way of truth, and his rules of conduct for his earthly family as a function of their stewardship is a root cause of the doctrinal chaos and the lack of unity within his family during this age.

Rules of Conduct

Once the rules of conduct that govern the Father's earthly family are taught, learned, and diligently practiced, internal problems within the family can be easily managed. The following are some of the beneficial results of teaching, learning, and diligently practicing these rules of conduct:

- Expose an errant member's attitudes and behaviors regardless of their function or responsibility within the family. See Gal. 2:11-21; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 2 Thes. 3:6-12; Titus 3:9-11; 2 Jn. 6-11
- Provide quick and just resolution to attitudinal and behavioral problems. See Matt. 8:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:11-13; Rom. 16:17; 1 Tim. 6:1-5.

- Maintain peace and harmony within the family. See Matt. 5:21-24; Acts 15:1-41; Rom. 12:9-10, 14:27-21; Eph. 4:1-3; Col. 3:12-15; 1 Jn. 5:14-17.

UNITY OF PURPOSE

It is clear that the Father's holy nation and family of king-priests on earth was originally conceived and established to function as a team effort to accomplish its task. Those called to be students and stewards within his holy nation and family are intended to be loving and caring individuals who, while proclaiming his good news message, are to exhibit the holy lifestyle taught to them as an example to the world.

During this age, there is no central authority on earth governing the Sovereign Father's family of king-priests scattered throughout the nations, and there is no central authority clearly and concisely teaching the Father's truth and way of truth to his scattered children. However, his family and nation does exist.

The task given to his family to proclaim his message and educate his newly adopted children has not changed. The requirements for living a righteous lifestyle and being a willing, dedicated, responsible, and teachable student of truth and the way of truth has not changed. Moreover, the requirement to be a faithful and profitable steward of the functions and responsibilities with which one is entrusted has not changed. So what has changed?

The only thing that has changed is the perception of what it means to be a dedicated, diligent, teachable student of truth and a profitable steward in the Father's earthly family of king-priests.

Paul explained to the Corinthians that all members of the Father's earthly family have an important function and responsibility within the family and are vital to its success.

Distribution of Power and a Unified Body 1 Corinthians 12:1-27:

"Now God gives many kinds of special abilities, but it is the same holy spirit which is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are his. The spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church" (vs. 4-7 LPB).

Paul says that different authorizations, gifts, and powers are given for the benefit of the entire family: *"For to one is given by the spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same spirit; to another faith by the same spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same spirit; To*

another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of languages; to another the interpretation of languages" (vs. 8-10 KJV).

There are two very important things to learn about spiritual authorizations and powers from these three verses:

1. Not everyone is given the same authorization or power.
2. It is one spirit through which these authorizations and powers flow.

Distribution of Power

The distribution of spiritual gifts within the family is for the purpose of unifying the body into a single powerful and effective force in order to accomplish the Father's goals for its existence: *"But the one and same spirit works all these things, distributing separately to each as he wills. For as the body is one, and has many members, But all the members of the one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For also we all were baptized by one spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, even all were given to drink into one spirit" (vs. 11-13 Para.).*

What seems to escape many of the Father's children during this age is that the Father's family is a single entity within which each individual member has stewardship over important functions and responsibilities that must be performed for the benefit of the entire family and its collective work.

A Unified Body

"For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, because I am not the hand, I am not a part of the body. Is this true? And if the ear says, because I am not the eye, I am not a part of the body. Is this true? If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole were an ear, how could it smell? But God has set each and every member in the body as it has pleased him" If the body was only one part, how could it be a body? But, the body is made up of many differing parts, yet, it is one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, I do not need you, nor the head to the feet, I do not need you..." (vs. 14-21 Para.).

If each member of the Father's family is necessary for it to function properly and perform its collective responsibility, why is it not functioning as a unified entity during this age?

The answer to this question is simple. The family as a whole is dysfunctional in this age, because few of its members know and understand what it means to be a student of the truth and the way of truth and a steward of their individual and collective functions and responsibilities. Moreover, most of those who do know and understand these things are not

practicing them or fulfilling their personal and collective functions and responsibilities in a diligent and expeditious manner. See Revelation, chapters 2 and 3--*"he that has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the called ones."*

Paul completes his reprimand and instruction to the Corinthians with the following facts and an appeal for them to put aside their pettiness concerning who has the greater gift, who holds the greater position of honor, and who is the more important member of the family: *"The parts of the body, which seem to be weak and less important and are extremely necessary. And those parts of the body, which we feel less worthwhile we pay more attention; therefore, these parts become more important in relation to the other parts of the body. Moreover, the other parts need less attention. Therefore, God has assembled the body, so that the seeming less important parts will receive greater attention in order to eliminate division in the body and so that each member receives the same care. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member receives honor, all the members rejoice with that member. Now you are the body of Christ as individual members" (vs. 22-27).*

For a great work to be accomplished during this age, individuals who are dedicated, responsible, and teachable students and stewards of the truth and way of truth having unity of thought and purpose must come together. The apostle Paul has this advice to the church regarding unity of purpose and spirit: *"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited" (Rom. 12:16 NIV).*

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10 KJV). See also Eph. 4:1-13; 1 Pet. 4:1-2.

Although Paul spoke to the Corinthians specifically concerning the stewardship of the ministry, his instruction clearly applies to all members in the Father's family, because all have stewardship over their particular functions and responsibilities within his family.

"Let a man so account of us, as of the servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" 1 Cor. 4:1-2 KJV.

JUDGMENT AND REWARDS

The Father promises immortal life to all who live a righteous lifestyle during this age; however, the authority, the office, and the

glory that you will receive in the Father's heavenly family and kingdom are predicated on how you carry out your stewardship of your skills, talents, gifts of the spirit, and functions and responsibilities with which you are entrusted. See Dan. 12:3; Matt. 25:14-30; 2 Cor. 9:6-10.

Judgment

Because judgment and rewards are predicated on what you do with your skills, talents, gifts of the spirit, and the functions and responsibilities with which you are entrusted. It is extremely important for you to seek to know what these are, and then diligently use them to the best of your ability for the benefit of the Father, his family, and your spiritual growth.

The following scriptures reinforce the fact that each person who has been made a part of the Father's holy nation and royal family on earth is required to do works: *"For we all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what we did, whether good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10 Para.).*

Make no mistake. There will be a judgment of the elect of God and all of humanity.

For the faithful elect, this judgment will be at the first resurrection because of a life filled with learning the Father's truth and way of truth, practicing this truth, and being a profitable trustworthy steward in his family. See Matt. 25:32-40.

For the rebellious unprofitable steward within the Father's family, there will be the resurrection to death from which there is no return because of a life filled with evil works or a life of no works at all as noted in Matthew 25:14-30. See also Matt. 25:41-46; Lk. 19:12-27.

Because Jesus is head of the church and the administrator of the Father's kingdom, he will judge the quality of each person's works for the Father: *"But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you despise your brother? For all shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it has been written, I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue confess to God. So then each one of us will give account concerning himself to God" (Rom. 14:10-12 KJV Para.). See also 2 Cor. 5:10.*

Each of the Father's children must give an account of their life and the works that they have or have not done.

Rewards

For those who have been given the opportunity to participate in the first resurrection, the rewards that can be received for diligent service to the Father and Jesus Christ are awesome and far above any

offered to those who come after them. See 1 Cor. 2:9; Jms. 2:5; Heb. 11:35.

The apostles John and Paul recorded the following concerning attitudes, behaviors, and rewards for spiritual work during this age of salvation: "*And he said to me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be*" (Rev. 22:10-12 KJV). See also Rom. 2:7; Matt. 19:16-17; Lk. 10:25-27; 18:18-20.

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be you steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:52-58 KJV). See also Heb. 6:10.

Read the entire article at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-036-01.htm>

****to be continued in Issue #42****

**("God MUST Answer..."
continued from page 1)**

them is because they realize that I am making them RESPONSIBLE before God to have their prayers answered, and because I say that if their prayers are NOT answered, it is because God is NOT happy with them.

I say that their OBEDIENCE is directly tied to their faith, and that THEY are in control of their own faith. That they are both able and RESPONSIBLE to build and nurture their own faith, AND THAT THEY MUST!

To a world which has been taught that you should just "believe" and God will love you just as you are, this comes as quite a shock. BUT IT IS THE TRUTH! And until you KNOW what you CAN do, what goal it is POSSIBLE to achieve, as long as you are in the dark and believe that you CAN'T nurture your faith, and believe that it's all God's job, you WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PLEASE GOD!!

And so because of this, I think in the ideal. I strive to see what a perfectly obedient man whom God loved dearly would receive in answer to his prayer. Once we know that, we can work towards it! But if we believe that we "have arrived" already, we will NEVER do that, and WE WILL DIE NEVER having lived up to God's demands!

And so, in my quest for the ideal, I find scriptures like this: **Isaiah 65:24** *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

Now that scripture definitely says an instant answer will happen. The context is what life will be like in God's kingdom, BUT we, TODAY, are already a part of that Kingdom! That should apply to us TODAY!

Psalms 50:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Psalms 20:1 The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;

This says that God will deliver you in the DAY of trouble - not days or weeks later. Nor in the resurrection. He will deliver you NOW, when you need it.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

This scripture does not imply a waiting period. But now let's work on an analogy that God gave us.

Luke 11:11-13 *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

So God will treat His children similarly, nay, better, than you would treat your own. Imagine that you have a wonderful relationship with a perfectly obedient son whom you love very much. Now if your son is hurt and bleeding, and cries to you for help... are you going to finish dinner before you help him? Will you wait to get off of work before stopping his bleeding? Of course not. What if he asks you for 20\$ because his clothes are falling off of him in rags. Will you make him go to school for a few weeks before you even acknowledge that he said anything? Again, no parent would treat his child that way.

Any good parent will give his children anything that it is in his power to give them. So what if he asks you for something that is bad for him, or something that is not in your power to give him? What do you do? Do you simply ignore him and pretend he didn't ask? Do you? I think not! You say "I'm sorry son,

but we can't afford that now..." Or "Son, you can't eat Ice Cream for dinner every night". BUT YOU GIVE HIM AN ANSWER!

You don't act as if he never asked, or ignore him and do something in a month or 6 weeks - YOU TELL HIM NO, and you tell him WHY! And postulating an ideal relationship with God, HE WILL DO THE SAME!

I am familiar with the examples you've quoted, along with a few others. I will answer all of them below.

#1 "Paul asked God 3 times and was not granted what he asked for."

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, LEST I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And HE SAID UNTO ME, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Notice first that God DID answer him! GOD SAID NO! He didn't ignore him, or pretend Paul was somewhere else - GOD SAID NO! It took Paul three times of asking to GET a verbal answer from God because PAUL is not our perfect example - Christ is! Paul had problems that interfered with his prayers being answered on the level that Christ's were. And Paul knew that there was a REASON God couldn't answer him - and he tells us the reason when he says "LEST I should be exalted above measure..." You see, Paul had been in the third heaven, at least in vision. And Paul had a tendency to be "lifted up", in other words... Paul had a problem with pride, by his own admission!

And to keep that problem in check, God gave him this infirmity, FOR HIS OWN GOOD! And just like YOU would have done to your son when he asked you not to have to go back to school, you said "No, school is for your own good - I can't let you have your way here". But you answered him! And GOD WILL ANSWER YOU, and this scripture, far from disproving that, in fact conclusively proves that He WILL if your obedience is sufficient!

#2 "David asked for his baby to live and it died."

Getting an answer to prayer depends on three things. Believing that God IS. Believing that God is Good (**Hebrews 11:6**). And believing that YOU are obeying God, and are WORTHY to receive God's goodness!

1 John 3:21-22 *Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his*

commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

If your heart condemns you, and you KNOW you don't deserve the blessings of God - then God is NOT obligated to answer you, quickly or otherwise! But if your heart DOESN'T condemn you, and you KNOW that you are obeying God, then he MUST answer you, or break His own word!

Proverbs 15:29 *The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.*

If YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS, and hold up YOUR END of the bargain, then God would be breaking his promise NOT to answer you! And so God MUST answer the prayer of a righteous man, and HE MUST ANSWER IT QUICKLY! If He DOESN'T, then it is because the man's conscience is not clean, and the man KNOWS that HE IS NOT OBEYING GOD!

When David asked for this, he did so after committing adultery with Bathsheba, and having Uriah killed. By doing this, he "Gave great occasion to the enemies of God to blaspheme". David's conscience, I can say without a doubt, was not clean. And David was in no position to remind God of his obedience and claim an answer to his prayer based on his righteousness! But far from proving that God DOESN'T answer quickly, this shows a REASON why God DIDN'T answer quickly!

#3 "Job did not receive an answer to his prayer quickly, and he suffered much and for long."

The reason God didn't answer Job is rather lengthy. Rather than go into the great details here, I refer you to: <http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-039-04.htm> Meanwhile, Elihu speaking, gives us the simplest answer here: **Job 35:14-15** *Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, yet judgment is before him; therefore TRUST THOU IN HIM. But now, BECAUSE IT IS NOT SO, he hath visited in his anger; yet he knoweth it NOT in great extremity.*

The short answer is that Job didn't trust God. His faith, for all of his righteousness, was fickle and needed to be tempered. And the process of his experiences succeeded in showing Job his weakness and, just as you would do to your child, God wouldn't remove the trial until Job had learned his lesson. It wasn't just a random punishment, or because God was busy somewhere else... it was because Job's faith was not yet perfect.

After his lesson had been learned, God again answered his prayers "while he was yet speaking", and before he called, God would say "Here I am". Because God loved Job, because Job was one of the most righteous men who has ever lived, and as you would treat your beloved son who did

everything with a mind to what you wanted him to do, so also, and more, God did to Job. And just as you would answer your son, so also God answered Job.

#4 "If God must answer immediately, why did even Paul have to leave a sick friend behind?"

2 Timothy 4:20 *Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.*

For faith to work, both parties must believe to some extent. Remember that even Christ COULDN'T do mighty miracles in his home town - not because God was busy, nor because His own faith was weak, nor yet because of some "unknowable will of God" that prevented Him from answering, but because of THEIR unbelief. Remember also that Christ put the unbelieving people out of the room before raising the little girl from the dead.

We have no way of knowing the faith of Trophimus. To assume that both Paul and Trophimus were full of faith, and yet God for some "the-Lord-works-in-mysterious-ways" reason just ignored them, is simply foolish, particularly in light of the other scriptures I've shown today.

We can state confidently that either Paul, Trophimus, or both, did not have enough faith to require God to do an immediate healing. This could be because of some current sin that was troubling them like David had (such as Paul's pride), or, perhaps more likely, something that interfered with Trophimus' faith. We know almost nothing about him.

In either case, God either broke HIS promise and didn't fulfill His end of the bargain, and his promises to answer in the day of trouble, or else Paul, Trophimus, or both, were not holding up theirs. Given that choice, I will always assume that men made the mistake. And the next point will make this one more clear.

#5 "How can you say that God must give an immediate, dramatic answer, when EVEN JESUS CHRIST had to anoint someone twice?"

Mark 8:22-26 *And he cometh to Bethsaida; and THEY BRING a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any*

in the town.

First, notice that THEY brought this blind man to Him. There isn't the slightest hint that this man wanted to be healed, or knew of Jesus and believed Him. Second, notice where He is - Bethsaida. Third, notice that Christ took him OUT of the town! Fourth, in no other case of a healing did Jesus ASK if it worked after he healed them. This proves that Jesus was expecting it not to work smoothly. And finally, notice that Jesus commanded him not to go back into this town, not to even SPEAK to anyone from this town. Why?

Here we have a man with perfect faith, Christ, and yet He has to anoint someone twice. Which is only recorded as happening once. Why did He expect it not to work smoothly?

We know that the "ambient faith", for lack of a better word, affects the miracles, from the examples I quoted earlier of His hometown, and putting the people out of the room before raising the dead girl. Here, Christ was in Bethsaida.

Matthew 11:21-22 *Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.*

He really, really didn't like Bethsaida. Because for all of His works, they refused to believe him and repent! That meant that their faith would grow more and more negative the more they heard and rejected. Now, to add to that the fact that it doesn't appear to have been the blind man's idea, but that THEY BROUGHT HIM to Christ, and the fact that we can be certain that Christ's faith was good, and that EVERY OTHER PRAYER CHRIST ASKED WAS ANSWERED IMMEDIATELY... because of all of that, we can be sure that there was something wrong with the faith of this man, and Bethsaida in general.

And so when Christ anointed this man with weak faith, this man only partially believed it would work. And so it partially worked. And so Christ asked him if he saw, and he said he saw "men as trees, walking". Now the blind man was thinking "This might work after all!" and so his faith surged. Then Christ was able to anoint him again and he saw perfectly!

But Christ wasn't through - He WARNED this man not to go back to Bethsaida! Nor to even talk to anyone from there! Because THEY would tell him "This man Jesus isn't the son of God, he's an impostor, you shouldn't listen to him, he doesn't have the authority to do these things..." etc. And they would DESTROY This man's faith, and

without it, this man would either go blind again, or else, as Christ said elsewhere, a worse thing would befall him.

So in conclusion... God has promised, absolutely promised, to be there to deliver a righteous man in the day of trouble. And a righteous man will always get an immediate answer to his prayer. To prove that, I submit the fact that Christ ALWAYS did. And He is our example.

Granted, most men will not be righteous. Of course, most men will not receive answers to their prayers either. Those who do receive answers, may have to wait awhile, just as you would care for your beloved son before you care for your rebellious one. This is only right, and fair.

But never believe for a moment that an instant, immediate answer to your prayer is beyond your grasp. For if you will only do all that you know you should do, God will do all that He has said He will do. And He will do it with a speed and an efficiency that only God can achieve.

Isaiah 58:8-9 *Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, HERE I AM.*

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-041-01.htm>

3rd OF 3 ARTICLES**

("Traveling Through..." continued from page 1)

Both words take on special meaning and become like code words, so we must comprehend their dual meanings or we could get lost before we reach our final destination.

The word for minister

Jesus made it obvious in Matt 20:25-27 that he had no patience with those who would set themselves up as pompous rulers over God's people. He set down a simple criterion for those who would lead his people. Ministers must see themselves as "servants" and the highest, most prominent leaders as "slaves". Let's look at the words of Jesus in Matt 20:25-27, "But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--'" (NKJ)

A new double meaning

From that time forward, the term "servant" now had the double meaning of "minister" when linked with a Christian serving God. In all the following scriptures the Greek word for servant, "*diakonos*" (dee-ak'-on-os) is correctly translated as "minister" by the New King James:

Col 1:23 ... which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a *minister*.

Col 1:7 ...Epaphras, ..., who is a faithful *minister* of Christ on your behalf,

1 Cor 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but *ministers* through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

1 Tim 4:6 ...you (Timothy) will be a good *minister* of Jesus Christ, ...

Eph 3:7 of which I became a *minister* according to the gift of the grace of God

Eph 6:21 ...Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful *minister* in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

"*Diakonos*" has the Strong's number 1249, which is a handy system of word identification to simplify tracking Greek words. Greek, words vary in their endings according to how they are used in the sentence, so numbers make it easier to be sure we are still dealing with the same word. We find eight other examples of *diakonos* translated

as minister in the KJV or NKJ in 2 Cor 3:6, 6:4, 11:15, 11:23; Gal 2:17, Romans 15:8, Col 1:25 and 4:7.

Minister, not deacon

Oddly enough *diakonos* gets mistranslated as "deacon" in three places -1 Tim 3:8, 3:12, and Phil 1:11- but the word is the same and rightfully should be translated as "minister" in these places as well. The Greek *diakonos* always meant minister to the New Testament church. In the 1 Timothy passages our word's proximity to instructions for women leaders seems to have sent the translators into consternation, unable to accept what they saw in the Greek so they substituted the word "deacon" for "minister". See 1 Tim. 3:11 in the New American Standard, RSV or ASV, "Women must likewise be..." as Paul begins listing requirements for women leaders that are much the same as the requirements for men. The KJV arbitrarily adds the word "their" to the text and translates "wives" instead of women, and all translations magically turn both men and women into deacons rather than ministers!

This was impossible since the office of deacon was set up well after the time of Paul. The seven men that were selected to "serve tables" in Acts 6:3-5 were not called

"deacons" but were called "the seven" as you see in Acts 21:8. Philip, one of "the seven" became an evangelist, and had four daughters that were prophetesses, Acts 21:8,9. Not one of "the seven" is referred to as a "*diakonos*". Imagine the confusion that would have occurred if they tried to use the same word for TWO different types of service! Let the inspired Greek scriptures set us straight on this point! Because of the words of Jesus the word for servant, "*diakonos*" became a word for "minister" when referring to a Christian leader. "*Diakonos*" should rightfully be translated "minister" in all three scriptures, 1 Tim 3:8, 3:12, and Phil 1:11, as well as in Romans 16:1.

In every instance, the word for minister is 1249, "*diakonos*" when it is linked with a specific Christian leader. If there is a woman involved in verses near-by, then the word was translated deceptively to hide the fact that New Testament women were able to serve in leadership roles!

Words with new meanings

In our own language several words have taken on new meanings. The word "gay" meant "joyful" in the 1800's and today has the meaning of one who is homosexual. So now, to avoid confusion, we don't use "gay" to describe just any joyful person because it now has a new meaning. In the same way, Paul did not refer to a Christian leader as a "*diakonos*" unless that person was a minister. In the NKJ the words translated "servant" which indicate Christian leaders normally are not from the Greek word *diakonos* but a Greek word meaning slave.

The King James translators usually translated the Greek "slave" as servant and the Greek *diakonos* as minister--until they came to Romans 16:1!

Whoever desires to be first

Jesus' words in Matt 20:27, "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--" also set the precedent for apostles to refer to themselves as a slave, the Greek "*doulos*" but also usually add that they were apostles. So Paul sometimes refers to himself as a "*doulos*" or slave as he does in Titus 1:1, and quickly adds, "and an apostle of Jesus Christ..." The well known apostle James uses this term for himself in James 1:1 and does not need to add that he is an apostle. Peter calls himself a "*doulos*" and an apostle in 2 Peter 1:1. Jude uses the word for slave in Jude 1:1 and identifies himself as the "brother of James". The beloved apostle John likewise refers to himself as a "*doulos*" in Rev 1:1. In all these scriptures the KJV translates "*doulos*" as servant.

However, none of the apostles except

Paul ever referred to themselves as a "*diakonos*" for they were not ministers but apostles. Apostles train and supervise ministers and have a higher responsibility before God. Only Paul refers to himself as both a "*doulos*" a word now sometimes linked with the word apostle or a literal slave, and a "*diakonos*," now indicating a minister.

Carrying letters

The New Testament, except for Revelation, is made up of letters written by church leaders and hand carried to the location, usually by ministers. Paul often mentions the name of the person who is to deliver the letter near the end of his message, as he does in his letter to Ephesus, "But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister (*diakonos* 1249) in the Lord, will make all things known to you; whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts." Ephesians 6:21-22. So the minister Tychicus carried the letter to Ephesus and explained it, and also carried a different letter to Colossi, Col. 4:7, 8. From Phil 4:18 we calculate that Epaphroditus carried back the book of Philipians on his trip home. In Phil 2:25 Epaphroditus is referred to as an "apostolon" or apostle/messenger. So we see that a trusted minister (*diakonos*) or apostle usually carried Paul's words to their destination.

The background

During the winter of 55-56 AD Paul dictated the book of Romans to Tertius in Corinth, Romans 16:22, and sent this epistle by a woman who lived in Cenchrea, the eastern harbor of Corinth. Phoebe traveled first by ship, and then continued inland to Rome. It was a journey of over 800 miles! Such a long trip, alone in New Testament times, would have been very difficult and dangerous. Had she been discovered with Paul's communication it would probably have ended her life. In chapter 16, towards the end of the book of Romans, Paul gives this introduction of Phoebe, "I commend (or favorably introduce) to you our sister Phoebe," Paul is introducing her to the congregation because they don't know her and the letter that she has carried becomes her means of acceptance into the church at Rome.

In describing this woman Paul uses a male noun, the word we have just discussed, "who is a "*diakonon*" of the church which is at Cenchrea." This is, of course, our famous 1249 word, repeatedly translated as "minister" when it refers to a male Christian leader! But, as I said, when it refers to a woman is translated deceptively-- and so it

was translated "servant". But was this woman carrying the book of Romans really a servant? If so, why did Paul use a male noun that now meant "minister"? Paul referred to Apollos, Epaphras, Timothy, Tychicus, himself--and Phoebe with this same word! All were ministers.

Greek endings

As I warned you earlier, Greek uses different endings depending upon whether the word is used as the subject, direct object, object of a preposition-- but the Strong's number remains the same, 1249. In Romans 16:1 the ending of "*diakonon*" is the same as in the phrase, "Jesus Christ was a minister (*diakonon*) of the circumcision" Romans 15:8, KJV.

Two translations

There are two translators of our modern era that had the courage to risk the anger of those prejudiced against women and translate Romans 16:1-2 correctly. One is a respected male Greek scholar, Alfred Marshall, who translates this passage very literally, "Now I commend to you Phoebe the sister of us, being also a minister of the church in Cenchrea,... for indeed she a protectress (*prostatis*) of many became and of myself." See *The Interlinear NASB-NIV parallel New Testament in Greek and English*, page 477.

The second is an accomplished female Greek scholar, Helen Barrett Montgomery, who translated *The New Testament in Modern English* in 1924. She bravely and honestly translated, "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a minister of the church at Cenchreae. I beg you to give her a Christian welcome, as the saints should; and to assist her in any matter in which she may have need of you. For she herself has been made an overseer* to many people, including myself."

*Mrs. Montgomery, a missionary, and the first woman to head a major religious denomination in the United States--the American Northern Baptists, put a footnote to "overseer" as follows, "The Greek word *prostatis* is a very strong one. It is the noun corresponding to the verb used in 1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 12. It is variously translated champion, leader, protector, patron."

Tipping the scales

It is this word "*prostatis*" that tips the scales irretrievably in Phoebe's favor. Most translations inately translate the word as "succourer" or "helper", but she was no more a "helper" than Bill Gates is a poor computer nerd!

Thayer's Greek Definitions reveals the true meaning of *prostatis*: 1) A woman set over others 2) a female guardian, a

protectress, a patroness, caring for the affairs of others and aiding them with her resources.

A radiant woman

Paul tells us about converting honored Greek women in Thessalonica north of Corinth in Acts 17:12, "Many of them therefore believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men." (New American Standard) Phoebe, whose name translates as "Radiant", must have been like these women-- affluent, with her wealth giving her power and prominence, and God's Holy Spirit giving her a bright shining confidence that must have inspired most women of her day. Since Paul used "*prostatis*" to describe her, it is obvious that this woman "set over others" was not a servant as we use the word today, but a servant-minister as were Apollos, Tychicus, Timothy and Paul himself. Had she NOT been a minister, Paul would have used a different word to avoid confusion.

Business in Rome

Phoebe was wealthy enough to easily afford the long journey from Cenchrea and she was using her influence and money to help members of the church, including Paul! She had business to accomplish in Rome beyond bringing Paul's letter, probably church business, and Paul urged Roman Christians to treat her "in a manner worthy of the saints" and "assist her" with this business. Was she intent upon bribing some Roman official to set a member of her congregation free from prison? We won't know until the resurrection. We can know with certainty that Phoebe was, as Paul was, a minister of Jesus Christ, and a true ministerial servant of the church--serving both men and women as one "set over others" in responsibility. She risked her life, her wealth-- everything to stand for the truth.

Clear evidence

There are many other women leaders described in the New Testament and several of them obviously taught and served both men and women, but their stories will have to wait for another article. Now we have wound our way through the maze of mistranslation to end up looking clearly at this one woman, this bright shining, radiant example of a self-sacrificing, serving minister willing to put her life and fortune on the line! We see that there is a scriptural example of a woman minister. She is absolute proof that we have been wrong in our doctrines about women not participating in church services or as leaders. We have misunderstood the words of Paul when he corrects local wives causing disturbances--the unconverted Corinthian wives prophesying falsely, just as the

priestesses of the Oracle of Delphi did some thirty miles away; 1 Cor 12:2,3; 14:13, 14:32, 36. We misunderstood when Paul corrects women in Ephesus who were teaching falsehood, myths and doctrines of Artemis!

Culture and Tradition

The culture of that day DID hold back women-- but God circumvented that culture! Phoebe is our proof. The restrictive culture of that day did not prevent Jesus Christ from selecting a woman and then empowering her to be His minister and to do His work.

Today our modern culture does NOT hold women back-- but the church does! The ministers of today need to remind themselves that the word for minister means servant. Male or female servant-ministers should set about serving the people of God as bravely and selflessly as Phoebe did. One start in that new brave and selfless ministry would be to stop going solely by old traditions and start permitting the women of God to pray aloud in God's churches, read scripture, and participate according to their knowledge and experience within God's church. Phoebe was a minister and an overseer and carried the book of Romans to Paul-- proving that God does not hold women back! Why do we?

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-041-02.htm>

THE END**

("Sometimes They..." continued from page 1)

BCE. What this article will provide is a better understanding of the political and spiritual issues, that are associated with Assyria and Israel. As well as the social issues concerning the deportation of the Ten Tribes of Israel. We will discuss Assyria's policy towards captives. We shall also look into where the Ten Tribes were placed, and take a look at the regions they were placed in. I will try to provide the best answers for this topic you are about to read. I also want to point out that there are many facts in this article, and just as many speculations. Not everything in this article should be considered factual. Remember we are dealing with a history that at times appears to be silent. I hope all who read this article also enjoys it. I also hope that those who read this article can build from it. This article is not the complete definitive answer on the subject, just a small piece of it.

Rebirth of Assyria:

The year 745 BCE. The event, the Northern Ten Tribes, and much of the Middle east, were about to become dissembled by the powerful Assyrian Empire under their king

Tiglath-pileser III also known as Pul in (1 Chronicles 5:26). Tiglath-pileser III is regarded as the founder of the second Assyrian empire. The origins of Tiglath-pileser are obscure and we do not know his real name for sure, but it may have been Pul. We shall discuss the name Pul later. The name Tiglath-pileser is a name he took once he ascended the throne. What we can say is that he must have been a charismatic man with the ability to lead, and because of this he was able to seize the crown of Assyria, and unite the warring factions into a single unit, and provide a network of security and trade within the empire. That would one day extend to those he conquered, or made into vassals attached to the Assyrian empire. What we have here is what the History Channel would call Man, Moment, and Machine. The moment was now for Assyria. All one has to do is look in the bible and realize that Assyria had no outside threats. The Hittites, and Egyptians, are a shell of their former glory, and imposed no threat to the Assyrian borders. The once United Kingdom of Israel under King David, and King Solomon, was divided and to busy fighting amongst themselves, and worshiping other gods they knew not before. Syria was not even a threat. Phoenicia was unstable on land, and had no real standing army other than those they relied on. The rest of the smaller tribal groups were mere principalities, or city states similar to Phoenicia. From the view that 1 & 2 Kings gives us, as well as 1 & 2 Chronicles, one could easily say the Middle East was easy to take because it was so fragmented. The Machine was the powerful Assyrian army. Tiglath-pileser III rejuvenated the Assyrian army by changing the methods in which it used to be conducted. In the past Assyria relied on their provincial governors to supply the army. Military forces were really provincial militias made up of your typical workforce, and the only permanent army was the royal guards. What Tiglath-pileser III did was reorganize the army into a permanent standing fighting force that over time became a professional army. By creating a permanent army, Tiglath-pileser III had a tighter control on his Kingdom due to the fact that the army was loyal to him, and not to provincial governors that provided the army temporarily. Because of this, Tiglath-pileser III transformed the population back into a model military society based on war and expansion, and to quench the thirst of their rejuvenated philosophy, which was the worship of war.[1]

Assyrian aggression:

Like a lion on the Serengeti, Assyria represented the lion, and the Serengeti represented the Middle East. Tiglath-pileser III's first footstep outside of Assyria stained the desert floor blood red. I'm not joking!

None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken: Whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind: Isaiah 5:27-28

In order to secure his holdings, Tiglath-pileser III sent his new professional army to secure his empire by attacking the upstart Syrian-Urartu alliance that posed a potential threat as they had in the past. Tiglath-pileser III Led his forces towards the Aramaean Syrian tribes which had always given Assyria trouble. Powerful Aramaean tribes had invaded the Kingdom of Babylonia from the south, taken the cities of Sippar and Dur-Kurigalzu, undermined the Babylonian way of life, as well as threatening to destabilize Assyria's power, influence, and prestige they had done to that of Babylonia. Because of this, the weakened state of Babylonia needed a champion. Assyria's hatred for the troublesome Aramaeans gave them the reason to strike, and to reestablish their rule over Babylonia. Tiglath-pileser III would go on pushing further south for sometime, winning battle after battle with his new army. Gaining ever more confidence after each engagement with the enemy before turning east and crossing the Tigris River. While on the east side of the Tigris, Tiglath-pileser III began attacking along the mountains of Elam, taking many nomadic tribes captive. He then turned westward crossing the Tigris, and began his assault on the Aramaeans till he pushed them out of the cities of Sippar, and Dur-Kurigalzu, and continued to push south till he reached Nippur, an ancient city of Babylon, before turning back. The people of Babylon looked to Tiglath-pileser III as the savior of Babylonia which in turn did not bode well for Nabonassar, the King of Babylon. Tiglath-pileser III began by setting up a new government in Babylonia and placing the kingdom under the suzerainty of Assyria. Never before had Babylonia been under the complete rule of Assyria. Thus Nabonassar became a mere vassal king, a symbol of state and not power. While the real King was Tiglath-pileser III, the conqueror and savior of Babylonia.

PUL?

1 Chronicles 5:26 And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day.

Before we go on, the name "Pul" or "Pulu" has significant meaning. 1 Chronicles

5:26 is the first time we hear a mention of Pul and Tiglath-pileser III. It seems that even the Bible indicates that Tiglath-pileser III invaded Babylon before he conquered the northern Kingdom of Israel, and that the name Pul that is mentioned was possibly his real name. When God says he stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, what we have here is an anachronism. Two different things that represent the same thing, or in this case the same person, and what I mean is that Tiglath-pileser III took the hand of Bel (Marduk the supreme God of Babylonia), and by taking Marduk's hand Tiglath-pileser III was thus proclaiming himself the son of God in the city of Hammurabi on New Year's Day. He renamed himself Pul or Pulu, and was proclaimed King of Babylon. We can say that by this very act Tiglath-pileser III was proclaiming himself a Priestly-King, or a type of Messiah. This shows that the intention of Tiglath-pileser III was to unite the military, and spiritual power together into one entity. Pul represents the spiritual crown, and Tiglath-pileser represents the military crown. Tiglath-pileser wanted a one world empire. Now some may debate this, and say he took this title Pul or Pulu the year before he died. This is not true. It's recorded twice that he took the oath; and in Babylonian tradition, a King had to take Marduk's hand every year on New Year's to be the King of Babylonia. We also have to remember that he invaded Babylonia to free them from the Syrian threat, while at the same time making the King of Babylonia a mere vassal while the real king was Tiglath-pileser III. Now I don't want to get off track, but I thought it might help to clarify who Tiglath-pileser III is, and why the name Pul is mentioned in the same sentence.[2]

Assyrian Expansion:

After securing Babylon and driving out the Aramaean raiders. Tiglath-pileser III was to turn his army loose on the known world. His first campaign of aggression would be against Northern Syria an ally of Urartu. Urartu was a rival to Assyria, and at the time was gaining much influence over the former vassals of Assyria. This posed a threat to Assyria. Because of the threat it imposed on the weakened state of Assyria Tiglath-pileser III decided it was time to take action, and to restore the right of Assyria's might. Tiglath-pileser III didn't want to take the chance of invading Urartu head on. The Kingdom of Urartu was located on a mountainous plateau of what is today eastern Turkey, and Armenia, and leads up into the Caucasus Mountains with Lake Van in the middle of the kingdom. It would have been difficult for the Assyrian army to invade head on. This may indicate that the Assyrian army wasn't built

for mountainous warfare. Tiglath-pileser III knew that he had to either conquer them, or to beat them so badly that he could come back later and finish the job. The Kingdom of Urartu would be no joke for Assyria.

Tiglath-pileser III assembled his army, crossed the Euphrates, and headed for Northern Syria to the city of Arpad. Before Tiglath-pileser III reached the city of Arpad, a coalition was already assembled to counter the Assyrians. The armies of Urartu were led by King Sardui II, and the armies of Arpad were led by King Matil, as well as many other Syrian tribal kings. Both the coalition and Assyria would meet head on. The Assyrians were victorious. Over 70,000 are said to have been slain or captured.[3]

Tiglath-pileser III was to then turn his attention back to the land of Medes conquering them on the Iranian plateau. Tiglath-pileser III would deport 65,000 and later another 154,000. Also the Syrians would suffer from deportation as 30,000 were placed in the region of the Zargos Mountains.[4]

From what we read in a time span of 6 to 5 years the Assyrian army had conquered a vast amount of land in a short time. I don't want to get off track but it's important that we take a look at the speed and structure of the Assyrian army. The person I recommend that all should read who take interest in Military History is a man by the name of Richard A. Gabriel. Richard Gabriel is probably the leading expert in military history. What I'm about to show you are some passages from the book that he, and Karen Metz collaborated on. The title of the book is **"From Sumer to Rome"**:

In the 8th century B.C., when the entire Assyrian army included 150,000-200,000 men, a combat field army of 50,000 men would be equal to 5 modern American heavy divisions, or 8 Soviet field divisions. When arrayed for battle, a field army occupied an area of 2,500 yards (almost 1.5 miles) across and 100 yards deep. After the fall of Rome, it was not until Napoleon's re-institution of conscription that armies of such a size would be mustered. The Assyrians were the first to invent large cavalry squadrons.

A special logistics branch, the Musarkisus, was created to keep the army supplied with horses. It was able to obtain 3,000 horses a month for military use. Once again, it was not until Napoleon that such large amounts of horses would be systematically procured for the army. In a climate such as the Middle East, a soldier would need 3,402 calories a day and 70 grams of protein to sustain him, in addition to 9 quarts of water. A ration of 3 pounds of wheat daily (or 150,000 pounds daily for a field army) would only provide 2,205 calories daily, insufficient for the needs of a soldier.

The "strategic mobility" of the Assyrian army, or their ability to project their military force over a given area, was 375,000 square miles. After Rome fell, no army exceeded this area until the American Civil War, when the use of railroads made troop movements easier. In terms of efficiency of organization, no military staff (i.e. administrators, logistic officers and engineers) would reach the proficiency of the Assyrian or Roman military staffs until the German general staff of the 1870's. The prototype of a modern soldier's equipment (helmet, body armor, boots [a particular Assyrian innovation], and backpack) was invented by ancient armies and disappeared for almost 1,000 years after the fall of the Roman Empire. The killing power of an ancient composite bow (i.e. the accuracy, force, distance, and speed of deployment) was not matched until the introduction of the Prussian needle gun in 1871. According to modern tests, the body armor, helmet, and shield of the Assyrians would have provided excellent protection against firearms until Napoleon. If the dispersion of field formations, inaccuracy of early firearms, and rates of fire are considered, the Assyrian soldier would have been safer on a battlefield in the 18th century than on an Ancient Near Eastern one. This is what the Near East had to face. An iron lion.[5]

Western union the best way to get paid:

In 738 Tiglath-pileser III made his way west to collect tribute, and to expand the ever growing Assyrian Empire. Tiglath-pileser III began his regional tour starting with what was left of the fractured kingdoms of the former Hittite empire. Then turning south to Syria again, and then west to subdue without a fight the city states of Phoenicia, and collecting just about anything and everything the individual kingdoms could offer to keep Assyria out of their lands, by turning themselves into Assyria's vassals. Next on the list for Assyria was the Kingdom of Israel. [6] Menahem was the King of Israel at the time when Tiglath-pileser III came upon the northern horizon of Israel. For a long time before the Assyrian threat the Hebrew prophets Hosea, Amos, Joel foretold of the coming destruction of Israel if they didn't repent and come back to the Almighty.

(Kings 15:19-20) And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land: and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand. And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.

The storm was on the horizon and it was

time to pay up. Menahem gave a thousand talents of silver to Tiglath-pileser III by extracting 50 shekels from each wealthy man. That comes to 60,000 citizens of wealth that paid. Which makes one wonder how many poor people had to repay the wealthy for lost income? After getting his tribute Tiglath-pileser III left the outskirts of Israel leaving the Kingdom intact and still in the hands of Menahem. One can only speculate if this was a one time tribute deal or multiple times year after year. In either case Menahem has just made his Kingdom look impotent before the King of Assyria. But what could King Menahem do? When all one has to do is read (II Kings 15:16), and realize the majority of his people wouldn't fight for him anyway. When Menahem died, his son Pekahiah took the throne and reigned for only two years. He was to be murdered by Pekah, and 50 Gileadites in Samaria inside the palace (II Kings 15:23-26). It seems that Pekah murdered Pekahiah because Pekahiah had continued to let Assyria dominate Israel, which in turn made the people of Israel angry, and the result was the King being murdered by a man of the military. We read that Pekah made an alliance with King Rezin of Damascus. This indicates that Pekah was cutting the Assyrian yoke off Israel's neck. Pekah would also go to the Edomites and the Philistines for their support of a joint coalition or alliance, in order to stop the Assyrian war machine from moving any further west or south. Pekah may have sent emissaries to King Jotham [of Judah] at the time about joining the alliance against Assyria, but we have no word of it, and we can only speculate. It seems that Jotham would have known of this alliance, but decided not to join it, and probably for good reason. Jotham's reasoning may have been, Why fight two enemies when he'd rather face one? There was no telling what Israel and Syria had in store for them. Judah wasn't popular with either Israel or Syria. This maybe the reason for the attack on Judah by King Pekah and King Rezin. When King Jotham [of Judah] died his son Ahaz took the throne and was considered an evil King by God because, unlike his father Jotham, King Ahaz worshiped other gods, and even passed his own children through the fire to Baal. Israel and Syria invaded Judah most likely to set up a puppet King. The man whom they wanted was the son of Tabeal, who was possibly a Syrian (Isaiah 7:6). If this was accomplished, it would give them the "Yes" factor to join them, and to go to war with them against Assyria. This invasion into Judah by Israel and Syria is recorded in (II King 16:5-6 & II Chronicles 28:5-9). King Rezin of Syria attacked Judah first. As King Rezin was moving his forces south, he began pillaging villages, and most likely destroying

or occupying the garrisons on the eastern borders of Judah, and taking captives till he reached Elath on the Gulf of Aqaba, which is connected to the Red Sea. Now we might ask ourselves what is so special about Elath. The answer is Nothing. It's the road that runs through Elath. Through Elath runs the "Kings Highway". The "Kings Highway" in ancient times started from Heliopolis, Egypt. The road then runs through Elath. From Elath it then hugs the borders of eastern Judah and Israel, and then up to Damascus, and from there to Resafa on the upper Euphrates.[7] This is a strategic military highway mentioned in the book of (Numbers 20:17& 21:22), and King Rezin now controlled it. This meant the King of Syria could now deploy his forces up and down the eastern borders of Israel and Judah. This gave King Rezin the upper hand over Judah in strategic terms. While that was going on King Ahaz of Judah most likely assembled his forces, and sent them towards the Syrian attacker to retake the city of Elath. While the forces of King Ahaz were occupied, the forces of King Pekah of Israel with the possibility of Syrian forces, engaged the forces of King Ahaz, that were sent to take back Elath. In that engagement the forces of King Pekah killed 120,000 men of Judah in one day, and captured 200,000. This capture of 200,000 was most likely over time, and not in one day as some speculate (II Chronicles 28:6). After the battle King Ahaz would have returned to Jerusalem to seal up the gates and prepare for a siege. But before that happened, it's most likely that King Ahaz immediately sent messengers with treasure, that came from the house of the Lord as a gift to the King of Assyria. By doing this, King Ahaz had just made the Kingdom of Judah a vassal to the Assyrian Empire (II Kings 16:7-8). King Ahaz had ignored the prophet Isaiah that God sent, and ignored the warnings from God about trusting Assyria for help. Ahaz had just created a bigger burden than what was outside Jerusalem's gates besieging the city. After the message was sent for help, the city of Jerusalem was then besieged by the forces of Israel and Syria. Now we don't know how long the siege of Jerusalem took place, but we know it couldn't have lasted long. For we read in (II Chronicles 28:20) that the King of Assyria was on his way. Shortly after the siege was lifted, two more enemies of the Syrian Israel alliance came forth for their share. We read in (II Chronicles 28:17-19) that Edomites came to pillage and take captives in the surrounding country side of Judah, while the invading Philistines took many cities and villages. Judah was thus stripped naked. In II Chronicles 28:5 & II Chronicles 28:9 we read about the captives that Syria and Israel took back to their Kingdoms. What is interesting, and we can only speculate, is that (II Chronicles 28:5 &

28:9) describe a quick scenario about the siege of Jerusalem which was lifted in haste, due to the Assyrian war machine that was quickly approaching the Kingdom's of Israel and Syria. King Pekah and Rezin returned quickly to their capitals with their spoils and captives to prepare their defenses. But before Assyria invades, we read that God sent the Prophet Oded to Samaria the capital of Israel to rescue the prisoners that were taken during the invasion of Judah, and to keep them out of harms way right before the Assyrians could take them in the coming invasion. If we go back and read (II Chronicles 28:9), notice that Oded talked to many who were the leaders of Ephraim about the prisoners release. This leaves us to speculate that King Pekah of Israel is either dead, or has been locked away by his own people till Assyria came.[8]

Damascus:

Around 734 B.C. Assyria was now on the war path. King Tiglath-pileser III was at the head of his army when they entered Syria on their way to besiege Damascus (II Kings 16:9). King Rezin of Syria and his army would meet the Assyrian forces head on. We don't know any details about the battle, but what we do know is that King Rezin almost lost his life in the battle, and he quickly fled back to Damascus with a remnant of his army. Once the gates were shut the siege was on. This event is also mentioned by Tiglath-pileser III on his inscriptions.

That one (Rezin of Damascus) fled alone to save his life*** and like a mouse he entered the gate of his city. His nobles I captured alive with my own hands, and hanged them on stakes and let his land gaze on them. 45 soldiers of my camp*** I selected, and like a bird in a cage I shut him up. His gardens and*** plantations without number I cut down, not one escaped*** [9]

Tiglath-pileser III boasts that he destroyed 591 cities in Syria, and took many captive back into Assyria, with the possibility of Jews that were previously taken captive by King Rezin when he invaded Judah and besieged Jerusalem along with King Pekah of Israel. Hadaru the house of the father of Rezin of Syria where he was born, I besieged, I captured... captives I carried off. 16 districts of Syria I destroyed like mounds left by a flood [10] It's said that the siege took two years to complete, and most likely during the siege Tiglath-pileser III assembled and sent his forces to the regions conspiring against Assyria. We don't know if Tiglath-pileser III stayed with his army at the siege of Damascus, or whether he spearheaded the invasion into Israel, or attacked along the coast line of Palestine. But we do know that two armies were sent to subdue, and incorporate the regions hostile to Assyria.

From Damascus the Assyrian Army forked out like a snakes tongue.

To the Coast!:

Tiglath-pileser III sent one army to spearhead an attack and subdue the ever so often rebellious Phoenician cities, along with the Philistines on the coast line of the Levant. Taking the cities of Sumer, Arka, Byblos, and Sidon. Next was Tyre, forcing them to pay tribute, and give part of their population over as captives.[11] The Assyrian army continued to march south, sacking Accho and burning it to ashes. Next was Dor, a port city of the tribe of Manasseh (Joshua 17:11), then Apeh, a city belonging to the tribe of Asher (Joshua 19:30-31). The Assyrian army also destroyed the Philistine cities of Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Gaza, and continued on till it reached the river El Arish that borders Egypt.[12] Tiglath-pileser makes mention of Gaza Hanno of Gaza fled before my weapons. We will take a closer look at this inscription in its entirety a little bit later. [13] Now it seems that by taking the coast line the Assyrians were cutting Israel off from their Phoenician allies, as well as the tribes that border the Mediterranean sea, and preventing anymore from fleeing by sea. This doesn't mean that many hadn't already fled prior to the coastal invasion. In all probability many probably did flee by sea when the news of the coming invasion was first heard. We also have to remember that the tribe of Dan were seafarers, (Judges 5:17) and possibly transported many out of the region. We also should not forget that Asher and Manasseh most likely had ships as well, since they did border the coast, and likely fled with the Phoenicians whose city-ports for the most part were going to be destroyed. The Phoenicians and Israelites had many settlements such as Carthage, or small colonies in regions like Spain, and the British isles. Because of the many settlements between Phoenicia, and coastal Israel, both could pack up and leave in order to escape impending danger.[14] This coastal take over by Assyria most likely had an economic impact. With many Phoenician cities along with the Tribes who had cities on the coast were either destroyed or occupied. Because of this many of the surrounding nations whether free or vassal to Assyria, now depended on Assyria for economic prosperity as well as military security.

Quick bit:

The psychological impact must have been great. Israel was now in the process of being squeezed to death by the Assyrian advance. The people of the tribes that bordered the Mediterranean Sea either got out by beating the Assyrian advance, or fled inland getting away from carnage that was eating up the land and cities like a swarm of

army ants! Before we go any further, let me explain what I mean by eating up the land and cities like a swarm of army ants! The phrase may sound dramatic. The fact is that when an Assyrian army captured a fortified city, or even a village, they would destroy and take everything. Trees that were in or around the city or village were usually cut down and taken back as timber. Date trees would be stripped, and then cut down, leaving only the stump behind so they can't grow again. While other trees would be literally uprooted, and replanted back in Assyria. Farm lands most likely would be stripped bare. The people's items of value would be taken, apart from the things the captives may need in their day to day life. Even the temple's valuables such as gold, or silver, would be stripped. The idols in the temple were transported back to Assyria, and paraded as weak gods, that couldn't compete with the Assyrian ones [15].

[1]King James Bible/ Yalichev, Mercenaries of the ancient world, p. 74-75

[2]King James Bible/ Rogers, A history of Babylonia and Assyria, Vol II p. 38

[3]Mackenzie, Myths of Babylonia and Assyria, p. 446-447

[4]Dalley, Myths from Mesopotamia, p. 285

[5]Richard A. Gabriel and Karen S. Metz. "From Sumer to Rome: The Military Capabilities of Ancient Armies." New York: Greenwood Press, 1991

[6]Gordon, The Ancient Near East, p. 228

[7]King James Bible/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_Highway_%28ancient%29

[8]King James Bible

[9]Sir Henry Rawlinson, Assyrian Discovery, p.246

[10]Caiger, Bible and Spade Ch 12

[11]Redford, Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in ancient times p. 342

[12]Stern, Archeology of the land of the Bible Vol II p. 58,64

[13]King James Bible/ Herzog and Gichon, Battles of the Bible p. 197./ Caiger, Bible and Spade Ch 12

[14]King James Bible/ Collins, Israel's Lost Empires, p. 96-98

[15]Rawlinson, Ancient Monarchies Vol I, p. 276-277

Read the entire article at:

<http://darwinlauree.com/a2007-041-03.htm>

****to be continued in Issue #42****

("Role Models Abound..." continued from page 1)

with whom we can identify.

The Bible is full of examples of ordinary

men and women doing extraordinary things, and it is recorded for us to learn (1 Corinthians 10:11). I like to look to the people on the path. People seeking the same rewards as us. Time and circumstance are non issues. People are people. They are warring against the same spirit as we do today.

The first example I look for is repentance and, of course, David is the model for repentance. He wrote many of the Psalms, and what an inspiring testimony of the seriousness of breaking God's law they offer. Psalm 51 is the most famous, written after he was confronted about the sin with Bathsheba, and the murder of her husband, Uriah.

The second model is connected to this story. I am impressed by the loyalty of Uriah the Hittite (2 Samuel 11:8-9). The story tells how he would not even enjoy his break from battle while his fellow soldiers were still on the field. He was not even an Israelite, yet he was loyal to the cause of his adopted nation. His murder was more of a shame than the other sins, because he was such a loyal person.

Faith is the quality I think of when I read about Noah. Just think about the circumstances: Build a giant ship, no water around, it wouldn't float for more than 100 years, and no one believed him. Yet by great faith he completed the task.

On the quality of meekness, I think of Moses. Meek is not to be confused with being wimpy. (In Bible usage, it means gentle, humble.) Numbers 12:23, "Now the man Moses was very humble more than all men who were on the face of the earth." Psalm 25:9, "The humble he guides in justice and the humble he teaches his way." God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud.

Abraham was 75 when God told him to leave his country. Then, when he was more than 100 years of age, he was told to sacrifice his son. Abraham is the father of the faithful, but I always think of the great obedience he showed throughout his life.

There was a man you would call dependable. Joshua is one of the very few Bible personalities to escape having a drawback listed in his story. Joshua 11:15, "As the Lord commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua and Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded." You could depend on him, and also he was absolutely fearless in the conquest of the promised land.

When I read of the apostle John and how he interacted with others, and how he would lean on Jesus' bosom, I see the tender heart of an individual. In 3 John, we learn how he must have wanted to write reports about Diotrephes (a divisive leader in the

church). Maybe not the best at leadership, he was mild and non offensive, and a loving enough person and man to show it.

How about determined? Let's look at a story of a man on a mission. Five times lashed, three times beaten, stoned, three times shipwrecked, endured hunger, cold and dangers. 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, "Yet through it all Paul was tireless in the work of God."

This is yet another reason to study our Bibles, whether the wisdom of Solomon, the morality of Joseph (Genesis 39:6-10), the courage of Stephen (Acts 6) or the evangelism of Phillip (Acts 8:26-40), we can look to these role models.

This is just a small sampling of many examples of acts of people who follow the narrow way. The Bible also includes many examples of what not to be. King Saul will tell us to follow instructions. Herod will say to give God the glory! (Acts 12:23)

As we continue our journey through this short life, may we draw encouragement from the saints who have gone before us.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-041-04.htm>

*****THE END*******

("Will God Curse..." continued from page 1)

evil of you. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

I realize that those who are still drunk on the wine of the Babylonian Mystery religion (incorporated into the Roman Catholic Cult as brought out in **The Two Babylons** by Alexander Hislop) don't appreciate or comprehend those who are now **SOBER** and happy to be *free* from idolatrous traditions for the plain truth of the Bible and history.

The **Sabbath**-keeping Church of God rejoices in the knowledge and glorious plan of salvation for all mankind that the biblical festivals, the holy days that our Great Creator God has ordained portray - no longer falling for the hollow days of pagan Rome, pimped by Roman wolves in sheep's clothing, false father figures.

The Sabbath-keeping **Church of God** celebrates that soon everybody will join us in celebrating God's holy days, the **"Jewish holidays"** in spirit and in truth, and will trash their former tinsel traditions. We are pioneers of the Wonderful World Tomorrow!

Jeremiah 16:19

O LORD, my strength and my fortress, My refuge in the day of affliction, The Gentiles shall come to You From the ends of

the earth and say, "Surely our fathers have inherited lies, Worthlessness and unprofitable things."

It is sad when folks continue to fall for all the RELIGIOUS BULL Rome has dumped on the world and pretend they're worshipping Christ who hates such PAGAN ABOMINATIONS. Why remain in denial?

God is truth and despises such religious lies as **Christmas** and **Easter**. They're PAGAN to the core and God's People *avoid them like the plague*, happy with the biblical festivals God has given us to celebrate.

Yeshua, the King of the Jews, the King of Israel, will return and reign supreme from Jerusalem and teach the Torah, slaughtering the papal bull by the sword of the truth:

Isaiah 2:2-3

2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the [Temple] mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say,

"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." **For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem** [not Rome].

Yeshua will establish the law of God as the law of the land, the law of all the Earth! That holy law reveals the seven biblical festivals of the LORD that Yeshua will faithfully teach and command *all* nations to observe or else - not just the **Jewish** people and **Israelites**.

Yes, too many people *have* inherited religious lies, and have passed down traditional error from generation to generation; worthless celebrations that God hates and rejects as unclean and polluted. It bears repeating, since our proud and stubborn peoples have thick skulls that need the truth knocked into them, driving home this biblical message: **Christmas** and **Easter** are **PAGAN** - those who say otherwise are liars, dishonest with themselves and others, worshipping God in vain (Titus 1:16, 1 John 2:4).

I believe many PROFESSING Christians are actually familiar with the Scriptures that condemn futile attempts to modify pagan holidays and tailor heathen customs to serve the true God (Deut. 12:30-32, Jer. 10:2-3), but they conveniently ignore them or reject them by woeful neglect when such Scriptures step on their traditional toes and make them uncomfortable, demanding change (isn't that what true *conversion* is all about?), requiring them to learn to love God's truth more than their TRADITIONS (Mark 7:7).

Abominable Christians, those who

have the *perverted* religious preference of tradition over truth, are just like every other sinner unwilling to confess and forsake their sins and seek to whitewash or justify them. The difference is such professing Christians often pretend to be better or more righteous than those physical idolaters and immoral folks (who also refuse to repent) while they engage in spiritual idolatry (putting tradition over truth) and spiritual immorality (whoring around with other gods and foreign ways) *bringing divine judgment upon our nations*.

May the servants of God, who know and believe the Bible and its principles and prophecies about blessings for national obedience and curses for national disobedience (Dan. 9:11), *plea* for diehard **Catholics and Protestants** to **REPENT!**

May we take the Word of God seriously and *turn* from the pagan holidays that God hates so much He let ancient Israel and Judah suffer war, defeat and deportation for such "harmless" celebrations and blind observations. *Will we insist on losing our national sovereignty too*, brought to our knees to learn to see things God's way or will we repent and spare ourselves, our family and friends, from suffering the dreadful Time of Jacob's Trouble, the Great Tribulation?

1 Corinthians 10:19-21

19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.** [No mixing and matching of pagan error with biblical truth]

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For **what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial?** [No diluting, adulterating and polluting of God's truth with pagan blends] Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore **"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord.** [Don't stay stuck in the rut of tradition, but let the plain truth set you free!] Do not touch what is *unclean*, And [then] I will receive you. 18 [on these conditions] I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons

and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-041-05.htm>

THE END**

("The Great..." continued from page 1)

articles were written, warning the Church of the **Great Falling Away** prophesied in 2 Thessalonians 2. A simple glance at the context of this scripture proves this is an end-time prophecy.

We heard repeatedly, this end-time prophecy refers to large numbers forsaking God's Church—rejecting and rebelling against the government of God on earth! They even said Christ could not return until this happened. Well, the sermons and articles were right—almost!

They claimed Paul was speaking of a wholesale desertion of the true Church by many of those who were formerly faithful.

Of course the structure of the Church would remain intact, but great numbers of lukewarm, proud, faithless Laodiceans would desert this staunch central core of humble brethren and faithful ministers. This is what was taught and this is what we believed!

Greater Churches of God

Well, many decades have come and gone since then and many changes have taken place in the Church of God. What actually happened was a little different from what we thought it would be.

The horrifying reality is that the entire church has rushed headlong into apostasy—embracing every evil from which God had delivered them!

The scattered remnant has broken into hundreds of bickering little groups, and lately, have actually taken to proudly calling themselves the "**Greater Churches of God!**"

All of them have become complacent and self-satisfied and increasingly tolerant of sin within the church.

They are pleased with themselves and no longer feel the need for strict and regular self examination.

During the last four decades, they have been steadily drifting away from the truth they once had and forsaking the "faith once delivered".

How better could an honest, objective person describe the "**Greater Churches of God**" today than with the description Jesus gave of His end-time **Church in Revelation 3:15-18?**

Prophecy for our Day

Nearly one third of the Bible is prophecy, and most, over 90% of this prophecy is for

our day, today.

This means that nearly every one of the terrifying, prophecies in your Bible will be fulfilled and packed into those few short years, just ahead of us now! Things are about to break loose into a time like nothing ever imagined by the human mind!

The days just ahead of us now will be the subject of millions of frightening conversations, for thousands of years into the future!

And you have a front row seat!

Prophecy is often dual

Many Bible prophecies have already had one or more preliminary or partial (typical) fulfillments in history.

These partial fulfillments are called **types**, by the professional religious folk.

The anti-type or anti-typical or main fulfillment of these prophecies is for our day, today—the time of the end. We are very close to the end of the time, which God has allotted, for man to misrule himself and to mismanage this earth.

These typical fulfillments or **types** are where some, or even most of the prophecy is fulfilled, but not in its complete and final form.

There are many reasons for these recurring partial fulfillments of a prophecy, but largely, they occur because the heart of man has always been the same. His actions down through history have been cyclical, because he has a selfish heart!

Man has the heart of a self-serving beast!

Despite his vanity, which makes Him want to appear so noble, when the pretense is stripped away, he reacts as a selfish beast! He has rebelled against God and created this world as it is today, with all of its suffering and misery and that pretty much says all that needs to be said about the natural, carnal heart of man.

Man's selfish heart will always lead him in the general direction of fulfilling God's negative prophecies about him. This is the natural result of sin and rebellion against God!

However, the complete fulfillment of most of the specific prophecies of the Bible is reserved for the end of the age—the point in time, for which these prophecies were actually given.

The Bible refers to this point in time in many different ways. Sometimes it is called the **End of the Age**; or **The Last Days** or the **Day of the Lord** or **That Day**, as in the phrase **In That Day**.

When these descriptive terms are connected to a prophecy, you know that the primary fulfillment of that prophecy is for the end-time.

These partial fulfillments have greatly confused students of the Bible down through

the centuries, but they can also be very useful to us today. Even though it is unwise to rely on them too heavily, they can greatly aid our ability to rightly understand the true meaning of the prophecy.

Apostasy

The prophecy of the 2nd chapter of 2nd Thessalonians is perhaps the best example of this in the entire Bible. This prophecy has been fulfilled, in part, so many times it would be all but impossible to even mention each one, much less discuss them in any detail.

Apostasy in the Church of God, is one of those subjects which, even though we may not realize the truth, until someone points it out, the facts are so well known that once the trend is seen, it becomes self-evident. Even a casual study of the history of the Church of God reveals one constantly recurring theme.

One event is common to each Church, in every age. That recurring theme is **apostasy**—a church-wide departure from the doctrines and faith, which was originally delivered to them.

It doesn't matter if we look at the New Testament Church during the last years of the first century, or Polycarp and Polycrates as they struggled with Rome, over the Passover.

When we study the history of the Paulicians, we find that after standing their ground for a few generations, they eventually surrendered their faith and managed to justify accepting the Catholic Sacraments for themselves and their children, in order to avoid persecution.

They held that "God would understand," because of the enormous pressure upon them.

Finally, they went to war—actually taking human life, trying to force what little was left of the Holy Spirit within them, to submit to the dictates of carnal men!

But God's Spirit does not submit to evil! It simply leaves and they disappeared from view!

But some few refused to accept these **departures from true doctrine** and obeyed the Words of their Savior and fled the persecution, moving into Bulgaria.

When we examine the history of the Waldenses, we find they preserved much of the truth for centuries, but their history reads much like that of ancient Israel. They practiced the faith of God in spurts—never lasting more than a generation or so.

God would raise up a leader, and they would follow Him and spread His word, and then their faith would wane, and their doctrines would become corrupt. Then God would raise up another leader, and the pattern was repeated. Eventually, they were absorbed by the Protestant Reformation!

They still exist today, but as just one

more Sunday keeping church.

Again, a few of them held to the truth and slipped away into Germany. Some went to England and later some of those migrated to America and became the Sabbatarian Church.

They prospered for a while in the new world and by 1800, had founded dozens of churches. Of course, these Churches were not altogether agreed, in doctrinal sentiments, so they began to feel the need for a governing body. They formed a general conference of voting members and **typically**, the **true believers** were soon out numbered and their wishes were out voted!

(By this point in a study of the history of the true Church, this theme becomes very familiar.)

Soon they adopted the name 7th Day Baptists and soon after this, they accepted the pagan doctrines of the **Trinity**, and the **Immortality of the Soul!** Today, they too have degenerated into little more than a Saturday observing, Sunday Church.

But again, some few refused to accept these changes.

By 1860 these few had again grown in numbers, but with many corrupted doctrines among them. Many had joined with the Adventist movement, and many of the Adventists had accepted the 7th day Sabbath.

In 1861 they adopted the name **Seventh Day Adventists**.

And yet again, some few refused to go along with the group—holding to the TRUE NAME for the Church and preserving at least some of the basics of God's truth.

These people eventually moved to Stanberry Missouri, and began to publish what eventually became know as the **Bible Advocate**.

There is little point in mentioning the **Lollards**, or the **Bogomils**, or the **Ebionites**, the **Henricians**, the **Albigenses**, or dozens of others, because each time, the story is identical.

In each of these cases, and any of the others, where there is sufficient documentation to establish a theme, there is one thing in common—apostasy!

This is the cold hard truth of history. This is what YOU, as members of the Church of God are up against.

Each time, as this recurring apostasy grows and the Church abandons more and more of the truth and accepts more and more of the false doctrines of this world, it is swallowed up by the world!

The Tares of Satan

The never ending work of Satan the Devil is sowing tares among the wheat!

These tares do not wear name tags. Usually they do not know they are tares or

that they are serving Satan's purposes. They are often convinced of many or even most of the true doctrines, which makes them very believable.

They are often talented, compassionate people and aggressive natural leaders. After all, this is the most useful type of tare.

Again, this is what you are up against brethren. This is the deception you must face and Satan is just gaining his stride for his last great end time push of deception!

You better memorize and believe this scripture!

"Narrow is the way, and straight is the gate which leads to life, and few there be that find it (Matthew 7:14)."

Those who will not learn from the mistakes of history are DOOMED to repeat them!

Why does God allow this?

How can He work amid such confusion!

Brethren, this was His idea!

He permits all of this deception and confusion for a very good reason.

During this dispensation, He is creating the first fruits of the earth—those who will rule all things, with Him, for all time.

These first fruits—the first born of His among His Children, need to be faced with lies and deception and learn how to deal with them and come out the other end of it, still believing the truth!

The truth of God is for those who love it—and only for those who love it—and even for them, only as long as they love it!

When God offers you His glorious truth, you must love it and you must continue to love it and grow into it and cling to it, just as Jacob clung to Christ!

If you do not continue to love it, God will take it from you!

"...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." (2 Thessalonians 2:11)

Even a casual study of history, will poke giant holes in the claim that large numbers of people are prophesied to desert a single great "One True Church" in the end time!

History reveals, beyond any doubt, that it is the other way around.

Time, and time, and time again; without even a whimper, the ENTIRE CHURCH followed their leaders, as they slowly introduced false doctrine into the Church!

Actually, the full truth of this amazing fact is that the membership usually pressured their leaders, into accepting false doctrine, because they were no longer willing to **endure** sound doctrine! It requires faith to endure sound doctrine!

It is utterly astonishing, how the overwhelming majority of the members of God's true Church—so many times in the

past 1900 years, have willingly—sometimes almost eagerly—walked away from the truth!

NEVER, was it the many that refused to accept these false doctrines! Each time, it was only the FEW, and the VERY FEW at that!

History is very clear about this. Always, it was the FEW who "held fast," and remained faithful. It was the FEW, who *"tried them, who claimed they were Apostles and were not, and found them liars (Revelation 2:2)!"*

After the death of the Apostles, it was only among those who "FELL AWAY" from the Church that the truth survived at all.

This is a solidly established historical fact! It is not the exception; it is the rule. Actually, it is one of the few rules in this world, to which there seem to be no exceptions.

One of the main reasons it is so difficult to trace the true Church through history, is that by the time a church has been around long enough, to have grown large enough to be noticed, its doctrines have already become so corrupt that it is difficult to see it as the true Church.

Each time, and in each age, it ultimately becomes necessary for some to "fall away" from the Church, in order to continue to practice the "faith once delivered"!

Great Danger ahead

Lying just out ahead of us now, is the greatest time of trouble and the greatest period of deception, this poor unhappy world has ever known.

Only a few years ago the Church was saying that this end-time deception would have to be very close to the truth, because the Catholic Church couldn't deceive them.

Look at all of the candles at the next wedding or the **Celebration of Life** concepts permeating the next Church of God funeral.

Brethren these things come straight out of the Catholic Mass!

Yet these things are only the small outward symbols of a much deeper spiritual lethargy, which is permeating the Churches of God today.

This is a common sign of a people without true faith, grasping for physical signs and symbols, to satisfy the need for spiritual fulfillment, which they are not receiving from their relationship with God!

Study the first three chapters of Revelation.

Revelation 1:1 says, *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, TO SHEW UNTO HIS SERVANTS things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."*

Here Jesus is **REVEALING** things which must come to pass. This entire book is a prophecy, which Jesus is revealing to His

servants—His Church.

In **Verses 4 and 11**, It is specifically addressed to “the **seven churches** which are in Asia.” But remember, it is a prophecy of future events and it is “**TO SHEW UNTO HIS SERVANTS things which must shortly come to pass.**”

He begins this prophecy with a detailed description of the spiritual condition of each of these seven small churches.

The end-time apostasy has already happened! Many truths have already disappeared! And many more are on the chopping block—with their eventual demise well underway and inevitable!

The greatest evidence of this apostasy is the absence of the true Love of God among the scattered, bickering Churches of God today.

An equally apparent sign of our growing distance from God is the almost total absence of the signs, which Jesus promised would always “follow them that believe!”

Even the simple sign of James 5:14 is almost non-existent!

These are a **stark, glaring** beacon, **SCREAMING** that Jesus Christ is **NOT** pleased with His Church today!

Remember when the Disciples came to Christ in **John 6:28**, “*Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?*”

V.29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye BELIEVE on him whom he hath sent.”

Believing means trusting!

If you trust God to stand behind His Word, then you will commit those scary things in your life into His hands and simply do what He says.

If you do not trust God to stand behind His Word, then you will have ignored God’s promise of healing and protection, and trust yourself or His enemies to take care of you instead!

Which of these is believing “on Him whom he hath sent?”

In **Revelation 3:20**, Jesus says, “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*”

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-041-06.htm>

*****THE END*******

(“Must You Use...” continued from page 1)

name, but we know for a fact that God will understand Him.

So then, the only argument that remains

is whether God PREFERS that you use the right name, whether He REQUIRES you to use the right name, or whether He DOESN'T CARE. Those are the only options. So which is it? And which is the “right name”?

Right up front we have to say that no one knows the proper name. Most believe it is YHVH, or YHWH, or just YH... but nobody can pronounce it. You see, the Jews were so terrified of speaking the name of God, oops, I mean, YHVW, that they forgot how. Hebrew doesn't have vowels, per se. So the written language doesn't tell us how a word was originally pronounced in most cases.

Imagine if even a word as short as “God” was written without vowels, like “Gd”. Now further imagine that as few as one hundred years go by without it being spoken aloud. Now finally, picture yourself, a native German speaker, let's say, trying to pronounce that word then. Why, it could be Gad, God, Gid, Gud, or Ged – not to mention if there were two vowels, like Goad, or Giud, or Gead.

And there you have the problem with the perfect name. Only, it's been a few thousand years and Hebrew bears less similarity to English than English does to German. Not only that, but YHVW most likely has three or more vowels in it. That means there are dozens of possible ways it could be pronounced. So no matter what you do, at best you MAY be able to spell it, you cannot ever PRONOUNCE the “perfect name” without divine revelation. But the question of the hour is, does God want you to try anyway?

Well, let's find out by asking the age-old question – what would Jesus do?

Jesus referred to God most often simply as “the Father”, which was recorded in the Greek Gospels with the word “Pater” (from which the Spanish get Padre). And He not only used Pater, or Father, but He directed us to start our prayers with “Our father, which art in heaven...” (**Luke 11:2**)

So then, we could gather that this was the name He wanted us to use. But if only it was that simple! Paul confuses the issue by saying that Christ's spirit in us cries out “Abba”, which is Aramaic for Father. So then, instead of Pater, we use Abba! Right? Umm.. well, not exactly. Granted, Christ Himself prays using Abba...

Mark 14:36 *And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.*

Mind you, it included Abba because that was the actual word He used. So maybe that IS the one He wanted us to use. But before you go out and start changing your prayer address to Abba, keep reading...

Matthew 27:46-47 *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My*

God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

So when Christ was dying, in one of the most distressed prayers He ever made, with His last ounces of life, He prayed using a derivative of the Hebrew word for God – no, not YHVH, but “Eli”. The people around Him watching Him die thought He was saying “Elias”, so they evidently didn't understand Eli as a common word for God.

So He abandoned His most commonly-used Greek Pater, then the Aramaic Abba, and now He is using the Hebrew Eli. But a little while later, He is back to using Pater again!

Luke 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father (Pater), into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*

And during all of this time, He is nowhere recorded as having uttered YHVH ONCE! And yet His prayers were answered – even when given using the name of God in at least three different languages – and He was “saved” in spite of not using the Sacred Name! Which is a shame, because He, of all people, might have actually known HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PRONOUNCED!!

But... there is a lot more. We know Abraham to be the Father of the faithful – which is to say, the father of the covenant of Faith. Because Abraham BELIEVED God, and it was counted to Him for RIGHTEOUSNESS – which is the new covenant. But I'm digressing. The point is, from Hebrews 11 we know that Abraham WILL be saved. Therefore, if using the Sacred Name – whichever one is THE Sacred Name – is necessary to be saved – then Abraham MUST have used it. That is simple logic, isn't it? Of course it is.

But wait a moment – if YHVH – Jehovah – most commonly translated as LORD in the Old Testament – is THE Sacred Name... then... how was Abraham saved?

Exodus 6:2-3 *And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD (YHVH): And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH (YHVH) WAS I NOT KNOWN TO THEM.*

God said I AM YHVH. And He said that He had appeared to Abraham, and the fathers, by the name of GOD ALMIGHTY... Which in Hebrew would look something like “El Shaddai”. And God said that He gave the Father of the Faithful, His FRIEND, the name El Shaddai – but by His “Sacred Name”, YHVH, THEY DID NOT KNOW HIM!

God said that Abraham NEVER SPOKE THE NAME YHVH! So he COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SAVED, according to their reasoning – and yet we know for a fact that he WAS saved!

How can that be?? Can it be that “the name” is not as important as we’ve been told? That it is something else that determines whether God is happy with us, or hears our prayers? It is certainly beginning to look that way, isn’t it?

But we haven’t exhausted our study yet. Let’s take scriptures that everyone should be familiar with – the Pentecost of **Acts 2**.

Acts 2:1-6 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ... And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ... Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.*

Notice that the apostles weren’t SPEAKING all those other languages – but these men all HEARD them speak in their own language, in their mother tongue.

Acts 2:7-11 *And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.*

There are 17 languages mentioned there. And in all of those languages, those men heard them speak of the wonderful works of GOD. For this, the author of Acts used the Greek word Theos – since Acts was written in Greek. But before I wrap up this point, let’s read one of those wonderful works of God that was mentioned here...

Acts 2:21 *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord [Kurios] shall be saved.*

This time, the Greek word “Kurios”, which roughly translates as Supreme One was used to refer to God. And so, every man there – be they Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Jews, you name it – heard the Apostle Peter say that WHOEVER would call on the name of the Lord would be saved!

That means that a Greek HEARD Peter say that whoever would call on the name of KURIOS would be saved! So he would repent and say “Kurios, forgive me!”. Or perhaps he would spice it up a bit and say “Theos, have mercy on me, a sinner!”

All of this, being said in Greek, would make little sense to the Roman standing next to him, who would of course have heard Peter say “whoever calls on the name of Deus will be saved”! So the Latin prays

saying “Deus, I repent!”

And likewise the Egyptian and the Persian and the Jew and the Cretans would all have heard Peter say the name of God, or the words “Supreme One” in their own language. And I find it a terrible shame – not to mention a colossal fraud on the part of the holy Spirit, who was doing the talking – to tell all these people to call on the name of God to be saved, AND THEN TELLING THEM THE WRONG NAME TO USE!

Don’t you think?

But this isn’t the first time the holy spirit made this mistake. No, it did the same thing to the Israelites. See, Moses was trying to talk his way out of going to the Israelites, and trying to stall God, and so he asked God WHO he should tell the Israelites had sent him. He demanded THE SACRED NAME OF GOD!

Exodus 3:13 *And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, WHAT IS HIS NAME? what shall I say unto them?*

God, evidently not realizing that they needed to use His Sacred Name to be delivered, (forgetful of Him, wasn’t it?), GAVE THEM THE WRONG NAME!

Exodus 3:14 *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

Can you believe that? God didn’t even give them the right name to use! Shocking, isn’t it? He gave them the name “I AM”, which comes from the Hebrew Hayah – which is basically the Hebrew verb “To Be”, which certainly isn’t sacred. But God goes on to give Moses 4 more names to use!

Exodus 3:15 *And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD [YHVH] God [Elohim] of your fathers, the God [Elohim] of Abraham, the God [Elohim] of Isaac, and the God [Elohim] of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.*

So God told Moses that the Hebrews could call him the “Hayah”, or YHVH, or the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac, or the Elohim of Jacob – so it seems to me that God answers to a lot of names! A single one of them could hardly be said to be the most Sacred! But it is easy to find the most Grandiose. The most Grandiose name for God used in the Bible is easily...

Isaiah 57:15 *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

The High And Lofty One That Inhabiteth Eternity (THALOTIE) is a bit wordy, but you must admit it is catchy! And his NAME is HOLY! But which name? The one He used – I’ll use the acronym “THALOTIE”? Is THALOTIE the Holy Name? Is it the ONLY Holy Name? Isn’t YHVH HOLY? Isn’t I AM a holy name, when applied to God? Aren’t THEOS, or DEUS, or DIOS, or JEHOVAH, or IEHOVAH (Latin spelling!) or JESUCRISTO, or DOMINI, or LORD, or GOD, or ALMIGHTY, all holy names, when applied to the REAL God, and unholy ones when applied to a counterfeit God?

And will the use of any one of these names recommend you to God over someone who uses any other name? I think the Bible has irrefutably shown that it doesn’t. As that last scripture said – God dwells with those who are of a broken and contrite spirit. Men who tremble before His word. Just like Christ did.

Hebrews 5:7 *Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;*

Jesus Christ was heard by God, not because He used Abba or Pater or Eli, but BECAUSE HE FEARED! Because He OBEYED God, and TREMBLED BEFORE GOD’S WORDS, God HEARD HIM!

So do YOU tremble before the word of God? Does the Bible carry AUTHORITY, and WEIGHT with you? If so, you must acknowledge that Abraham DID NOT KNOW this “special name” that makes you so special! You must also admit that Christ is NEVER ONCE recorded as using YHVH! But that Christ WAS HEARD, in EVERY PRAYER HE EVER UTTERED, and IN EVERY LANGUAGE HE EVER PHRASED IT!

So then – if you’re Spanish, use Dios, or Jesus (pronounced Hay-seus), if you’re English you can use God, Lord, The Eternal One, God Almighty, Jehovah, or just call him the “I AM”. Because whatever name you use for Him... they all go to the same place. And they’re all heard and understood by the same being. And using one over the other has no bearing whatsoever on whether your prayer is heard or not.

Only your obedience and through it, your faith, can affect *that*.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-041-07.htm>

THE END**

**LETTERS
CONTINUED
FROM
PAGE 2 --**

of what the coming persecution will be like. I am not bitter, but learning from this experience. No proof was needed to put me in here and it was a kangaroo court with all the trimmings.

Laura Lee writes:

Richard Markland's address is: Richard Markland #538948, LECI, PO Box 56, Lebanon, OH 45036. We get a lot of email and snail mail letters in here, so it sometimes takes us awhile to answer them all and some we share with our readership.

Richard Markland writes:

Seven hundred inmates are in for murder. Eighty-five percent of inmates have crimes as a result of drug or alcohol related offenses. It is a modern day Sodom and Gomorrah. God has definitely protected me from harm. My life was threatened once by a group of inmates, but God intervened. He is always with us and we can hold Him to His promise of protection.

I have filed an appeal, but don't think much about it. I may be turned down, and if I am, I'll appeal to a higher court. Different inmates have thought I'm crazy for not taking a plea bargain, but I had to stand up to the system. It was what I had to do without the fear of what the system would do.

The food here is really bad and I've been sick with a head cold for the past 5 days. They serve too many starches and the water has lime deposits in it. I try to bring back fruit to my cell when they have it, but they don't serve it regularly. The guards don't mind if you do. I now know what they have done with the recalled dog food. We had it in our burritos last night and I ate soups I purchased from commissary instead of having to force it down.

I may have lost everything, but they can't take away God's spirit. I'm able to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days. I've been alone in my cell for about 3 weeks and I will get a new cell mate within a few days. An older inmate with 6 kids is suppose to move in within a week. He's a nice guy and settled down.

Thanks for putting up with my mistakes (typos). I've tried to catch as many as I can, but they slip by. Once I understand the features (on the typewriter), I'll be able to eliminate errors.

Please take care and thanks for the service you provide. I look forward to your newsletter. Take care, Richard

Laura Lee writes:

Everyone, please remember Richard Markland in your prayers.

Entire Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-040-07.htm>

*****THE END*******

**Encourage Women Teachers
(7-11-07)**

**by Dianne McDonnell
(Arlington, Texas)**

**This letter is in response to a letter
Women Shouldn't Speak?, which was
published in Issue #40.**

Dianne McDonnell writes:

Dear Laura,

Here I am just now answering your December email. I'm truly sorry. In reality, some of these guys are just so far gone in their perverse ideas against women that you get a sense that no matter how much time you devote to an answer, they just won't change.

Laura Lee writes:

We believe that the detailed answers which are given as answers to some letters are more for those who are searching for answers now and who want to learn by seeing what other people have to say in regard to any given subject. So it is never to much of our time to answer a respectfully written letter on any given subject, that many may learn or at least be prompted into a study of their own.

We of ourselves cannot make anyone change how they believe. All people must ultimately work out their own salvation which is between them and God. Some who have the gift of teaching are to teach, even if it means that we someday die because of what we are teaching. Many of God's people had those who didn't want to hear it come right after them with a force and in many of those cases those who were speaking truth were killed.

When we answer letters within our newsletter, we really don't expect the person that we are answering to change his or her stance on any given subject. If we are able to just plant a small seed in that person that can be used at a later time, great, we have done our job.

Dianne McDonnell writes:

This past year my husband and I were able to baptize a person who had a past that would make most church members blush to hear about it. And this person is now excited

about having God's Holy Spirit and starting a whole new life. Any man that tells me I should not have taught, preached, counseled and baptized that person is just not speaking according to God's Holy Spirit. Sometimes I just get too busy DOING the WORK of GOD to respond to those who are DOING NOTHING themselves, but wanting to be sure that a woman can't serve God just because she is female. Some of them God will have to change in the Resurrection! I hope God puts them under Deborah or Phoebe.

I read your response to **David Ben Ariel** in this **latest newsletter** and felt you did a good job.

Laura, just keep serving God as you are doing. Don't let these guys discourage you for one minute-- you are doing a top notch job. Love, Dianne

Laura Lee writes:

Thank you for the encouragement. The mail I get from men who believe women should not speak or teach is probably nothing in comparison to what you get because you deliver sermons and I do not. I wanted to make this particular letter public as I wanted people to see that you do make a difference in the lives of other people because of what you do, even though you are a woman. Had you not been there to teach and baptize the person you spoke of in this letter, would that person now be working their way down the right path or would they still be aimlessly wondering through life with no hope? We did take the liberty to edit this letter to conceal whether this person was a man or a woman and to remove some things we considered to be personal.

We all have our job to do if we are one of God's chosen people and we best be doing it, whether we are men or women. I do think that women do have a harder time teaching because of the lack of acceptance they receive in general, but we still have a job to do and we need to encourage each other and get that job done.

We want to publicly say to you that you are doing a great job and that we here truly appreciate the well researched articles which you have sent to us and that we have printed so far. Please continue to send more articles to us as you have them so that we might consider them for print. We need more women like you who are willing to publicly be there to teach others. We also need more men who will teach people to accept women teachers as men are accepted as teachers of others. Being a teacher is a gift from God and no place in scripture does it say that the teacher gift is only given to men.

To those who still disagree, saying that women should not teach/speak publicly, we hope that you will be far more respectful in

writing to us than was David Ben-Ariel. We also hope you don't get mad and run away before the discussion is over as David Ben-Ariel has done.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2007-041-01.htm>

THE END**

Who is Persecuting Who?

(5-29-07)

by Myra McQueen (Odessa, Texas)

The below letter is written in regard to a letter "Abusive Speech" which was printed in Issue #39.

Myra McQueen writes:

It is so interesting that you consider me worthy of this kind of effort to persecute me. It just reassures me that the Devil is not happy with what I am doing. Thanks-Myra

Laura Lee writes:

Please keep in mind that I am not the one who is writing to you. After many years of no contact with you, you are the one who once again wrote to me. I am only answering the very accusatory letters you continue to send to me on an ongoing basis. So this sounds more like you are persecuting me. None of what you are sending over here to me is putting you in a very good light and I believe that the Devil is very happy with your behavior.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2007-041-02.htm>

THE END**

Guest Book Entry (6-13-07)

by Vic Williams (Australia)

I found the principles of your site very good. Will keep contact. Vic

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2007-041-03.htm>

THE END**

**Pentecost (5-21-07)
by Greg Adolphi (Internet)**

This letter is in response to questions "0056" and "0059", which were published in Issue #33 and Issue #35.

Greg Adolphi writes:

Dear Fellow Sabbath Keeper;

I have read your information on Pentecost. I understand the problems associated with determining the date and/or day in which to observe it. The conclusion I came away with after going back over scripture concerning Pentecost is that when the commandments to Israel were given for the times to follow God's Feast Days, they were all given specific Hebrew Dates with the exception of Pentecost.

Laura Lee writes:

And where exactly do you find that in the Bible? Isn't it just an assumption on your part or because someone taught that to you for years?

Greg Adolphi writes:

If Pentecost was to be observed on Sivan 6 of every year, then God's commandment would have said so.

Laura Lee writes:

The Bible does show Pentecost being kept on Sivan 6. Please read the article titled: "Biblical Evidence in Support of a Sivan 6 Pentecost" found in Issue #20.

Greg Adolphi writes:

Thus Pentecost is to be determined as it was when Jesus was resurrected and presented himself (wave sheaf) before God on the 1st day of the week right after he was resurrected the day before, just before sunset as a fixed day of the week.

Laura Lee writes:

Biblical evidence shows that the wave sheaf was done on the day after the Sabbath of Passover which would be the 16th of Nisan (Abib). Please read the following letter from Issue #16: Pentecost, by Richard Kraft

Contrary to what some of you have been taught and believe there is no Biblical proof that Christ was presented as the wave sheaf

on the first day of the week (Sunday) after his resurrection. If anyone reading this has proof that Christ was presented as the wave sheaf offering on the first day of the week after his resurrection, please send that proof in detail.

What the Bible really tells us is that Christ ascended to heaven forty days after he rose from the grave and that everyone who was there saw him go.

1. The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2. **Until the day in which he was taken up**, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3. To whom also **he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days**, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4. And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7. And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9. And when he had spoken these things, **while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him**

LETTERS SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 23

QUESTIONS SECTION --

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

KIDS KORNER --

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES

PrayerRequestsAndUpdates@darwinlauralee.com

July 6, 2007--Thomas Mann

Prayers are requested for Thomas Mann a Faithful Servant in Messiah. This coming Tuesday he will be having Surgery on his Spine and even though the Doctor tells him that it is a common procedure, Tommy is an Elderly Gentleman and asks prayers so that there will be no complications and he'll be able to have the pain stabilized that he's been suffering for some years now. Cards or letters of encouragement will be greatly appreciated for his Wife and Family. Gladys Acosta

July 9, 2007--Larry Graff

Larry Graff is requesting prayers for a hernia. Please pray for Larry's complete healing.

July 15, 2007--Prayer Request Directives

When you send out "Prayer Requests & Updates" to this list, be sure that you have permission from the sick person to do so. This is a **"Public"** prayer list and once you send a prayer request to this list, we cannot make it **"UnPublic"**. We do not store the archives to this list on our server. We go through another server. Immediately when you send an email prayer request to this list it goes into the archives and is posted on our Web Site. We also print these prayer requests in our newsletter and once they are in print they cannot be taken out. All of our newsletters are posted on our Web Site and are part of a "Public Record".

We have sent many past warnings in regard to this, but those warnings do not work if people don't read them when they are sent to them. Nor do they work if people refuse to follow our directives in regard to this matter.

Our directives would be as follows: Ask the sick person before you send out a prayer request. Ask the sick person before you send out personal information in regard to their illness or injury or before you send out their address to numerous people. If you are not sure, use only the persons first name in your prayer request. As long as you let us know where to send any cards that come to us for the sick person, you can use our address to collect and forward cards to the sick person or you can use your own address to collect cards for the sick or injured person. Darwin & Laura Lee

July 15, 2007--Arlan Weight

Latest heart attack: Thank you very much for your card and the others sent to you on the list. It was nice of you to do so. I'm in a state of recovery, although at this time I feel as good as I ever did. That may be deceiving, as I'll be finding out more next week as to what they're going to prescribe for on going work. I please ask your continued prayers and thank you very much for them. Arlan Weight

July 24, 2007--Arlan Weight

We just received word that Arlan Weight had major surgery sometime before late afternoon on Saturday. We do not have any other details. Cards for Arlan can be sent to us at: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 and we will forward them on to him. Please pray for Arlan's complete recovery.

Prayer Request Archives

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/p2007-041-01.htm>

THE END**

THE MESSAGE BOARD (ADS & INFO) --

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- August 18, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- August 24, 2007----Bible Study
- August 25, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #188 & Lesson #189
- September 1, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- September 8, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #190 & Lesson #191
- September 13, 2007----Feast of Trumpets (See Ad Below)
- September 15, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- September 22, 2007----Atonement (See Ad Below)
- September 27, 2007----Feast of Tabernacles (No Local Services)
- September 29, 2007----Feast of Tabernacles (No Local Services)
- October 4, 2007----Feast of Tabernacles (No Local Services)
- October 6, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #192 & Lesson #193
- October 13, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- October 20, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #194 & Lesson #195
- October 27, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- November 3, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #196 & Lesson #197
- November 10, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- November 16, 2007----Bible Study
- November 17, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #198 & Lesson #199

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: October 15, 2007. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

SABBATH SERVICES

Every Saturday at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 1:00 PM for Fellowship

BIBLE STUDY

Every 6 weeks on Friday at 8:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 6:30 PM for Fellowship and Pot Luck Meal (Bring Food)

FEAST OF TRUMPETS--SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

Come join us, services start at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 1:00 PM)

Join us for a 5:00 PM meal at: Perkins Family Restaurant (Expressway Avenue) in Bismarck, North Dakota

ATONEMENT--SEPTEMBER 22, 2007

Come join us at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 1:00 PM)

Join us for a meal at sunset at: Bonanza Family Restaurant in Mandan, North Dakota

**HAVE A REALLY GREAT
FEAST OF TABERNACLES &
LAST GREAT DAY**

Woke up with a Question?

by Ted Saunders (Renton, Washington)

I seldom remember any part of my dreams but this morning I got up wondering if the Body of Christ is organized with structure like an army?

For many years I was indoctrinated with the idea we as a church have missions to carry out and everyone has to follow the chain of command of orders which come all the way down from God himself. The structure of captains of small and then larger groups given to Moses was held up as our pattern. Before there was no command from God about this. The Israelites had no king until they insisted on one.

Does God really need an army of humans to carry out his will on earth? Did not God create the universe without help from any others? Do army ants march to orders from a top ant? Do our fingers follow orders from our arms? Does not God dwell directly in each of us through his Holy Spirit? Do we really have situations where some are required to exercise righteous authority over another?.....

Added by the Editor:

Matthew 20:25-26 "But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it **shall not be so among you**: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (servant);"

Mark 10:42-43 "But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But **so shall it not be among you**: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister (servant):"

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-041-01.htm>

THE END**

LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20 ..

out of their sight.

10. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11. Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.** (Acts 1:1-11)

Since the wave sheaf was done on the day after Passover, Christ would not have been able to ascend to heaven on the day of the wave sheaf, because he was in the grave and there is no scripture showing Christ was presented as the wave sheaf on the first day of the week after his resurrection.

Greg Adolphi writes:

As in counting 50 days from the regular 7th Day Sabbath that precedes the wave sheaf offering, it will always fall on the 1st

day of the week. If it were to be determined any other way, then God would have made it simple enough to say Pentecost should be observed on Sivan 6 and the same would be said of the wave sheaf offering to be associated with the first annual Days of Unleavened Bread Sabbath (Abib 15) to be held on the 17th day of the First Month of Abib (Nisan).

Laura Lee writes:

Well, that is not exactly true. Exodus 19 clearly shows them keeping Pentecost on the 6th of Sivan. Joshua 5:11 clearly shows them eating the grain of the land on the day after Passover which could not be done if they had not already done the wave sheaf offering.

Also in Leviticus 23:15 it says: "And ye shall **count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath**, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths (weeks) shall be complete."

You cannot do the wave sheaf offering on a Sabbath Day, and the First Day of Unleavened Bread is always a Sabbath Day. The only way they can be eating the grain of the land on the day after the Passover is if the Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread are the same day, which they are. Christ was the Passover Lamb or Sacrifice and He was crucified at the same time as the Passover Lambs. The Passover

Lambs were then eaten on the 14th at even or at sunset, now making it the 15th of Nisan. The death angel Passed Over at midnight on the 15th of Nisan, which actually is why Passover is called Passover. The whole 24 hour period from sunset on the 14th going into the 15th until the next sunset which was the 15th going into the 16th was considered to be both the Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread. The Passover was always a Holy Day. The wave sheaf was always meant to be done on the 16th of Nisan and will always end with a Sivan 6 Pentecost. By doing the wave sheaf on Nisan 16, you will also never have a problem with which weekly Sabbath to count from, nor will the wave sheaf ever be done on a Sabbath (Holy Day). It clears up all confusion. You cannot find any scripture in the Bible showing they were using a weekly Sabbath to count from. It just is not there. See the article: [Counting to Pentecost, by Arlan Weight](#) which can be found in [Issue #10](#).

Greg Adolphi writes:

But God said no such instructions, since Pentecost occurs on the 1st day of the week in relation to the wave sheaf being offered on a non-fixed Hebrew date, the same occurs for the Pentecost being set on a non-fixed Hebrew date, but it too is on a fixed day of the week as is the wave sheaf offering.

The Church of God Messenger

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

September/October 2007---Issue No. 41

Thank you for your web-site and have a great Pentecost. In Christ's Love, Greg Adolphi

Laura Lee writes:

The Hebrew date for the wave sheaf was always Nisan 16. The Hebrew date for Pentecost was always on Sivan 6. The dates you are using to count Pentecost from comes from the Sadducees a sect of the Jews which Christ never gave anyone any command to follow. The Sadducees did not even believe in a resurrection, meaning they never even believed in Christ. To follow the Sadducees in any non Biblical practice is the same thing as following a pagan in their non Biblical practices.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2007-041-04.htm>

THE END**

Jezebel Type Women (05-27-07)

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

The below letter is written in regard to a letter "Satan's Agent" which was printed in Issue #39.

David Ben-Ariel writes:

Dear Laura,

Regarding the "letter" [Satan's Agent](#) - I addressed *thoroughly* all the points Jezebel type women like Dianne McDonnell mislead people with in my article [No women preachers, plain and simple!](#) (See our response to his article at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/I2007-040-02.htm>)

Sincerely,
David Ben-Ariel

Laura Lee writes:

David,

This is a public unmoderated church advertising list for the purpose of advertising articles, church events, books, etc. It is not for the purpose of writing me letters. If you have an ax to grind with me then do it on my private email or take it to the correct forum email list and grind it out with the many who are now on that list. The email address for that list is: discussdoctrine@darwinlauralee.com The discuss doctrine list was set up for just this type of situation, now please use it. If you are not currently on the Discuss Doctrine list you may join it by filling out the form at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/data/05-17-06.htm>

To briefly address the [article](#) (See our response to his article at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/I2007-040-06.htm>)

[02.htm](#)) you wrote as listed above, I have read it now again and last time you sent it out. You still are not looking at the scriptures in regard to women. Deborah was not a carnal leader like Margaret Thatcher as you claim. She was a judge who judged all matters according to the law of God. Also check your concordance in regard to Phoebe and you will see she was a minister and not a deaconess as you claim. Women are not trying to usurp man's authority by teaching what the Bible says. Laura Lee

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2007-041-05.htm>

THE END**

No Women? (12-17-06)

by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

This letter is in response to an article "Women CAN be Pastors and Leaders: Here's Why", which was published in Issue #36.

Ray Daly writes:

Darwin and Laura,

On page 10 of your [November/December newsletter](#), Dianne McDonnell says of I Cor. 12:7, and the word "man", first she says that in the KJV, the word "man" in the Greek is 'hekastos'! She also says, "man", is not in the Greek.

My Strong's says "man" in I Cor. 12:7 is 'eisphero', and shows that it is in the Greek. My Strong's may be in error. On the other hand, my Young's Concordance doesn't address "man" in I Cor. 12:7 at all.

In fact, I looked up "each, one and person" in both Concordances, and 'hekastos' does not show itself. The only word I could find was, again, 'eisphero'. Hmmm, must be my Concordances.

There are occasion's in Strong's where "man" is not found in the Greek (I Cor. 12:7 is not one of them), much as there is no word for bread when preceded by "unleavened". Jesus and the disciples ate "leavened" bread at his last meal with them.

I wonder how Dianne would respond to Ex. 23:17, where it clearly says, "three times in the year shall all your MALES appear before the Lord..."? Two examples of this in the New Testament are the feedings of the 5000 and 4000. No women and children present!

Dianne McDonnell writes:

Dear Ray,

As near as I can ascertain from your rather confusing questions, you think the Greek word for "man" meaning a male-- is

Subscription Update For Those Who Are Unable to Pay a Subscription Price for "The Church of God Messenger":

Gift Donations Received:
Previous Balance: \$7.16

07-27-07 -- SB -- \$25.00
07-27-07 -- LG -- \$40.00
08-10-07 -- JL -- \$100.00
08-19-07 -- BA -- \$7.16
Total = \$172.16 THANK YOU!

Total Gift Donations:
\$179.32

Subscriptions Requested:
07-27-07 -- Larry Graff
07-29-07 -- Julius Lenkume
07-30-07 -- P. F. Lazor

1 Year Subscriptions Paid:
Larry Graff -- \$12.84
Julius Lenkume -- \$22.20
P. F. Lazor -- \$12.84

Amount Left: \$131.44

Subscription Requests Pending at this Time: None

present in 1 Cor. 12:7. First let us look at one correct translation of this verse: 1 Cor. 12:7 But to **each one** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (New American Standard Updated Bible)

The NASU above, also the NIV, TEV, RSV and the New King James translations, ALL make the meaning of this passage clear - Both male and female Christians are given a Spiritual Gift as a "manifestation of the Spirit" and this gift is to be used for the good of the church. However, the King James translated this verse and also verse 11, by adding the word "man".

1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to **every man** to profit withal. KJV

The KJV totally changed the meaning written in the Greek manuscripts!

Entire Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2007-041-06.htm>

***to be continued in Issue #42**