

Heirs of Salvation

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Articles

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In [Hebrews 1:13-14](#), the apostle Paul, the probable author of Hebrews, continues his efforts to show the superiority of Christ over angels by quoting from Psalm 110, the psalm most quoted in the New Testament:

But to which of the angels has He ever said:

“Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

While Paul is explaining Christ’s superiority to angels, he also begins to describe their duties. Even though stating it as a question, he describes what they are, and more importantly, what they do: They are spirit beings, created as servants, whom God has sent out to serve.

A “minister” attends to the needs of others, and in the case of angels, they are servants of God sent to take care of certain people. Notice that it does not say that they are sent to take care of the world, the creation, a particular ethnic group, or a specific place on the earth. No, God sends them to care for “those who will inherit salvation.” While it may not be their only job, according to Paul, their primary focus is on those whom God calls and converts, the heirs of salvation.

Perhaps we take Paul’s statement for granted. God has sent the greatest created beings with all their knowledge, power, and access to God’s throne to do a job, and it is to watch over His elect. We can thank God that they are loyal to Him and happy to do it!

The Work of Angels

We find examples of their work throughout the Bible. In [Daniel 6:22](#), Daniel says, “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me.” Later, the prophet speaks with an angel who came to his aid, who refers to the archangel Michael being “your prince” ([Daniel 10:21](#)). Elisha understood that God’s protection was all around him when he asked God to allow his servant to see the heavenly army watching over them ([II Kings 6:15-17](#)).

Another example appears in [Job 1:8-10](#):

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Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”

So, Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.”

It would appear here that Satan may have already tried to get to Job, but he could not because of the hedge God had placed around him and his family on all sides. Could this hedge have been an army of angels, as in Elisha’s case? It may have been. God may have placed this same hedge around all those who will inherit salvation, and so Satan and his minions are kept at bay.

As the greatest created beings in God’s Kingdom, they still are not even close to the greatness of Jesus Christ, as Hebrews 1:13 confirms. This verse repeats what the author presents in verses 1-2: Christ is the Heir of all things, and God the Father has placed Him at His right hand. Ultimately, governance comes from the throne where God is with Jesus Christ at His side, and God sends His loyal angels as servants from the seat of government to fulfill certain ministerial functions focused on His saints.

Heirs of Salvation

The last phrase of Hebrews 1:14 calls God’s chosen people “those who will inherit salvation.” An heir is one chosen to receive an inheritance, which usually occurs upon the death of the individual who bequeathed it. Typically, the testator is a blood relation, so a legal heir is usually part of the family bloodline.

The book of Leviticus provides specific details about the inheritance of the Promised Land, indicating that inheritance is a prominent idea in God’s purpose. In the book of Ruth, Boaz, a type of Christ, went to great lengths to ensure he followed the inheritance laws in acquiring the land belonging to Elimelech, Ruth’s dead husband, as well as Ruth herself to become his wife (see Ruth 4:1-12). From that marriage came the lineage of David, which culminated in the birth of Christ.

A difference in the Hebrew and Greek cultures regarding inheritance is striking. In Greek culture, an heir is simply one who inherits, but among the Hebrews, inheritance is more forceful. According to *Strong’s Concordance*, *inherit* (*yāraš*, #3423) can have a more forceful meaning: “to occupy (by driving out previous tenants, and possessing in their place); by impl. to seize, to rob, to inherit; also, to expel, to impoverish, to ruin—cast out, consume, destroy, disinherit, dispossess, drive out, enjoy, expel.”

We realize that the Israelites had to take such actions to inherit the Promised Land. Interestingly, a similar process occurred in American history when the first settlers arrived and began to drive out the indigenous peoples. Their situations may parallel what God’s elect must do to inherit the earth, which Satan and his demons currently occupy.

Paul writes about these heirs of salvation in Galatians 3:29; 4:1-2:

And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heir according to the promise. Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

He adds in Romans 8:16-17:

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

The apostle states in Galatians 3:29 that if God has chosen us and given us to Christ, then we are considered Abraham’s seed, making us heirs of what God promised to Abraham. In both passages, Paul speaks of children. In Romans 8, he calls those in whom God’s Spirit dwells “children of God,” and as such, we are His heirs and thus joint heirs with Christ! Even so, as God’s children, we have not received the fullness of the inheritance. The entire inheritance will not come into our possession until the first resurrection.

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Not Yet Full Inheritors

Paul also says in [Galatians 4:2](#) that children who are heirs are no different than slaves or servants, despite their potential. Although the child may be of royal blood and heir to a throne, he, or she—a potential king or queen—is still under authority, subject to parents, guardians, and teachers.

The current Queen of England, Elizabeth II, was born a princess, putting her in line to ascend to the throne of England. Because of her bloodline, she outranked the many servants, nannies, lords, and ladies that helped take care of her as a child. However, being a child, she lacked knowledge, wisdom, strength, and experience. She had to mature under the ministrations of servants.

Consider that she had nothing to do with her station in life; she was heir to a throne by virtue of her birth. Is not the elect's position similar? In terms of our calling, we had nothing to do with it! God chooses those He calls, and He chose us to become His heirs! Because of our present weak and immature state, God has sent angels, despite their being far wiser and more powerful than we are, to minister to His children, His heirs. They serve us! This state of affairs may be hard to imagine, but God has commissioned them to minister to the heirs of salvation. Are we not glad they do?

In [Hebrews 2:5-9](#), the author quotes David's words in [Psalm 8:4-6](#):

For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying:

“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?
You have made him a little lower than the angels;
You have crowned him with glory and honor,
And set him over the works of Your hands.
You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Most Bibles capitalize pronouns that refer to Deity, yet here, the translators have not capitalized the many occurrences of the pronoun “him”! Notice that “son of man” in verse 6, unlike its many appearances in the gospels referring to Jesus, is also not capitalized. Why not here? The answer is simple: Paul does not intend us to understand this prophecy to be referring only to Jesus Christ but to “man”!

David and the author of Hebrews understood exactly what God was saying. The psalm has humans in mind, not just Jesus. Some commentators believe that Paul describes Christ alone in verses 6-8, but a close reading shows that he follows David's broader description of human potential until verse 9. There, he begins with “but,” a contrasting conjunction that ties two distinct thoughts together.

While the [book of Hebrews](#) begins by showing Jesus Christ's superiority over angels, by this passage in chapter 2, the author is including the elect of God, those who will inherit salvation, in the picture alongside their Savior and King. Like Christ, those God chooses as His heirs will have all things placed under them. They will sit at the Father's right hand with Jesus Christ on His throne ([Revelation 2:26](#); [3:21](#) [5:10](#); see [Matthew 19:28](#); [Luke 22:29-30](#); [1 Corinthians 6:2](#))!

Like Christ, we, the heirs of salvation, have been made a little lower than the angels. As human beings, we are inferior to them in just about every way. But God is working with us in a similar way that He did with Jesus so we can receive the same inheritance as He has. God is preparing us to live and work side by side with Him, always at His right hand, “crowned . . . with glory and honor”!

No Need to Fear

Paul writes in [Hebrews 2:5](#), “For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.” No, the world to come will be ruled by glorified human beings, beginning with the greatest Son of Man, Jesus Christ. Now God is

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training His elect to rule His Kingdom with Him.

The psalmist writes in Psalm 139:6, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it." Like Job came to realize (see Job 42:2-6), he understood God's greatness compared to weak and puny man, and it boggled his mind that God would pay any attention to such lowly creatures. Even so, it is what God reveals in His Book.

Should we not, then, "give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard [the truth from Scripture], lest we drift away"? In the world's current situation—with viruses, war, forecasts of food shortages, and inept leadership on everyone's mind—a state of fear exists. Some people are afraid to leave their houses. Some have a bunker mentality, ready to go to ground at the slightest disturbance in society. Are we among those who are letting fear rule their lives?

Fear divides, makes one self-centered, and can destroy faith. Of all people, we need not fear because we are the ones whom Almighty God is focused on (see Deuteronomy 32:10; Psalm 17:8; Zechariah 2:8). He provides for His elect children "exceedingly abundantly above all that [they] ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). He has sent those same angels who stopped the mouths of lions, the great angelic host that surrounded Elisha, the same mighty spirit beings who formed the hedge around Job, to watch over His inheritance, His heirs of salvation.

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Was God's Law Nailed to the Cross? (Copyright) by Earl L. Henn (Charlotte, North Carolina)



In their struggle to find a New Testament scripture that supports their misconception that God's law is "done away," many people point to Colossians 2:14 to "prove" that Christ nailed the law of God to the cross. In fact, this verse becomes a major linchpin in their fallacious argument that Christians are not required to keep God's "harsh Old Testament law." Proponents of such a teaching say that the "handwriting of requirements [*ordinances*, KJV]" refers to the law "that was against us." They further claim that Christ "took it out of the way" or abolished the law.

Does Colossians 2:14 do away with God's law? What is "the handwriting of requirements"? What really was "nailed . . . to the cross"? Let's carefully examine this scripture to see what the apostle Paul is truly saying.

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First of all, note the context. In verses 11-13, Paul explains what Christ did for us and how those who have believed in Him are now spiritually circumcised:

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

Here we see that the subject under discussion is the means of our justification. Paul is saying that, when we repented and were baptized, the "old man" of sin was buried in a watery grave, and our sins were completely forgiven through our faith in the sacrifice of Christ. After being raised out of the water, we were "made alive" with Him and imputed to be righteous in God's sight. Paul refers to this process as "circumcision made without hands," that is, spiritual circumcision.

Handwriting of Requirements

The first part of verse 14 continues the sentence begun at the end of verse 13. Paul continues to explain how our justification was accomplished. Thus, the whole sentence reads,

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us.

What was this "handwriting of requirements"? These words are translated from the Greek phrase *cheirographon tois dogmasin*. *Cheirographon* means anything written by hand but can more specifically apply to a legal document, bond, or note of debt. *Dogmasin* refers to decrees, laws, or ordinances, and in this context means a body of beliefs or practices that have become the guidelines governing a person's conduct or way of life.

Paul is saying that, by His death, Christ has wiped out the note of guilt or debt that we owed as a result of our sins—sins that resulted from our past way of life. Before repentance, our lives had been governed by the standards and values of this present, evil world—the "decrees, laws and ordinances" of the society in which we lived.

Now that we have repented and accepted Christ, we have embarked on a new way of life and are living by God's standards and values. Consequently, God has wiped out the debt we acquired as a result of our sins and has imputed righteousness to us.

Another means of ascertaining what "handwriting of requirements" means is to notice that it restates the phrase immediately before it. "Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us" parallels "having forgiven you all trespasses." Thus, Paul could not be referring to the law itself but rather to the record of our transgression of that law—sin!

What Was Nailed to the Cross?

Note also the last sentence in verse 14: "And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." In this sentence, the word "it" is a singular pronoun and refers back to the singular word "handwriting." "Requirements" could not be its antecedent because "requirements" is plural. So, some kind of handwriting—a note, a record, or a citation—was affixed to the cross.

Historically, only two objects were nailed to the stake of crucifixion: 1) the condemned person and 2) an inscription naming the crimes for which he was being punished. Thus, when Jesus was crucified, only His body and Pilate's inscription ("This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"; see Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19) were nailed to the cross. Normally, the inscription would be more accusative, saying something like, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, who rebelled against Caesar." Pilate's complimentary inscription replaced the customary note or record of guilt—the "handwriting of requirements" that would have been found nailed to the crosses of the two malefactors crucified with Him.

Just before He died, when the Father forsook Him (Matthew 27:46), our sins were symbolically nailed to the cross in His body, as the apostle Peter writes in I Peter 2:24: "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed." Paul instructs us that, at the time of His

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crucifixion, Jesus Christ became sin for us: "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21). Our note of debt that we owed God as a result of our sins is what was "taken out of the way" and "nailed . . . to the cross."

No, it was not the law that was nailed to the cross. The law is not against us or contrary to us but is a great blessing to us, writes David in Psalms 19:11: "Moreover by them [God's commandments and statutes] your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward." Paul's description of the law in Romans 7:12 goes even further: "Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."

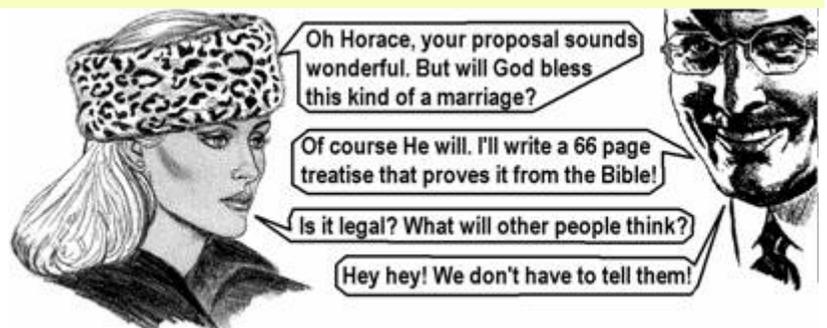
We now see that, far from doing away with the law of God, Colossians 2:14 explains a deep and profound truth, the doctrine of justification. Paul describes the manner in which we are reckoned righteous in God's sight through faith in the sacrifice of Christ. Our Savior paid in His own body the great debt that we owed God because of our breaking of His holy and righteous laws. Now our sins have been "taken out of the way" and "nailed . . . to the cross." Having risen from that watery grave, we now have the promise of eternal life as we live a new way of life—a life of righteousness and service to Him!

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Stop This Marriage Madness

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It is good that many people have studied the scriptures and found that they are primarily about an individual's faith in and obedience to the Eternal. In their Bible study, many find no examples of priests, ministers, or the state "performing marriage ceremonies". Indeed, history shows that such ceremonies have only been with us for about 600 years. Anciently, a marriage was handled as a contract between the couple or their parents. While a feast was usually associated with a marriage, the marriage itself was a written or verbal agreement, consummated by a sexual relationship. After Abraham negotiated a marriage agreement with Rebekah's family, the marriage went like this:



Then Isaac brought her [Rebekah] into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death (Gen 24:67).

Bible students should couple this knowledge with the great examples of faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; who were faithful for decades while they waited for the Eternal to fulfill his promises to them. But some make the mistake of using their biblical marriage knowledge, which may include polygamy, to commit all manner of irresponsible, foolish, or sinful acts, which have simply made lives miserable for themselves and others. These silly scenarios are listed below in the hope that if readers ever find themselves about to get involved in such a thing, they will **flee from it**, like Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife. The scriptural teaching against them follows.

1. Justifying fornication by calling it a marriage. When a single man and a woman have found themselves alone together (probably the first mistake) and desiring sex but no serious life-long commitment, some have said brief vows, had sex, and then agreed to a "divorce"—sometimes all within the same day. In some cases, only one party may feel the need to justify their sin with this biblical trickery, so they will say silent vows—lest their partner think they are ridiculous. Sometimes, the man will see no need for the "divorce", because he considers this just one of the many wives he will have, but he usually doesn't bother to tell the woman his "biblical view"—that she will be sinning if she ever marries anyone else during the rest of her life. Sure, sometimes the parties may stay together a few weeks or even months, but their only real intent was sex, they never declared it to be a

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lifelong marriage to anyone else. This is just one example of a **secret marriage**, which the Scriptures do not support.

2. Justifying adultery by calling it a polygamous marriage. This is much like the previous example, except the man is married. Rarely, some women will agree to be a “second wife” to obtain a brief adulterous affair. But then, those women might agree to almost anything to get what they want—lying and adultery go hand-in-hand. More often, the man **does not tell the woman** that he considers her as “another wife” and by biblical standards, she can never marry again unless he divorces her. This is another example of a **secret marriage**, that is no marriage at all, but a rationalization for adultery.

3. Unplanned marriages. A man and woman decide that they want to have sex right now, so they get married right now, really intending to live the rest of their lives together. Often, they previously had only an Internet relationship or had known each other only a few days. Teen-agers do it, 50-year-olds do it. This is not a sin, but it almost certainly is a lack of wisdom and frequently spawns many sins and much heartache. When one considers the magnitude of committing the rest of one’s life, as well as the possibility of creating new life—a genealogy that could go on forever—a few weeks or months to plan a wedding is a reasonable time to wait for sex. A marriage that begins for immediate gratification is likely to be plagued by similar problems of irresponsibility. This author has seen these marriages fail after a few weeks, a few months, or a few years. Only a fraction endured. In almost every case, if the couples had taken the time to seek the counsel of their friends and congregation, they would have been much better equipped to either make the necessary personal changes to produce a successful marriage, or to realize that they should not marry.

4. Polygamy for fun and profit. This is polygamy proclaimed not by a prosperous man who is able to provide for more than one wife, but by someone who wants more wives so he can have sex more often and so he can reap economic benefit from them. The man usually targets downtrodden women, who want to be married but who do not believe that anyone else would marry them. The man reminds them of that frequently. He usually acquires each new wife by telling her he really loves her more than the others—or he may simply get a mail-order bride from Asia. The new wife gets a Bible-based marriage agreement and often a state marriage license as well. Later, after she is pregnant and has learned to fit into the polygamous routine, she will get a quiet state divorce, but be told that her Biblical marriage agreement is still in force. Since all (or all but one) of the man’s “wives” are not legally married, the man may have them get state welfare for unwed mothers—but he probably takes most of the money. He may require some “wives” to take outside jobs, while others take care of all the children. Our society has no difficulty with one man and a group of women living together. In every case this writer has seen, these men were not good husbands for even one wife and adding more wives did not help the situation at all.

5. Predatory marriages. These almost always involve one of the previous four schemes but add the additional element of a predator who is older and far more aggressive, intelligent, experienced and/or knowledgeable than the other—and willing to take advantage of it. Usually the predator is a man, but this writer also knows of women who have done this. The predator often teaches the victim many good and exciting principles of scripture, but also weaves in the biblical teaching that the two of them can just decide to get married without the need of state or church. They often paint a glowing picture that convinces the other that the Eternal has brought the two together, right here and now, so that they can fulfill their dreams and become married. The victim often finds him/herself married and no longer a virgin, before even thinking it through or seeking counsel. The predator knows that if he/she did not rush the marriage, that it would probably never happen. This is evil.

6. One sided marriages. Some people actually consider themselves married with a lifelong commitment to an individual, while that individual has no such commitment to them. They may hope to reach a mutual marriage agreement someday, but they want sex immediately. The **uncommitted individual** simply believes they are in an unmarried sexual relationship. While this assessment is probably more honest, the relationship is still a sin. The uncommitted individual may not know about the other’s belief that they are already married. If they do know, they neither accept it or acknowledge it to others. This is another bizarre form of an unbiblical **secret marriage**.

Summary: Hopefully, anyone who believes in any of these “marriage madness” ideas will read the rest of this article and reconsider their views. There is no “free lunch” here. In virtually all cases with which this writer has been acquainted, the above practices do not produce the happiness that the people are seeking, but more strife, contention, alienation, divorce, and loneliness.

Scriptural Teaching on Marriage Responsibility

All of the above marriage madness occurs when people use their extensive technical knowledge of the Scriptures to justify their own sin, rather than to seek the deep spiritual concepts of love, truth, and faithfulness. Those seeking these things speak little of laying down one’s life for one’s spouse as Christ did for the Church (Eph 5:25; 1Jo 3:16). They are seeking the benefits of marriage without the responsibility. If they were spiritually advanced, shouldn’t their view of marriage be like Christ’s? How does

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He view His marriage with the Church? Does He keep it a secret?

And I heard, as it were, **the voice of a great multitude**, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come**, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of **the saints** (Rev 19:6-8).

Jesus Christ wants His marriage and His relationship with us acknowledged by all. The Bible contains no examples of **secret marriages**. In the Old Testament, every engagement (betrothal) and marriage was a public event that determined which sections of the law would apply to a person. What happens if a man entices a woman when they were alone, and nobody can hear them? (Deut 22:22-29; Ex 22:16-17.) If she was married, they are both put to death. If she was engaged, then he is put to death. If she was not engaged, then he must pay the bride price, and if the woman’s father accepts him, then he must marry her. If a man enticed a woman whom he thought was single, hoping to marry her, could he then be stoned if there was a secret betrothal or marriage? This is a life-or-death issue! **Biblical law presumes** that each person’s marital status is **known by all**.

Trying to keep his marriage secret was Abraham’s major recorded sin. That sin resulted in plagues on Egypt, Abraham being thrown out of Egypt and nearly the death of Abimelech (Gen 12:10-20; 20:1-14). Abraham’s sin was not lying—Sarah was his sister. God agreed that Abimelech was innocent (Gen 20:6). Later, Isaac made this same mistake (Gen 26:7-11). These three accounts are in the Bible for a reason: to teach us to trust God for protection, and **that marriages should never be secret!**

When Boaz found Ruth at his feet, he did not propose to marry her right then so he could have sex with her that night (Ruth 3). He had her lay at his feet, and then made plans to take care of the inheritance and declare the marriage publicly, in the presence of elders of the gate who were **witnesses**:

“Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, **I have acquired as my wife**, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. **You are witnesses** this day” (Ruth 4:10).

The Eternal is a witness to all marriages and demands that people deal honestly and fairly with each other.

And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, “For what reason?” **Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously**; yet she is your companion and **your wife by covenant**. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth (Mal 2:13-15).

There are too many men who want to use their strength, charm, financial resources or even Bible knowledge to get sex, and who see the details of marriage and commitment one more step to obtain sex. There are too many women willing to use their appearance, sex, and a host of other schemes to manipulate men into a marriage, only to find themselves further and further away from that goal. It is best to look to marriage for godly fulfillment, and to realize that it is ultimately the Eternal who provides a good mate:

He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD (Prov 19:14).

It is worth the time for young people to take the years needed to prepare to be married and to find the right person. When marriage trouble arises, it is worth the time to pray, study, fast, counsel or do whatever else is necessary to keep a marriage together. Marriage should be exciting and fun:

Drink water from your own cistern And running water from your own well. 16 Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed And rejoice with the **wife of your youth**. 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. 20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress? 21 **For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths** (Prov 5:15-21).

Finally, we can learn a lot from the phrase “wife of your youth”. “Wife” is singular, it does not say “wives”. Solomon, the probable writer, had hundreds of wives and knew all about polygamy, but was still inspired to recommend only one. “Of your youth” means our first spouse, not one acquired after several attempts and failures. Finally, God is watching us and will judge our every work (2Cor 5:10).

“That’s fine, someone might say, I can justify my marriage practice from the scripture.” But the technical, legal arguments

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are not the weightier matters of the law. The important stuff is justice, mercy, and faith (Matt 23:23). Does our treatment of our spouse represent the love of the Eternal and our respect for Him?

A paragraph of hope for the downtrodden: Some may feel so lonely and depressed that they would rather enter into a risky marriage than just continue down the same lonely single road. Remember this: the loneliness and depression of recovering from a failed marriage is even worse than what you are experiencing now. In addition, failed marriages frequently leave one poorer, by many thousands of dollars, adding to the difficulty. Love, joy, peace, etc. are not ultimately produced by marriage, but by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). Seek your Father in Heaven to raise you up from your loneliness and depression, and then you will be ready to help someone in a good and righteous marriage.

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Seventy Weeks Prophecy

(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Daniel nine contains what is known as the “Seventy Weeks Prophecy.” By the time most Bible scholars and Eschatology students finish dissecting it, we, for some strange reason, end up with 490 years rather than 70 literal weeks.

There are various explanations out there concerning the historical event that began the counting of the 490 years until Christ’s earthly ministry. His ministry only lasted three and a half years which is not a full “prophetic” week. Some believe that He still has to finish another three and half years of ministry perhaps after His return. There may be some merit to this prophetic and historical explanation, but let’s not bet the farm until cows actually do produce chocolate milk.

Where in Daniel nine does it say to count each day as a year? It doesn’t! This is an assumption made by Eschatology students wanting to fit prophecy with history. The actual expression used in Daniel nine is 70 sevens. Does it mean a week of days, or a week of years is uncertain, thus, the confusion? There are problems with reckoning the 490 years of this misunderstood prophecy to get to the time of Christ’s ministry. A 490-year period is not the contention of this article. You can find that traditional explanation espoused by others elsewhere.

Perhaps I’m a little harsh but we want clarity not confusion. The basic prophecy is found in verses 24 to 27. Read it for yourself. I won’t quote it because it is poorly translated which has added to the confusion. Rather than thinking that it has largely been fulfilled as most prophecy teachers proclaim, let’s try a different approach.

What if the 70 Weeks Prophecy has yet to occur? And what if it is a literal 70 weeks rather than 490 years? Advocating my approach will be out of tune with the group consensus on Daniel nine, but the crowd has been wrong before. Just ask Einstein.

Notice how the 70 weeks are broken up into sections. This is a key. So, we need to understand the clues or reasons for doing so. **Seven** weeks. **Sixty-two** weeks. **One** week. Add them up to get **70** weeks. It may appear that the sixty-two weeks follow the seven-week period. To put things in proper perspective, we must understand a prophetic **Timeline** found in the Book of Revelation. This **Timeline** will give us the insight needed to understand Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophecy.

In brief, the seven trumpets depicted in the Book of Revelation will begin to sound on a future Feast of Trumpets. These seven trumpets will sound in a **four-three pattern** as also formed by the Seven Annual Sabbaths according to the Civil or Regnal year that begins on Trumpets. This means that the seventh and last trump will sound on Pentecost marking the Resurrection. This is **KEY!** See my chart.

What is another name for Pentecost? Turn to Exodus 34:22: “And you shall observe the **Feast of Weeks**, of the **firstfruits** of wheat harvest.”

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Why was Pentecost called "The Feast of **Weeks**"? Recall the instructions found in Leviticus 23. "And you shall **count** for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. **Count fifty** [Pentecost] days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD" (Leviticus 23:15-16).

This is quite clear. If Pentecost had a set date as the other Holy Days, then there would be no need to **count**. Furthermore, Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, should always fall on a Sunday, the first day of the week. Understanding this will help us to see how The Seventy Weeks Prophecy ties into the **Timeline**.

How many Sabbaths or Weeks had to be **counted** to determine Pentecost? **Seven!**

Is there a **seven-week** period found in the 70 Weeks Prophecy? Do you suppose it is the same seven-week period for counting Pentecost?

Now, do you see why Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy is a literal 70 weeks? If the seven-week period brings us to Christ's return and resurrection at the last trump, then the 62-week period must precede the seven-week period. That leaves the one-week period when He shall confirm the covenant with many.

Christ will come for His Bride on Pentecost day at the Resurrection. We shall be taken to heaven to be presented before the Father for the Marriage of the Lamb. Remember when Jacob was fooled by Laban who had switched the brides? Instead of finding Rachel, Jacob found her sister Leah and felt cheated. What did Laban say to Jacob about Leah? "Fulfill her **week!**"

Will Jesus Christ do the same with His Bride? And what better place for a honeymoon than heaven itself. After the honeymoon, time to get prepared for the task ahead of establishing God's kingdom upon the earth when Trumpets arrives in a few short weeks and the battle for taking Jerusalem begins.

Who is cut off in the midst of the week? Won't the Two Witnesses be killed just prior to the Resurrection? See Revelation 11:7-15. In Zechariah 4:14, they are referred to as the "anointed ones" or the "two olive trees."

The Two Wave-loaves are baked with leaven. The leaven causes them to be filled with air which pictures the Resurrection and those born of the Spirit. They are waved which pictures them ascending to heaven. Study the following chart.

Seventy Weeks Prophecy Chart

The Woman (Jerusalem) of Revelation 12 flees into wilderness for 1,260 Days. This may be the result of an attack against Jerusalem causing thousands to flee. At the same time, the Two Witnesses will begin to prophesy for 1,260 Days. The 1,260 Days will end just prior to Passover when the 5th Trumpet will sound.

62 Weeks prior to the Passover when the 5th Trumpet will sound, efforts are launched to rebuild Jerusalem which allows Jerusalem to be repopulated. But then the King of the North (Beast or Antichrist) invades at Passover when the 5th Trumpet will sound causing the Woman to flee again for a time, times, and half a time which is the short time between Passover and Pentecost. A "time" or "appointed time" refers to a holy day not a year. See Galatians 4:10. Thus, Time – Passover. Times – Days of Unleavened Bread. Half a Time – Pentecost when the Resurrection occurs.

This chart is a little crude but should show how the 7 Trumpets, Revelation 12, and the 70 Weeks overlap:

1 2 3 4 Trumpets	5 th Trump	6 th Trump	7 Sabbaths	7 th Trump
Fall Holy Days	1 st ULB	Last ULB	x x x x x x x	Resurrection
Satan cast out ---- X ---- Woman flees time, times, half a time --- X				
... x x x x x x x x x x x x x x 62 Weeks end --- X --- Seven Weeks to Pentecost ---- X - 70 th Week X				

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After the Resurrection and Marriage of the Lamb on Pentecost, Christ confirms the covenant with many for one week. After this, the seven vials of God's Wrath are poured out which will cause the nations to gather at Megiddo to march against Jerusalem which will be taken captive by Christ and the 144,000 on the Feast of Trumpets following Resurrection Pentecost.

Can You Prove What You Believe?

(Copyright) by Richard Markland
(London, Ohio)

Christianity today is in a state of complete confusion because the nation's clergy and members of church after church are confused. What can only be described as one big giant mess is because deception has made huge inroads that has resulted in so much confusion. II Timothy 4:3- "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap on themselves teachers, having itching ears."

Churches across the country are not telling members what they need to hear, but what they want to hear.

Christianity in America today is equivalent to choosing beliefs from a spiritual salad bar. Personal choices made has resulted in making far too many professing Christians feel comfortable and is far more pervasive than realized. Beliefs are taken for granted and are not personally challenged as they should be.

Simply put, deception is an act of deliberately deceiving and has been carried out in order to pervert and hijack Christianity. How else can all of the different denominations with confusing and contrary beliefs be explained?

How many people know the history of their particular denomination? How many are willing to research on their own in order to find out if it is in complete agreement with what the Bible says?

Most professing Christians do not know why they believe what they do. When raised a catholic, protestant or a member of the evangelical movement, it is simply taken for granted. Tradition is just as much a part of religion as it is in politics, Mark 7:7- "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandment of men."

The doctrines of the vast majority of churches today have originated from individuals who did not agree with the beliefs of other men. It has resulted in the establishment of differing churches with contrary beliefs.

If people do not take the time to find out how their particular church denomination started, whether it is in total agreement with the Bible and whether their personal beliefs can be proven according to scripture, the foundation on which people stand is very weak. The Bible says a person is to prove what he or she believes and not just blindly accept what they have been taught. I Thessalonians 5:22- "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good."

Holy Days 2022

Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)
Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022
Pentecost – June 5, 2022
Trumpets - September 26, 2022
Atonement – October 5, 2022
Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022
Last Great Day – October 17, 2022