

When Was Jesus Born?

by John O. Reid
(Bolivar, Missouri)

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Publisher: Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

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Special Thank You to All Contributors!

Articles (1-4 Pages Long)

When Was Jesus Born? by John O. Reid (Bolivar, Missouri)



We are approaching the time of the year when the world celebrates the supposed birth of Jesus Christ. The jingles on the radio and television invade our sanity earlier every year, and the decorations now go up before Halloween! Anywhere we go, Christmas "cheer" is inescapable. For most of us, this is a season we struggle through, wishing it would rush by and be over.

Yet it is also a season that requires us to be on our guard. Since we in the church of God do not celebrate Christmas, we often stick out in a crowd. Such a difference piques the curiosity of some, and they may ask why we do not keep it. If we respond, "Christ was not born on December 25," can we prove it? If He was not born on that date, then when was He born? What are the facts?

When this subject is broached, many Protestants and Catholics become quite emotional, often becoming firmly entrenched concerning the December 25 date in spite of the facts. Many simply enjoy the season and feel that the actual day of Christ's birth is irrelevant. Biblical and historical scholars are equally divided over this question as well. Christmas, however, is founded on the premise that Jesus was born on December 25, and a person who is truly striving to follow the Bible will see that the celebration of Christmas is based upon falsehood.

The Clues in Luke's Gospel

On the surface, the accounts of Matthew and Luke reveal little about the time of Jesus' birth. No dates are given, no

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season of the year is named. As a well-regarded historian, Luke, however, provides a sound, orderly account of the events that removes any doubt as to the general time of Jesus' birth. All the clues are there, and all that is required is to dig them out and put them in order to discover the truth.

In a long section covering Luke 1:5 through 2:8, Luke writes of a specific series of events in chronological order. He begins by telling the story of Zacharias, a priest, and his wife Elizabeth, who were childless. While administering his priestly duties during the course of Abijah, Zacharias was visited by the angel Gabriel, who told him that his prayers had been answered and that he and Elizabeth would have a son. They were to name him John.

Because Zacharias doubted that this would happen, Gabriel informed him that he would not be able to speak until the birth of his son. As soon as his service in the Temple was completed, he returned to his own house. Elizabeth soon conceived and hid herself five months, unsure of how her pregnancy would be viewed.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Gabriel visited Mary and informed her, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son and shall call His name Jesus" (verse 31). Soon thereafter, Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and stayed with her until the latter's ninth month, leaving just prior to John's birth. Jesus, then, was born approximately six months after John.

What information do we have up to this point?

- » Zacharias, a priest, performed his duties during the course of Abijah.
- » After he returned home from Jerusalem, Elizabeth conceived.
- » Mary conceived in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy.
- » John was born approximately six months before Jesus.

The Course of Abijah

To date Jesus' birth, we need a starting point. Fortunately, Luke supplies one in mentioning "the course of Abijah" (Luke 1:5). Is it possible to know if this course existed then, when it fell during the year, and how long it lasted? Indeed it is!

I Chronicles 24 lists the courses, divisions, or shifts of the priesthood that served in the Temple throughout the year. Verse 1 states, "These are the divisions of the sons of Aaron." Among the sons of Eleazar were sixteen heads of their father's house, while among the sons of Ithamar were eight additional heads of house, making twenty-four courses (verse 4).

These courses of priests were divided by lot to be officials of the sanctuary and of the house of God (verse 5). Beginning on Nisan 1, these courses rotated throughout the year, serving in the Temple for one week apiece. The course of Abijah, the course during which Zacharias was responsible to work, was the eighth shift (verse 10).

Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian—who was, by the way, of the priestly lineage of the course of Jehoiarib, the first course—supplies further information about the priestly courses.

"He [David] divided them also into courses: and when he had separated the priests from them, he found of these priests twenty-four courses, sixteen of the house of Eleazar and eight of that of Ithamar; and he ordained that one course should minister to God [during] eight days, from [noon] Sabbath to [noon on the following] Sabbath. And thus were the courses distributed by lot, in the presence of David, and Zadok and Abiathar the high priest, and of all the rulers: and that course which came up first was written down as the first, and accordingly the second, and so on to the twenty-fourth; and this partition hath remained to this day" (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 7:14.7).

These courses were strictly followed until the Temple was destroyed in AD 70.

The Talmud describes the details of the rotation of courses, beginning on Nisan 1. Obviously, with only twenty-four courses, each course was required to work twice a year, leaving three extra weeks. (The Hebrew year normally has fifty-one weeks. Intercalary, or leap, years have an additional four weeks.) The three holy day seasons, Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, during which all the courses were required to serve, made up these three extra weeks. Thus, each of the courses worked five weeks out of the year: two in their specific courses and three during the holy day seasons.

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John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Messiah (Malachi 3:1; Luke 1:13-17). The gospel accounts make it very clear that he was born about half a year before Jesus was born. From historical details in Luke's account especially, as well as the accuracy of the Seventy Weeks Prophecy (see "Seventy Weeks Are Determined . . .," p. 2), it is clear that Jesus was born sometime in 4 BC. This means, counting back the nine months of gestation and the six-month difference in age, John must have been conceived in the first half of 5 BC. This fact forces us to choose the first shift of the course of Abijah as the time when Gabriel visited Zacharias in the Temple. Frederick R. Coulter, in his *A Harmony of the Gospels* (p. 9), computes it this way:

In the year 5 BC, the first day of the first month, the month of Nisan, according to the Hebrew Calendar, was a Sabbath. According to computer calculation synchronizing the Hebrew Calendar and the stylized Julian Calendar, it was April 8. Projecting forward, the assignments course by course, and week by week, were: Course 1, the first week; Course 2, the second week; all Courses for the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, the third week; Course 3, the fourth week; Course 4, the fifth week; Course 5, the sixth week; Course 6, the seventh week; Course 7, the eighth week; Course 8, the ninth week; and all courses [sic] the tenth week, which was the week of Pentecost.

Zacharias of the course of Abijah worked the ninth week in his assigned course and the tenth week in the Pentecost course, and this period ran from Iyar 27 through Sivan 12 (Hebrew calendar) or June 3 through 17 (Julian calendar). He probably returned home immediately after his shifts were completed, and Elizabeth most likely conceived in the following two-week period, June 18 through July 1, 5 BC.

With this information, we can calculate Elizabeth's sixth month as December, during which Mary also conceived (Luke 1:26-38). It is probable, because of the circumstances shown in Luke 1, that Mary conceived during the last two weeks of Elizabeth's sixth month. Thus, John was born in the spring of 4 BC, probably between March 18 and 31. By projecting forward another six months to Jesus' birth, the most probable time for His birth occurred between September 16 and 29. It is an interesting sidelight that Tishri 1, the Feast of Trumpets, is one of the two middle days of this time period.

Flocks in the Fields

There is additional proof that Jesus was born in the fall of the year. The census of Quirinius that required Joseph to travel from Galilee to Bethlehem would most probably have taken place after the fall harvest when people were more able to return to their ancestral homes (Luke 2:1-5). Besides, it was customary in Judea to do their tax collecting during this period, as the bulk of a farmer's income came at this time.

Another point is that Joseph and Mary had to find shelter in a barn or some other kind of animal shelter, like a cave or grotto, because the inns were full (verse 7). This indicates that the pilgrims from around the world had begun to arrive in Jerusalem and surrounding towns. Thus, the fall festival season had already commenced. There would have been no similar influx of pilgrims in December.

Also, as the shepherds were still in the fields with their flocks (verse 8), Jesus' birth could not have occurred during the cold-weather months of winter. Sheep were normally brought into centrally located pens or corrals as the weather turned colder and the rainy season began, especially at night. If this were not significant, it begs the question, "Why would Luke have mentioned it in such detail if not to convey a time reference?"

Notice what commentator Adam Clarke writes regarding this:

It was a custom among the Jews to send out their sheep to the deserts [wilderness], about the passover [sic], and bring them home at the commencement of the first rain: during the time they were out, the shepherds watched them night and day. As the passover [sic] occurred in the spring, and the first rain began early in the month of Marchesvan, which answers to part of our October and November, we find that the sheep were kept out in the open country during the whole of the summer. And as these shepherds had not yet brought home their flocks, it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our Lord was not born on the 25th of December, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could He have been born later than September, as the flocks were still in the fields by night. On this very ground the nativity in December should be given up. The feeding of the flocks by night in the fields is a chronological fact, which casts considerable light on this disputed point. (*Clarke's Commentary*, vol. V, p. 370)

Why is it important that we know when Jesus was born? We certainly do not use this knowledge to celebrate His birthday—He tells us to commemorate His death, not His birth (I Corinthians 11:23-26). The true date, however, destroys

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the entire foundation of the Christmas holiday. It also points to the proper time of His ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection, helping to disprove the unsupported Good Friday-Easter Sunday tradition also. Lastly, and maybe most importantly, it renews our faith in God's Word—that it is true, verifiable, and historically accurate.

In addition, we should know even these details so that we can provide common-sense reasons for our beliefs. We live in a world of compromise and confusion—especially in the realm of religion—and thus we must study and follow what is true so we will not be fooled by what is counterfeit. The Christmas season promotes a lie concerning the date of the birth of Jesus Christ. We need to do more than reject the world's explanation; we need to know, prove, and follow what is true.

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Proof of the Bible

(Copyright) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

Is the Bible the inspired *Word of God*? Can we believe the internal evidence and the mind-boggling claims made within the Holy Bible? Is it possible to prove that the Bible is indeed the very Word of God? The purpose of the Bible is to reveal the divine authority of God over mankind and to make known His universal plan of salvation, and how it is being achieved. It reveals that Jesus Christ will soon return to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth.

The Bible reveals the purpose for man's existence – to ultimately be like God, in the Family of God! The Bible is our only authority for God's doctrine. The Holy Scriptures make known the complete revelation of God's purpose and plan for us. *“The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”* (Romans 1:16) *“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”* (Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3)

The Ambassador College motto engraved in a stone plaque in the Loma D. Armstrong Ambassador Hall reads, “The Word of God Is the Foundation of Knowledge.” Without the written Bible, men would have no sure knowledge of the Creator God.

The Bible is our Creator's instruction manual for His creation. Let's understand that the Bible is the very source of man's foundational principles. Without the Scriptures we would know nothing of salvation, eternal life, or the spirit world. We would not know about angels or the Kingdom of God. That information cannot be perceived by our five senses, nor derived from any other source. *“Receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls.”* (James 1:21)

The Bible provides vital answers to the big questions in our lives that experts and universities cannot answer and predicts world events in the immediate future leading up to Christ's return. God's prophecies are always fulfilled because He alone has the power to bring them about! Fulfilled prophecy is a proof of the Bible. The Bible contains literally hundreds of fulfilled prophecies about Jesus Christ - born of a virgin in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, crucified, buried, and resurrected after three days and three nights in the grave. *“They pierced my hands and my feet.”* (Psalms 22:16) *“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”* (Isaiah 46:10)

The Bible is absolutely true. It contains the history of the world – written in advance and preserved over the many centuries. Archeology has never been able to disprove any Scripture, nor will it. Some skeptics ask, “How can the Scriptures be true when so many modern nations are not mentioned by name?” The answer is that foreign nations are mentioned only in as much as they come into contact with Abraham and his family, Israel. *“Jesus said, This day is salvation come to this house, for so much as he also is a son of Abraham.”* (Luke 19:9) God's people, Israel, are central to the purpose of His plan of salvation for all mankind. Jesus Christ inspired the prophets of old, and He made Himself known to Israel. Ancient Israel received God's law, but not His Holy Spirit. The Church of God

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is *spiritual* Israel. (Galatians 6:16)

“Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2Peter 1:21) *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets. Has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son [Jesus].”* (Hebrews 1:1-2) The true author of the Bible is Jesus Christ. *“...The Spirit of Christ which was in [the prophets] did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ.”* (1Peter 1:11)

It is possible for us to prove for ourselves that the Bible is the Word of God by obeying its teachings and principles. As Jesus said in Luke 11:28, *“Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.”* Study God’s Word and you will come, not only to believe it, but also to love it! The world sees and hears without understanding because it is necessary to have God’s Spirit open our minds to His understanding. *“The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* (1Corinthians 2:14)

Those Christians who routinely make the Scriptures a part of their lives have learned that the Bible is the *Living Word of God*, in that the more we practice grace and knowledge, the more God’s character is revealed to us each time we study into His Word. When individuals have made the Bible’s teachings a part of their lives – then they learn that the Holy Scriptures are, most assuredly, the Word of God.

Where do we go for the knowledge of the Truth of God? Only the Bible has the answers. *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away.”* (Matthew 24:35) *“Set them [Christians] apart through thy truth: Thy Word is Truth.”* (John 17:17, Psalms 119:160) The whole bible fits together perfectly, without contradiction, though it was written and compiled by multiple authors over many centuries. *“... The Word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken.”* (John 10:35)

We go to the Holy Scriptures for inspiration because the Bible is God’s inspired word - the unique revelation from God to mankind. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* (2Timothy 3:16-17)

Yes, the Bible can be proven to be the Word of God! But there is only one sure-fire way to prove it – you must live it! Put the Holy Bible to the test by establishing its complete veracity for yourself. God’s Word will change your life. *“The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12) Jesus said, *“Yes, rather, blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it.”* (Luke 11:28) *“If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.”* (John 13:17)

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Burning Man Revisited in 2022...
(Copyright) by Steven Blackledge (Sonora, California)

Hope you’re having a wonderful sabbath day... The Burning Man festival is returning after a several year hiatus...

It is observed in the late August, early September timeframe in the Northern Nevada area... I wrote the article below about 7 years ago, and it applies now just as much as we continue to draw ever closer for the need of our Savior to return before humanity self-destructs... As the old adage goes, "you play with fire, and eventually you will get burned."... Sin, and the practice thereof is like playing with fire... Pushing the limits on what one exercises when it is contrary to our Creator’s will does appeal to the carnal nature that all were born with to some degree or another... Rebellion is the creed which motivates many within societies today, and sadly has become more popularized as a way to live one’s life in

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defiance of what was once considered good...

This yearly festival of the Burning Man was put on the back burner (pun intended) for a few years due to Covid restrictions... What is ironic about this gathering of folks who many hold to a belief of green energy, and "saving the environment" movement, is how many of them travel long distances via transportation modes which require the use of fuels which emit carbons in the air... While towards the end of this 9-day event this wooden idol in the form of a man that has been erected to symbolize this gathering, is burned up... Again, which goes against everything many environmentalists stand for... Except of course when other's that they disapprove of actually exercise it... Does not apply to themselves of course...

I find it very ironic that there is a pagan theme to this, and that which is quite contrary to our Creator's will is practiced, and promoted in hedonistic fashion... We all know that the wages of sin is death, and this huge celebration of a burning man effigy ends with those attending observing this idol being torched in elation... The celebration of death rather than life has been an ongoing theme that has gathered steam during these last few decades... A reflection of the spiritual state of humanity, and our fallen state of being due to lawlessness becoming a normal way to live life... We are instructed by God to ensure we steer clear of such practices so as to not stain the spiritual garment that we received upon repentance through our Beloved Savior Jesus Christ within 2 Corinthians chapter 6:

"14 Do not be unequally bound together with unbelievers [do not make mismatched alliances with them, inconsistent with your faith]. For what partnership can righteousness have with lawlessness? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? **15** What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial (Satan)? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? **16** What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God"

With what is ultimately a spiritual battle will only escalate in magnitude as lawless behavior becomes more abominable in acceptance, and practice... This "anything goes" attitude is truly leading to destruction of those who embrace it, and celebrate with great pride such behaviors sadly... May our reality, and focus be upon our Spiritual calling in Christ Jesus in order to ensure perseverance prevails on a personal level as our Savior is relied upon most abundantly while we dwell in these frail, temporary bodies... Sustaining, and exercising self-control for God's righteousness sake, as we submit to His sovereign will in order to grow in the grace, and knowledge that HIS SON defines as the WORD of GOD...

Anyway, below is the writing... God's peace, and unfailing love be with us all through these deceptive, and seductive times we now live in... Take care...

Throughout history the nature in man has not changed for the most part... Seeking spiritual fulfillment, and truth in all the wrong places, as well as giving in to a form of godliness (that which is not of God our Creator) has continued to plague us... While we continue to seek solutions to bring about world peace outside of the parameters our Creator has set before us, there are those who blame HIM for allowing the suffering to exist in our world today, and in centuries past...

All the while our Wonderful Loving God has reached out to humanity through HIS WORD the bible, the prophets of old, and various individuals who have represented HIM in Spirit, and in Truth... But the WORD spoken, or written within scripture is not what is wanted with many who have been made known of HIM, simply because it would require a radical change of behavior in many people's lives... They seek a god in their own image... A carnal mind knows not the ways of God, nor does an individual found in this spiritual state truly want to let go of sinful behavior... A form of covetousness which one is made subject to principalities of darkness who have deceived a great majority of individuals that have lived throughout the centuries that it is liberty to be able to do so...

We have to want to change, and truly have to make a concerted effort to condition ourselves to obey God... But it does require far more than our spirit alone in order to accomplish that which we were not born to do for the most part... God's Spirit in us is essential in this process that lasts a lifetime while in this fleshly state...

Which brings me to the topic of this article, and post... Just about every year since its inception in 1986, the "Burning Man" ceremony has increased in attendance... This year once again broke a record for attendance... It was estimated 70,000 people attended this weeklong festival which culminates in the burning of a wooden idol that has ranged in height from 9 feet to 100 feet plus... This year it was 60 feet tall.

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From what I have read, and studied, a great many who attend are very talented individuals, as well as those who are successful within their current employment.... Movie stars, billionaires, etc. have attended this event over the years... Many have admitted debauchery, and hedonistic behavior takes place during this period of time that begins on the last Monday of August, and ends on the first Monday of September, or Labor Day...

So, one can ascertain that God Almighty is not being honored during this time, and in fact many believe it has nothing to do with worship at all... But how one chooses to view something does not necessarily make it so... This is a form of worship that is not new... It is a sacrifice that can be traced back to the Wicca practice of the burning of the Wicker Man ceremony... This pagan ideal is nothing more than modern day idol worship, and does in indeed bring honor to those who are undeserving of praise, and glorification...

Here is a Wikipedia description of the Wicker Man ceremony... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicker_man

Here is the Wikipedia description of the Burning Man ceremony.... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burning_Man

The founder of the Burning Man ceremony, Larry Harvey, declared that this had nothing to do with the Wicker Man event, but a picture is worth a thousand words... Paganism is on the rise in our world... Especially in the Western World where many have seen a dramatic drop in attendance within Christian churches in both Western Europe, and here in America...

There has also been a false gospel that has been embraced within many "Christian" churches that have elements of New Age doctrines within them... This watered-down version of worship has everything to do with mixing good with evil... In time, if allowed to continue in practice this evil will eventually usurp that which is accounted as righteous in the eyes of our Great Creator... Nothing new under the sun in that area either, and not really a surprise considering what scripture points out would occur in these latter days before the imminent return of our Messiah...

Many false preachers, and prophets have taken certain passages within scripture, and defined them for their own personal gain, and glorification... Instead of declaring the prophecies contained within God's Word, the bible, these false ministers have spoken that which appeals to those who attend their congregations... Which is why there are so many sects of Christianity... Scripture points out that the body of Messiah is not to be separate, and is bound together by the Spirit of the Living God... In fact, Paul chastened the assemblies at Corinth in his first letter to these folks in 1 Corinthians chapters 1 through 4...

Take the time to read these chapters and see the parallels of what has transpired over the centuries since that time during the 1st century AD... As Paul points out, those not being led by the Spirit of God have caused divisions... But the bottom line is we as INDIVIDUAL believers must not be taken in by false doctrines which have nothing to do with the TRUTH as our Savior defines it... We have a responsibility to PROVE all things in accordance to the will of our Father in heaven. If someone is declaring another gospel, or has tainted the gospel of our Messiah, we are to try, and correct that fellow brother in a spirit of love, and concern... NO matter who that person is, and how popular HE or SHE may be amongst their peers...

What I find interesting about this week long ceremony is that it takes place, in all places, within a desert in an area called Black Rock in Northern Nevada... A desolate area for a ceremony which is void of the worship of God, and frankly appropriate... The physical landscape does indeed bear witness of what pagan worship leads to... Abominations being performed before God, as well as the invoking of spiritual entities that want nothing more than to see mankind suffer, to use those willing to give in to their temptations, and eventually the destruction of all of humanity... If it were up to them entirely, and these spiritual workers of darkness who exist in high places were in total control, mankind would no longer exist.

But of course, our Loving Creator is the one that is allowing for this to transpire for various reasons, and HIS will is going to always be done in the overall scheme of things... HE loves HIS creation, and is quite mindful of mankind... But God has allowed for us to learn rather harsh lessons over the years simply because we tend to repeat the same mistakes and have never learned from our historical past.

The celebration of an effigy symbolizing a man that is eventually burned is quite telling as well... One could surmise that the spiritual condition of what is considered the Western world is leading to a desolate state within many as paganism is

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embraced as a healthy alternative, or form of worship... But in the end, it will lead to destruction, and sadly a fallen state from which there is no return... Save one repenting through Christ Jesus in accordance to God's will...

One may ask who does the burning man symbolize?... Does it symbolize the burning of those who represent our Awesome God, and Creator?... Ushering out what many consider the "old" order, and ushering in the New Order of the Ages?... The reality is that it is not new at all... But as in the days of Noah both before, and after the flood... God destroyed mankind, save 8 persons, because the intent of man was nothing more than evil...

It was not too long after the flood that mankind began to rebel against their Creator again... God had to separate the masses via the mixing of languages at that point to stop the advancement of mankind's destructive ways... Of course, with the influence of Satan himself, and those who are in league with this fallen entity... But it is only through a continued practice of lawless behavior that these spiritual entities representing darkness have any influence over mankind...

A hatred towards those who are steadfast, and are striving to lead a life that is pleasing to God will only continue to escalate within the hearts and minds of those who do not receive the Truth in order that they may be saved... WE must not allow ourselves to be found in a lukewarm spiritual condition simply because those who are spiritually defined by evil will be stanch in their belief that those who are striving to be living sacrifices for the glory of God will indeed be that which is hindering their definition of peace... If one is lukewarm, that person could find themselves compromising in order to save their physical lives... But at the cost of losing eternal life in Christ Jesus....

Darkness will have its time as God allows, and as scripture points out... We are being given an opportunity to prepare for what is a spiritual war in which we must ensure that our very being is filled with the Spirit of our Wonderful God, and Savior... There is no other Way by which we are saved...

It is not our physical lives that should be of our number one concern... For God our Father ensures HE will provide us with what we need in order to sustain the flesh we exist in... But to ensure our focus in upon that which truly defines us which is not seen by the human eye... We will need our lamps to be fully lit, or Christ Jesus living fully in us through HIS SPIRIT in order to see clearly amidst the deception, and wickedness that defines this present world.

Here is another link as it concerns this burning man ceremony...

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/arti...ilization.html>

We cannot afford to be asleep at the wheel from a spiritual perspective... Being wise requires a concerted effort on our part as it concerns staying spiritually sober, and not being enticed by spiritual Babylon... Satan is indeed likened as a roaring lion that seeks to devour those whom he can... Lucifer is a hunter of mankind's souls, and his primary focus is upon the body of Messiah... Which is why it is of UTMOST importance that one is spiritually armed within the fullness of God's Spirit, and the armor HE provides by dwelling in us... HE is our strength, shield, and fortress...

God bless, and take care...

Editor's Note:

If this celebration of death sounds evil, try this other one called Bohemian Grove which has been going on since 1873. Alex Jones of Info Wars videotaped at Bohemian Grove secretly on July 15, 2000, and according to the video he believes there well could have been a live human sacrifice that took place the night he filmed their Cremation of Care ritual. To see the video, which is a little over 2 hours long, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IQGAltQ5Jg

These are our leaders taking part in these pagan rituals and it doesn't matter whether they are republican or democrat or some other party they are all one and the same as far as how they work together and ritual together. These things are demonic, never become involved in these practices believing it is just a game. When people can burn someone alive, they are not playing games, they are working for Satan himself. Also, next time you attend a bonfire remember they used to be called bone fires because they burned people alive. Laura Lee

Reincarnation and the Bible

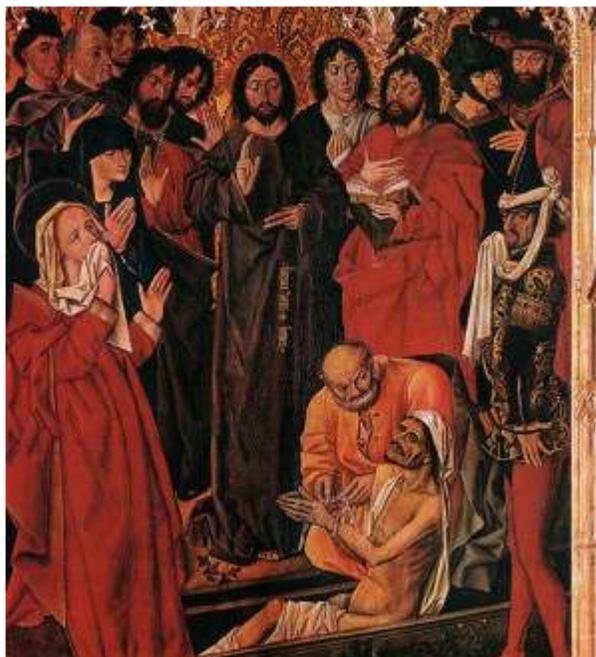
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Question: What is the definition of reincarnation? Does the Bible support this belief?

Answer: The word "reincarnation" is not in the KJV Bible. The term comes from the Latin and means 'to enter the flesh again.' Webster's Dictionary defines the word as "a rebirth of the soul in successive bodies." Another dictionary states it is the belief that, at death, a person's "soul" enters another body or form and becomes alive again. In short, it is the belief that a person's soul or spirit, after experiencing a physical death, enters into another life form.

Reincarnation is supported by various religions and other groups who teach Druidism, Theosophy, Eckankar, and New Age philosophies. Gnosticism, which was a set of heresies extant during the New Testament period, also supports this belief. The well-known Greek philosophers Plato and Socrates promoted this belief among those they taught.

The teaching of reincarnation, which promotes the belief that a person is "born again" after death, is somewhat similar to the death and resurrection of a Christian. Scripture shows that after death a believer is "asleep" until the resurrection occurs at the return of Christ Jesus.



The Raising of Lazarus
Nicolas Froment, 1461

Our friends, we want you to know the truth about those who have died . . . We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him (1Thessalonians 4:13 - 14).

The book of Daniel also refers to death as a sleep from which the righteous shall arise into a new life (Daniel 12:2 - 3). Christians, upon their resurrection, will be instantly changed and given new spiritual bodies (1Corinthians 15:35 - 38, 40, 42 - 44).

The New Age teaching in reincarnation does, admittedly, have some things that parallel the teachings of God's word. For example, Scripture teaches that the physical bodies of the righteous will experience death but that, at the resurrection of the dead, their spirits will receive a new spiritual body from God.

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One of the main differences between true Christianity and New Age is that while reincarnation teaches a person may die and assume a new form several times, God's word states only one momentous change occurs.

In God's plan, after a resurrected Christian has a spiritual body he or she enters into his family, the family of God, as his spiritual children. Just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead as a kind of first fruits (1Corinthians 15:20), so will those who are truly converted and have his Holy Spirit.

Ultimately, the teachings of reincarnation come from pagan sources and not the Bible. Our Father's plan to bring Christians back to life and give them eternal spiritual bodies so that they can be with him and Jesus' forever is a wonderful, glorious truth that is far above any man-made religion or set of beliefs!

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The Christian Menace and the Communist Responsibility (Copyright) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"In the very early days we saw the Communist regime establish an immediate kinship with people of a criminal past. We saw it use for its purposes only the dark elements who, in a cultural society, hide themselves in the back alleys of a community, men whose lives are a mass of lies, deceit, treachery, and murder. Those with this sinister background are useful tools in the Communist system. This rule started immediately to deform the very substance of spiritual and cultural life. *Education* was made into something *ridiculous*, a mechanism for political ideology and atheistic intoxication. " – Arthur Voobus, Estonian theologian and scholar

THE RUSSIANS AREN'T COMING, BUT – the Commies are already at work here in America. Just think! Priceless public-school kids are being spoon-fed a steady diet of envy, hatred, and other forms of ridiculousness. WE get kicked off social media for "hate speech." Parents at school board meetings are called domestic terrorists while the real insurrectionists, BLM and Antifa arsonists are admired. Violent criminals get "no bail" while patriots rot in jail for a year without charges.

Buck Sexton has been talking about pre-1917 Russia. The intelligentsia were aware of the Nihilists but would often invite them to dinner parties. The intellectuals later became some of the first to be executed or shipped to Siberia – along with the religious – in cattle cars, after the murder of the Tsar's whole family. See why the Bolsheviks like the criminals? Voobus wrote about the Red occupation of Estonia from 1918 to 1920, and again in 1939-1944:

"I am constantly in remembrance of the last glimpse from those arrested friends and companions whom I saw disappearing, never to be seen alive again. I, like many companions [who survived] still can hear the anguish of mothers, and the screeches of those who lost their nerve and became insane under the horror they experienced. I still see the hands of men and women, stretched out through the windows of the freight cars covered with barbed wire. Those hands, green and pale, gave mute gestures which spoke a clearer language than any mouth is able to express. Thus, I have dipped my pen in tears to write this essay."

Voobus said that one-third of the Estonian people were either shipped to concentration camps or murdered outright, an indication of suffering in the Baltic states and all-over Eastern Europe. His "essay" was published in the mid-1950s by the Estonian Theological Society in Exile. That little soft-cover book had such an influence upon me that it is one of my top-three favorites, after my four-version parallel Bible. Is any of this history taught in today's public schools? NOOO!

Voobus: **"The lives of little children were stage-managed to absorb the atheist spirit. Even the children instinctively perceived the perversity of this system. There was such heroism in the conduct of the Estonian children, and many of them were murdered because their unconscious, simple normality reacted against such maliciousness.**

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"In every respect the Communist system degrades the spirits of men and destroys their every internal dignity. That is, it undermines every necessary condition for the development of a human soul and heart toward personality. The aim of this process is the death of the *individual* and the burial of this wreck in a *collective mass*.

"Religion was removed from all the schools, the religious literature destroyed, the theological schools closed. Publication of religious books, newspapers, and magazines was made impossible. Deliberately planned scarcity of food was used to corrupt friends and neighbors, turning them into informers to get special privileges. Every judicial order based on law was abolished, and our country *transformed* into a great prison and slaughterhouse . . ."

Is this what is meant by "transforming America" in the name of "social justice"? Beware of "Greeks bearing gifts" and anyone promising a "New Fair Deal," Freedom from Religion, and a "more honest history" in the schools, among other "progressive" ideas. Traditionalists aren't all perfect saints, but after one year under Uncle Joe, we've served our time in Hell.

P.S. Planned starvation in Ukraine was the diet du jour for 20 million people living in a region with some of the richest soil on earth, in the early days of Uncle Joe Stalin's utopian rule. You can understand why the Ukrainians and Baltic countries are nervous. Is the old KGB-er Vladimir itching to bring back the old "Union"? The real question is who is in our Gang of Eight that's really in charge over here. Nobody knows. An excerpt from THE WEEK, 8/27/21, regarding our exit from Afghanistan (which I call the Half AF Exit):

"With the Biden administration's credibility 'shredded,' China and Russia are likely to push their advantage by trying to claim territory in the South China Sea or Ukraine or the Baltics. The Americans 'will then be tempted to overreact to prove that they haven't lost their mojo.' Now that the weakness of the superpower is exposed, the world has become 'a more dangerous place.'"

[y'think?] – quote from Vince Cable in the UK *Independent*

PPS: As an aside, a college classmate of mine went on to be a student under Arthur Voobus at the Theological Seminary at the University of Chicago in the 1960s. My friend told how, when Voobus arrived at the classroom door, he would stop and say a very intense silent prayer. Probably remembering the horrors Estonia suffered on account of follies and ignorance of academe in pre-1917 Russia. He would probably be embarrassed by the Academia in higher education in the 21st century. Ignorance of the future is the *worst* kind of ignorance. May the Lord have mercy on America in 2022!

PPPS: The Voobus "essay" was entitled "The Communist Menace and Our Christian Responsibility."

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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