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A Newsletter for the People of God
September 10, 2022 --- Issue No. 84

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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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Website: Church of God, Bismarck <https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org>

Articles

(Length – At Our Discretion)

Proof of The Church

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

Jesus Christ said, "I will build My Church." (Matthew 16:18) He started His Church with the disciples and those who received His Spirit on Pentecost Day. Jesus did not construct a cathedral, basilica, mosque, or any other kind of physical structure - but he began bringing together His saints - the Church. The most High God does not dwell in man-made temples (Acts 7:48). Christians are the temple of God. He lives in them, walks in them; He is their God and they are His people (2Corinthians 6:16).

The Church of God is: One Church

Jesus Christ is the head of the one true Church. God the Father made Jesus Christ to be the head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22, Ephesians 5:23;). All the different kinds of church organizations on earth today, professing conflicting doctrines, cannot be the same church that Jesus founded; that would be confusion. Jesus says to those who would alter His teachings, "Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) The True Church that Jesus built possesses, practices, and believes the set of guidelines He originally proclaimed, including the Doctrines of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 6:1-2), His commandments (including the Saturday Sabbath), the Feasts of the Lord (Leviticus 23), and every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

God the Father Calls the Brethren

The Church of God that Jesus began to build was the group of faithful people called out of this world, one by one, directly by God the Father. Jesus said that no man could come unto Him unless the Father gave it unto him - the Father must draw him to me (John 6:65, John 6:44). God then grants them repentance from sin because no man is able to turn around from his sinful life on his own (Romans 2:4). It is also God the Father who reveals that salvation is only obtainable through His Son. God gives that belief and faith in Jesus Christ as a personal Savior only to those He calls into the Church (Ephesians 2:8). Those two things - repentance and faith are necessary for baptism.

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The Brethren Are the Church

Only those men and women in whom the Spirit of God resides are the Church - the children of God. Children of God live their lives led by God's Spirit (Romans 8:9, Romans 8:14). A child of God receives God's Holy Spirit at baptism and with the laying on of hands (Acts 8:17, Acts 13:4, Acts 19:6). For the convert, having himself placed under water is a picture of the burial of the old sinner. Coming up out of the watery grave is a picture of being raised to life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:4). With his sins forgiven, he is prepared to receive the promise of the Father - God's Holy Spirit. Jesus has only one Church. "There is one Body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, And through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

The Church of God is the Body of Jesus Christ

What does Paul mean when he says, "The Father is...in you all?" In the exact same way that a daddy gives life to his unborn child, God the Father gives His Life - His Spirit - to His newly begotten child of God with the laying on of hands after baptism. John writes that the new Christian becomes a child of God, a part of the Church of God (1John 3:2). Paul shows that the Church of God is the Body of Jesus Christ. "...The Church, which is His Body." (Ephesians 1:22-23) "...For His [Christ's] body's sake, which is the Church." (Colossians 1:24) "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body... and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." "You are the Body of Christ, and members in particular." (1Corinthians 12:13, 1Corinthians 12:27)

The Work of God

Jesus said that it is His Father who does the work. What is that 'work of God'? The Bible defines in Jesus' own words what the 'Work of God' is: "This is the Work of God, that you believe on Him [Jesus] whom He [the Father] hath sent." (John 6:29) The Father is bringing many sons to glory by bringing them to Jesus (Hebrews 2:10). Christians, then, are the fruit or product of God's work. Sometimes men build church organizations and then claim the way to God is through them. Jesus is the only mediator between man and God. "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1Timothy 2:5)

The Name of the Church is: The Church of God

On the night before He died, Jesus prayed a special prayer to His Father. Being concerned about the Church brethren who would remain, Jesus asked that they be looked after and protected. He prayed, "Holy Father, keep through your own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." (John 17:11) The Bible records many instances of Christians being referred to as the Church of God. "Unto the Church of God, which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord." (1Corinthians 1:2)

Where is the Church of Jesus Christ Today?

Jesus said that you could identify His followers by their fruits. He meant that His saints would be recognizable because they would be living their lives differently from the world around them (Matthew 7:20). That is because a Christian's life is changed by the working of God's Spirit in them. They begin to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. "The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth." (Ephesians 5:9) Some of the other fruits or virtues of which Jesus taught are listed in Galatians 5:22: Godly love, cheerfulness, peace, longsuffering, moral excellence, goodness, faith, humility, and self-control. The faithful brethren of God's Church, the first fruits, who practice their Christian faith in this way, and endure until the end will become part of the first fruits harvest and be kings and priests working to save the rest of mankind in the Kingdom of God.

Summary

The Church is the Body of Christ, the body of believers, the children of God and the first fruits in God's plan, who have God's Holy Spirit. The true Church of God is not an earthly organization, denomination, or a corporate body – it is a spiritual entity. The brethren who constitute the Church of God are promised the better resurrection; that is a resurrection to Spirit God-life, and to rule under the authority of Jesus Christ all throughout the millennium. No man has dominion over a Church member's faith. Each converted person must work out his/her own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). God places each person within the Church as it pleases Him. Spiritual gifts are given to the individual Church members for the profit of all the brethren (1Corinthians 12:7). The Church is to preach the same Gospel that Jesus proclaimed - the coming Kingdom of God, (including a warning to all nations especially the lost tribes of the house of Israel). The Church is the Kingdom of God in embryo in which God is reproducing Himself in man.

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Joy, Gladness, Rejoicing

(Copyright) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

If joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, can the unconverted ever have joy? The answer is YES! God has provided many types of joy, gladness, and rejoicing in this mundane life that any or all even non-religious people can have. What a miserable world it would be if there were no occasions for joy!

The Bible shows that people can have joy in the person they love (Ecclesiastes 9:9). People have gladness and joy at weddings and a wife should bring her husband joy (Proverbs 5:18). The birth of children and grandchildren and subsequent contact with those they love (Psalms 113:9). A wise and righteous son makes his father rejoice (have joy). See Proverbs 10:1; 23:24

There can be joy in the accomplishment of work or hobby. "...there is nothing better than that man (person) should rejoice in his own works..." (Ecclesiastes 3:22; 5:19).

There can be joy in eating and drinking: "There is nothing better for a man (person) than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw that it was from the hand of God" (Ecclesiastes 2:24). A person can rejoice in the good things that s/he accomplishes in this life and the kind acts they do: "...but for a (person) to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man (person) should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God" (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13).

Young men (and women) can rejoice in their youth -- being vital and full of energy, hope, and expectations (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

Various pleasures such as eating, and drinking provide some of the joys that help people to enjoy life (Ecclesiastes 8:15). God gives these joys to humans in the course of their lives. "Behold what I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he takes under the sun all the days of his life, which God gives him: for it is his portion and has given him power to eat (partake) thereof, and to take his portion and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God" (Ecclesiastes 5:18-19).

One of the purposes of wine according to the Bible is to cheer people and make glad the heart of man and figuratively cheer even God. See Psalm 104:15 & Judges 9:13.

A good word spoken or somehow communicated can bring joy. "Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad" (Proverbs 12:25 NAS). Also, a friendly look can cheer up the person and bring joy: "Bright eyes gladden the heart..." (Proverbs 15:30 NAS).

There are inner joys that no one else can really understand but the individual experiencing them (Proverbs 4:10). And a wise man knows the value of the joys of the heart. "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22 NAS).

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<http://daveantion.com/>

Ancient Roots and Routes (Prophecy) (Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Cecil B. DeMille's 1956 "The Ten Commandments" movie dramatically portrayed God's presence on Mount Sinai as recorded in Exodus 19. Mountain tops seem to be special places where God communicates or reveals His presence with those seeking Him. Jesus would often go to a mountain top to pray or to give revelation to His disciples (See Matthew 5:1, 14:23, 17:1-2, 24:3; Mark 3:13; Luke 6:12 for some examples). Nearly everyone has heard of the sermon on the mount.

Likewise, a mountain in Canaan played a role in the lives of Abraham and Jacob. In Genesis 12, God told Abram to leave his father's house and head to the land of Canaan. When Abram entered Canaan, we read that he first stopped at Shechem where God appeared to Abram and said that He would give this land to Abram's seed. From Shechem, Abram traveled further south along an established road toward Bethel (Luz, later named "Bethel" by Abram's grandson, Jacob.) This road is now referred to as the "Way of the Patriarchs" by scholars. It is mentioned in Judges 21:19, "which is north of Bethel [Shiloh] east of the road that goes up from Bethel to Shechem." Today, it is known as Highway 60 in Israel.

Abram made it to a high mountain near Bethel. Genesis 12:8 says that Abram pitched his tent on this mountain between Bethel and Ai. Bethel was toward the west and Ai was toward the east. Where can we find this mountain today?

Abram moved on down into Egypt but later returned to this mountain near Bethel. This is where Abram and his nephew, Lot, decided to part company. See Genesis 13:3-4. After Lot departed, God then said to Abram, "Now lift up your eyes from the place [this mountain top near Bethel] where you are and look to the north and south and east and west, for all the land that you see, I will give to you and your descendants **forever**" Genesis 13:14-15.

It is this same mountain that will play a significant event with Jacob, Abram's grandson, when he has to flee from his brother Esau. Jacob had received Esau's blessing by deception. His father, Isaac, did not want him to marry any of the local women and sent Jacob to Paddan-Aram to find his own kinsman. Jacob followed the ancient road from Beersheba on up to Shechem that had been used by Abram. He made an overnight stop near Luz which he renamed Bethel after having a frightening dream that night.

In this dream, Jacob saw a ladder or a **staircase**. God spoke to him and gave him the same promise that He had given to Abram many years before at the same location (Genesis 28:12-15). What was so special about this location?

In fact, after Jacob had spent 20 years in Paddan-Aram, God identified Himself as the "God of Bethel" and told Jacob to return to Bethel where he had set up a pillar (Genesis 31:13; 35:1). After dealing with his father-in-law, Laban, and his brother, Esau, Jacob and crew finally returned to Bethel where God repeated His promise that He had given to Jacob at the beginning of his journey (Genesis 35:6-7, 9-14).

The place that is considered to be the location of ancient Bethel is the village of Beitin north of Jerusalem. This is disputed by David Livingston who believes el-Bireh, east of Ramallah, is the correct location of Bethel. East of el-Bireh is a high mountain with a **staircase** appearance. On that mountain exists an Israeli settlement called "Psagot." The name means "pinnacle."

This area may play an important role in Israel's future just as it did in the past. The first video (4 minutes) will give you some background on Psagot. The second video (28 minutes) tells the story of the Psagot Winery and the symbolism of the roots of the vine (Ezekiel 17) with Israel. The third video is a short Psagot Winery promo (two minutes). Because of the controversy of the Jewish settlement in the West Bank area, you won't find their wine on the shelves of any woke corporations. Yet, if you want a connection (root) to the very place where God made a promise to Abraham and Jacob, then consider obtaining a bottle for the Feast or perhaps Passover. The last video is a 6-minute explanation of the ancient roads of the Bible.

I encourage you to watch all the videos for some good background on this special area which may someday reveal why God chose that location to pronounce His promises. If you want to read David Livingston's article on Bethel, the link is

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also below.

<https://youtu.be/tqZv-Fy4luw>

<https://youtu.be/yarpxQBMOZc>

https://youtu.be/U9MwPz0Ug_o

<https://youtu.be/DH4PC9BBkLE>

Ancient Days:: Locating Biblical Bethel :: by David Livingston (davelivingston.com)

Questionable Article

Tell us why you believe this is a true or false doctrine and Why?

(Be sure to tell us if you want your name on your comments or not.)

Learn to Give an Answer!

Salvation of Angels

(Copyright) by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

We are blinded. You are blinded. We look at the Bible and read what it says, and we think we see – but we don't. An unimaginable trove of truth is hidden in plain sight on every page of your Bible, and you just can't see it – no one can.

Case in point; you probably believe that devils and angels are completely different, and that there is no gray area between them – those angels are perfect and sinless, and all devils are completely opposed to God's way, beyond all hope of redemption.

The thing is, that's not what the Bible says – and you know that, you've read the verses that say otherwise, **but you never really read them.**

Are devils a different type of creature from angels? Or are they simply angels who do bad things?

Psalms 78:41, 49 *Yea, they turned back and tempted God... He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending **evil angels** among them.*

This tells us right away that angels and demons are simply a label, a description of the team they play for, and not a description of the species. How else does Satan appear *just like any other holy angel?* (**2 Corinthians 11:14**).

Satan was perfect, a holy angel, until the day that he sinned (**Ezekiel 28:15**). **But he was, and still is, an angel!** The same kind of being as Michael or Gabriel. **The difference existed only in his heart and was only discernible by his actions!**

So, are all demons equally committed to the rebellion? Jesus said that a cast-out devil sometimes *"goes and gets seven other spirits **more evil than himself**"* (**Luke 11:26, BBE**). Now if they are *more* evil, that would make him *less* evil, right?

That's why Jesus said some devils are harder to cast out than others (**Matthew 17:21**). Because some are more stubbornly committed to disobedience than others!

On the other hand, if angels are all equally righteous, then why does Gabriel say that only Michael stands by his side against the evil angels ruling Greece and Persia?

Daniel 10:20-21 (BBE) *...But I am going back to make war with the angel of Persia, and when I am gone, the angel of Greece will come... **And there is no one on my side against these, but Michael, your angel.***

So, this is not the black and white, incorruptibly good vs. absolute evil battle we're led to believe it is. The universally believed idea that devils are incorrigibly evil, and angels are unassailably holy is simply not what the Bible says. It is obviously – and I mean, obviously – not true.

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The reality is, angels and demons form opposite ends of a political spectrum, and just as loyalists and rebels are both humans, so angels and demons are both the same type of creature!

Like human political parties, the ones on the far right always vote right, ones on the far left always vote left; and in the middle is a vast pool of swing votes.

And just as human factions vary in their degrees of commitment and fanaticism, so angels vary widely in their loyalty to, or hatred of, God’s laws.

This makes sense, because it’s how everything we’ve ever seen works; why would the angelic realm be different? Because even the most righteous angels with the best intentions make mistakes from time to time *which are called sins*.

Now before you object vehemently and say “Angels are sinless! They’re holy!!” I want you to think about it a second! Haven’t ALL sinned, and come short of the glory of God? (**Romans 3:23**). [Are angels the exception?](#)

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Articles – More Parts
(Other Parts of Already Printed Articles)

Empty

Feast Sites

Feast Site – Lake Tahoe – Guardian Ministries

(Copyright) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

Here is an update on the Feast and the rooms at the Beach Retreat and Lodge at South Lake Tahoe.

Urgent Request for anyone potentially interested in booking either a “Lake View” room, “Beach Front” room, or one of the “Suite” rooms for our upcoming Feast of Tabernacles at South Lake Tahoe?

Currently, the upgrade rooms from our original block have booked out, HOWEVER, we may be able to Add More of the Upgraded rooms to our block “IF” needed?

If you are considering attending with us, but still are not certain, that is perfectly fine, as you can book and still cancel up to 48 hours prior to check-in without charge or penalty. However, it is advisable to book your room now to ensure availability. If you have not yet done so but think you might want to come, go ahead and book now because there is no obligation if you cancel.

Please let me know as soon as possible, as we will be asking our booking agent to make any needed adjustments by this Thursday afternoon, so the upgraded rooms can be made available for booking this weekend. There are still regular Garden View rooms currently available.

*As a reminder, our Discounted rates, when using our Group Code **FEAST** (all CAPS) ...*

\$129 Garden

\$149 Lake-view

\$169 Beach-front

There are 3 options for Suites...

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King Parlor Suite - similar to our One King guest room however it has a smaller living room area with a balcony attached right off of the bedroom. Group rate \$229

Two-Bedroom Suite - it has One King bedroom and another bedroom with Two Queens however there is still just one bathroom. Group rate \$309

Honeymoon Suite - One King bedroom with sitting area and larger bathroom. Group rate \$329

There is no guarantee that the upgrade rooms will still be available, but we need to know if there is interest so we can make the request.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need the booking information.

Looking forward to our wonderful fellowship during the Feast!

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Letters

Letter from Ray Daly (September 2, 2022)

Ray Daly writes:

You asked for a continuation of my "Exodus" series. I sent to you a "conclusion" to said series. Why? Because.

First, you accept some/more of it, but you "do not agree with" some parts. Truth is based on Scripture, and history that is supported by Scripture. But Scripture is the anchor.

Laura Lee writes:

You sent us an article that you wanted us to print. As I go through articles, I get them ready to print at the same time. When I got to the end of your article it talked about there being a "Part 4" and all I had were the first three parts. So, I emailed you and asked for part 4. You emailed back and said you would have part 4 ready by the time we were ready to print the article. I was ready to print the article at the time I emailed you for the 4th part. As stated below, you say it needs another 3-4 parts. When you get done with the article, re-submit it at that time, for now we will skip your article and move on to the next one.

Ray Daly writes:

But I stopped to think. Are you going to print the series. It will take another 3-4 parts to finish it, as I see it now. But what is the use? Think about it. Why care, if you will print it, and do not agree with it? Wouldn't it be best if you let me know what you do not "agree with", so we can "Scripturally" work out the differences? And then print it?

Laura Lee writes:

First of all, you sent the article and when you do that, you should send the whole thing at one time. Do I have to agree with every single thing I print, because that is not going to happen. And here is the big question, have you ever been able to "Scripturally" work out the differences with anyone? I've been doing this newsletter thing for many years, and I have yet to have anyone who I disagreed with come back later and say, oh, I guess you were right.

God did not call His people stiff-necked for nothing. For some reason they don't always care what scripture actually says and they go off and create their own doctrines which are not in many cases backed up by scripture. God gave all of us a mind with which to think, but unfortunately many use the carnal side more than they use the Holy Spirit of God.

Ray Daly writes:

Pick a point you do not Agree with, and let's work it out. It would be different if you let the readers respond to what you

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print, and "then" work together with the authors and readers to come to a Scriptural solution. But, if you must have control of all responses, what good is it to those that write and read?

Laura Lee writes:

I am sorry Ray, but I do not put the words in your mouth, nor do I change what you send over here to print. I format it to fit in the newsletter, but I do not change what you say. All readers and writers can respond to anything which is printed in this newsletter. There is no one here that is controlling your response to anything. Just like you have a right to disagree with any given article which has been printed, we also have that right.

In all honesty Ray, neither Darwin nor I agree with much of what you send over here. As far as working together with the authors and readers I thought we were doing that by providing this newsletter.

Ray Daly writes:

I have the rough draft of Part #4, which shows us what the "government" of the nation WAS supposed to be like, and also what the "government" of the church today IS supposed to be like. Think about it, and what Paul said of said communications between believers. You know the answer, so I will just paraphrase it. Paul told one church he wrote to, to pass on to another church what he had written to them, and that church was to pass on to the other church what he had written to them. IOW's, he was encouraging the two churches to communicate "with one another".

Now, Diotrephes would not have allowed his "church" to do any such thing. Just as the "man ordained" Diotrephes of most Sabbath churches today will/would not allow their members to do. God Almighty and Jesus Christ want believers to communicate with one another, not to be under any Diotrephes minded "ordained ministers".

Laura Lee writes:

This newsletter is open to anyone who wants to participate in it or just read it. I remember recently you asked me how you could help with the newsletter, and I told you by looking in the news for prophecy stuff or by writing up "Iron Sharpening Irons" in regard to printed articles that you agree or disagree with. The next email I got from you is that you were too busy right now to, I assume, to do either. So, I am not sure what it was that you wanted to help us with? Perhaps you could fill me in.

Ray Daly writes:

Note Laura. I am on yours and Darwin's side. But just as you do not agree with all that others write (and that is acceptable), so also the readers have equal rights. We ought to be "working together", not being put on hold.

Laura Lee writes:

And when did we ever put you on hold? Whatever that actually means. Again, anyone reading this newsletter has a right to agree or disagree with anything which is printed in it. And as far as I know many people are "working together" through this newsletter. If I am wrong about that please let me know.

Ray Daly writes:

Now, back to "Exodus". Your work, your choice. My article...! Let's work together on the differences first. I want it to be as accurate as possible also.

Have a great day of "rest". And, Laura, please try to get some of the deserved rest. It is hard to come by these days.

Laura Lee writes:

Again, I am sorry Ray, but we have a policy not to discuss scripture over email. If we did not have a newsletter to put together on a weekly basis, we would have more time to discuss scripture via email. As it is now, I get up in the middle of the night to work on the newsletter and our business stuff because my days are not long enough to fit everything in. We discuss scripture in the newsletter and everyone reading the newsletter is welcome to discuss scripture also through the newsletter. I barely have time to even get through my email on a weekly basis and sometimes I just don't have time to get my email done every week. Not having enough time is why we do not discuss scripture over email. You can however discuss scripture through the newsletter.

Does anyone have solutions to any of the things Ray brings up in this letter?

Prayer Requests

Empty

Iron Sharpening Iron

(Agree or Disagree with Something Printed)

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Iron Sharpening Iron

In regard to: Was Our Savior Created?

Article by James Steinle

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

In most literal translations of the Bible the word "beginning" is translated as "Chief". In other words what is being said is that Christ is the Chief of the creation, He is in charge of the creation. It is not saying He was created or that He was the first of the created beings.

Rev. 3:14 - And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the beginning of the creation of God**; (KJV)

One of the Strong's Concordance definitions for the word "beginning" here is "chief".

Rev 3:14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "This is what the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the originator of God's creation**, says: (LEB)

Rev 3:14 And to the angel of the assembly of Laodicea, write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, **the Head of the creation of God**: (LITV)

Rev 3:14 And to the messenger of the assembly of the Laodiceans write: These things says the Amen, the Witness—the Faithful and True—the **Chief of the creation of God**; (LSV)

Rev 3:14 'And to the messenger of the assembly of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the witness—the faithful and true—the **chief of the creation of God**; (YLT)

Rev 3:14 This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Laodicea: I am the one called Amen! I am the faithful and true witness and **the source of God's creation**. Listen to what I say. (CEV)

Colossians 1:15-18

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Col 1:16 **For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**

Col 1:17 **And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

In Col 1:16 it is pretty clear that all things were created by Christ that were created. Christ cannot create himself, so He was with God through all eternity.

John 1:1-3

Joh 1:1 In **the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **Joh 1:2** The same was in the beginning with God. **Joh 1:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (KJV)

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Joh 1:1 From **the first** he was the Word, and the Word was in relation with God and was God. **Joh 1:2** This Word was from the first in relation with God. **Joh 1:3** All things came into existence through him, and without him nothing was. (BBE)

In these scriptures it is saying that from **the first the Word (Christ) was with God (the Father) and the Word (Christ) was God. And it also says that all things that exist came through Christ and without Him (Christ) nothing would exist.**

Isaiah 43:10

Below are some Bibles that clear up this scripture for us:

In the Old King James Version, it says:

10- Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen that ye may know and believe me and understand that I am he: **before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.** 11-I even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior.

This is a literal statement made by Christ and nowhere in the statement does it say Christ was formed or created. It is a statement saying there was no God before Christ nor will there be after Him.

In the Contemporary English Version, it says:

10-My people, you are my witnesses and my chosen servant. I want you to know me, to trust me, and understand that I alone am God. **I have always been God; there can be no others.** 11-I alone am the Lord; only I can rescue you.

From the Brenton Bible, it says:

10-Be my witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know, and believe, and understand that I am he: **before me there was no other God, and after me there shall be none.**

From the Septuagint with Apocrypha, it says:

10-Be ye my witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know, and believe, and understand that I am he: **before me there was no other God, and after me there shall be none.** 11-I am God; and beside me there is no Saviour.

From the 1611 Edition of the King James Bible, it says:

10-Yee are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me and understand that I am he; **before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.** 11-I even I am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour.

In the foot note of that Bible just before "no God formed" it says "Or, nothing formed of God."

In the footnote of the 1611 Edition of the King James Bible it says "Or, nothing formed of God." Whether you want to take that as God formed nothing (including Christ) or that Christ was not formed from a part of God, it doesn't matter as both ways clearly show Christ was not created by God or from a part of God.

TSK Cross References also says the same thing:

No God Formed: or "nothing formed of God"

From the Albert Barnes Commentary:

Isaiah 43:10

Ye are my witnesses - They were his witnesses, because, first, he had given in them predictions of future events which had been literally fulfilled: secondly, by his power of delivering them so often manifested, he had shown that he was a God able to save. Neither of these had been done by the idol-gods (compare [Isa 44:8](#)).

And believe me - Or rather, confide in me.

Before me there was no God formed - I am the only true, the eternal God. In this expression, Yahweh says that he was

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the first being. He derived his existence from no one. Perhaps the Hebrew will bear a little more emphasis than is conveyed by our translation. 'Before me, God was not formed,' implying that he was God, and that he existed anterior to all other beings. It was an opinion among the Greeks, that the same gods had not always reigned, but that the more ancient divinities had been expelled by the more modern. It is possible that some such opinion may have prevailed in the oriental idolatry, and that God here means to say, in opposition to that, that he had not succeeded any other God in his kingdom. His dominion was original, underived, and independent.

Neither shall there be after me - He would never cease to live; he would never vacate his throne for another. This expression is equivalent to that which occurs in the Book of Revelation, 'I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last' [Rev 1:11](#); and it is remarkable that this language, which obviously implies eternity, and which in Isaiah is used expressly to prove the divinity of Yahweh, is, in the passage referred to in the Book of Revelation, applied no less unequivocally to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please see the article "Why Humans" printed in Issue #80 and the "Iron Sharpening Iron" to go with it.

I believe that James in sincerity studied this but, in the end, came to a wrong conclusion because he was looking in the wrong place.

My conclusion is that this is a false doctrine. Christ is not a created being. He has existed through eternity, and He will continue to exist. A created being cannot save you from sin and neither can they be worshipped. God/Christ is the beginning and the end.

Announcements

Greetings & Happy Sabbath

(Copyright) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

Happy Sabbath. Time sure is flying by, here we are exactly one Month away from the Feast of Trumpets 2022. A significant day in history according to Haggai 1:1 and another significant day soon coming according to Haggai 1:13-15.

I wanted to write you this short letter to clarify something concerning the orphans we are caring for. I also want to inform you of a new requirement the Kenya Government has requested of us.

Concerning the orphans, I have been reporting that we have been caring for 21 remote orphans and 19 orphans living at Sengera House. The 19 living at Sengera House is correct, but Nehemiah corrected me this week, informing me that there are 31 remote orphans (not 21) that we have been caring for, totaling 50 orphans in all.

These church orphans were all quite destitute when we first began helping them, and without your help many of them would have died of starvation, lack of clothes and shelter. We thank you for your compassion, and the love you have given to each and every one of them.

In James 1:27 we are told that *"pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit (relieve) the fatherless and widow in their affliction (anguish - tribulation - trouble) and to keep himself unspotted from the world"*.

You donors have been doing a fine job of assisting and caring for these orphans and widows, and we thank God for your good works which continue to glorify Him.

Concerning the new requirement from the Kenya Government, we are now required to install CCTV at the orphanage for added security. We have negotiated a good price, and it's scheduled to be installed this week.

Also, as noted above the Fall Feasts are rapidly approaching. Once again I'm asking for prayers for others to join hands with us in the important work we are involved in. The orphans, widows and orphanage continues to be blessed, and continues to produce much good fruit, but it is the *"doers"* of the Word who are *"justified"* before God, not the hearers only. The need is great, but the *"doers"* are few. Once again, our resources are depleted. If only others became aware of the need, much more of the suffering of our impoverished brethren could be eased.

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I have posted two links below. One concerning an open letter to the "churches of God" written by a long-time member of God's church after visiting our E. African Brethren.

<https://khofh.org/update-on-theopen-letter-to-thechurch-of-god/>

The other link is to an article written by another longtime member of God's church addressing the importance of helping others in need, titled "Be Ye Warmed and Filled".

<https://khofh.org/be-ye-warmed-and-filled-2/>

Your brother in Christ.
Bill Goff

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Phone: 843-447-0140

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<https://khofh.org/>

HWA Library and Archives Site

(Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)

The site has been integrated into the Friends of Sabbath site with the entry page professionalized.
<http://www.hwalibrary.org/>

More improvements coming for my sites.

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<http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/>

Wonders Center & Science Museum

(Copyright) by David Rives (Lewisburg, Tennessee)

The Wonders Center & Science Museum just got a BIG new home.

Over the last few months God has blessed us with a giant facility. Just 35 minutes from Downtown Nashville, this state-of-the-art over 100,000 square foot building will soon house a science museum and the television studios for Genesis Science Network.

Upon opening, The Wonders Center & Science Museum will be the largest science museum in the world that upholds biblical values. Driven by Christian principles, each exhibit will be designed to inspire visitors as it highlights wonders in the fields of science and history.

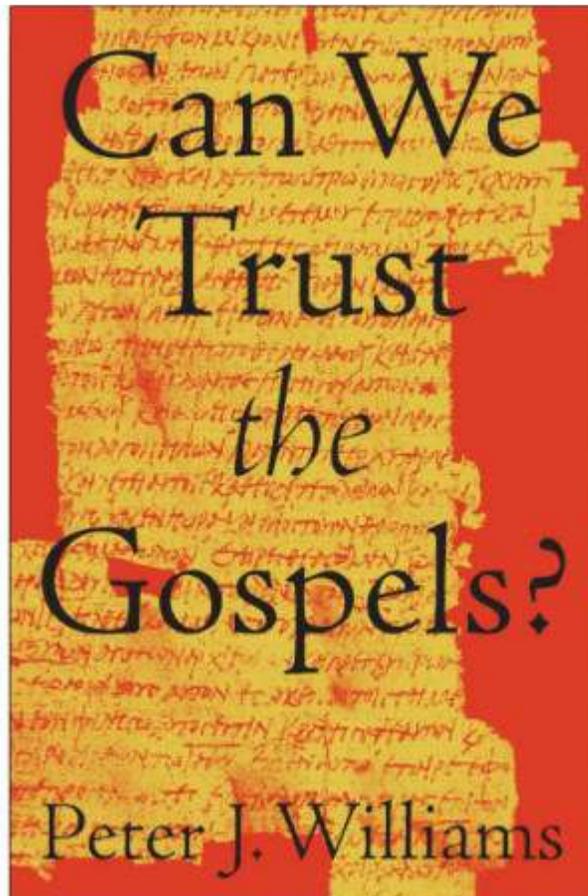
Please watch the video and join with us in [SUPPORTING THESE EFFORTS](#), as we proclaim the truth of God's creation and share the Gospel around the world.

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To learn more, visit: <https://davidrivesministries.org/>

Ads

Can We Trust the Gospels?

(Copyright) by Creation Ministries International (Powder Springs, Georgia)



<https://usstore.creation.com/product/2110-can-we-trust-the-gospels>

Book Cost \$15.00

Creation Ministries International
<https://creation.com/>

Feast Reports

Empty

Prophecy

Economic Calamity

(Copyright) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

<https://usawatchdog.com/world-in-the-process-of-bankrupting-bill-holter/>

Many prophecies reveal how economic control will factor into end-time social situation. Even 'buying & selling' will be overseen (overlorded) by a 'system' with lethal threats. Wages will barely cover food, let alone much else!

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<https://www.goldensheaves.org/>

Nuclear Threat of WW3

(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

I came across these two videos which provide eye-opening information about America's nuclear deterrent capability and the history of developing nuclear bombs.

The first video is only 11 minutes long yet filled with good info on America's nuclear attack capability for deterring any enemy attacks. The ability to retaliate against an enemy has been the main avenue for preventing a nuclear exchange between the superpowers of the world.

However, with rogue nations, such as, Iran, obtaining nuclear weapons that equation may not work against those who welcome death as part of their religious ideology and the glory that death would bring to them.

And there are those who are willing to gamble that a limited nuclear confrontation would not lead to a worldwide nuclear holocaust ending all life upon the earth. The Bible speaks of a future time of trouble in which no life would survive if not cut short by God's intervention. See Matthew 24:19-22.

The second video lays out the history of the development of the nuclear bomb and the race toward a nuclear nightmare by the superpowers of the world. This video is about 30 minutes long but worth the time to watch. The bombs that were dropped on Japan in 1945 were nuclear fission bombs.

More powerful bombs were later developed with nuclear fusion. How many times more powerful are these bombs? The number will astound you.

The only solution to the world's fate of annihilation is the intervention of God that will precede the return of Christ to bring about a lasting peace for mankind. The Bible is more up to date than any other book available. Watch these two videos, then read Revelation eight for some comparisons.

<https://youtu.be/Z1fvMmkIfSM> and <https://youtu.be/iRtTB27Wdek>

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

Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

Box of Old WCG Literature Arrived Today!

(Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)



In December last year I was advised of a large trailer of old WCG literature and after request after request to salvage it all, it came very close to being dumped. After some toing and froing, a couple of members finally went through all of it and they both took some of it including those items I did not need.

I was sent the sort of items I need for preservation and archiving – old papers, theses, handouts, policy documents etc. For instance, McDowell's thesis on funeral customs is among the goodies as well as the policy documents I have been seeking. Plus, other items I was not aware of.

The box of goodies took almost a month to arrive but arrive it did so all is well that ends well. The items scanned include:

- GTA brochure
- Organization of Financial Affairs & Planning Division, c1975
- Paper_Egret_Supplies_c1976
- Thomas Hall ltr to Mr Brown re AC applicants
- Bible Guides-Lester Grabbe (extracts from The Bulletin,1974)
- A History of the True Church (c1972. Author unknown)
- Fundamentals of Theology. Lecture Outline 1988-89
- Doctrines_of_WCG lectures 1988
- Religious Discrimination in Employment appeal info
- Follow up Bible studies to Personal Appearances
- Techniques of Counselling and How to Resolve Problems c1972
- Delegation c1971

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- Leviticus Outline c1970
- Deuteronomy Outline c1970
- Firstlings Policy-Dale Schurter c1972
- The Holy Days poem (author unknown)
- Family Relations -David Antion c1974
- OT & NT Background (probably Ernest Martin)
- OT & NT Canons (probably Ernest Martin)
- Background of Psalms (probably Ernest Martin)
- Outline of Romans c1969
- Outline of Proverbs c1970
- Outline of Proverbs c1971
- Fact Sheets on Financial Aids 1976-77
- AC Instructions to Applicants
- AC Physical Examination
- AC Student Health Record.
- Clergyman's Certification
- AC Application for Admissions Card
- AC File Transfer Card
- AC Interview Form
- AC Transcript of Secondary Schools Credit
- AC Application for Undergraduate
- Homosexuality and Related Sex Abnormalities c1972
- Penalties for Sexual Sins
- Penalties for Sexual Sins p.20
- New Heavens and New Earth - Durrell Brown
- The Doctrine of Sin - Durrell Brown
- The Rapture - Durrell Brown
- The Doctrine of the Millennium- Durrell Brown
- Law or Grace - Durrell Brown
- Statements of Doctrine 1975-76 (I already had and more, but not scanned)
- Survey of Funeral Customs-Bill McDowell MA thesis, 1970
- Inter-Office Memo 30June1970 re AC Applicants
- 1972 Rod Meredith ltr to ministry re D&R Policy 16May72
- 1972 Principles & Guidelines re D&R 16May72
- Inter-Office re New Approach in Field 15Aug1972
- Inter-Officer 1973 Ministerial Conference 26Jan1973
- Inter-Office re Management Principles for CAD 14May1973
- Types of Sermons. Guidelines-D Antion, 7June1973
- Inter-Office re Healing only part of bigger issues 31July1973
- Inter-Office re Regional Address Book 13Aug1973
- Inter-Office re Workshop Plans 15Aug1973
- Personal Appearance_Dept_Ltr_15Nov73
- Ministerial_Conference_ltr_8May74_re_WN_articles
- Ltr to Pastors re Unaffordable AC 13April1976
- Area Coordinators Mtg, 20March78-GTA
- Inter-Office 24April78 & Report on Homosexuality 1May1978
- Survey of Funeral Customs-Bill McDowell MA thesis, 1970

Some items in the box I had scanned many years ago but am very pleased to see so many items I had not seen before or had been seeking!

Of course, in terms of administration, policy and even doctrine, much of this has been superseded. On the other hand, some guidelines and teachings seem to have been forgotten over the years. Anyway, I merely upload this information to

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my site for archiving and research – and it is certainly interesting to see how the Church worked and thought in those days. You can find them in the appropriate sections such as ‘Bible’ or ‘Ministerial Resources’ etc. I just don’t have the time to link to each of them, but where they are located on my site is logical. <http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/ABC.htm>
The process was not without its technical issues, tediousness, having to disassemble documents etc to enable scanning, but in the end all’s well that ends well!

However, there are still 1970s tapes I am waiting to be sent for a friend to convert to MP3. Persistence pays!

Now don’t forget, I still seek the items listed here:

https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/Lists/list_of_theses_that_we_are_attempting_to_find.htm and especially the 1960s Ministerial Letters – please help me with this quest as I attempt to fill in the gaps of our history to enable a fuller and more complete historical record.

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<http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/>

Food for Thought
(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

We are all affected by our surroundings and those who may affect our thinking and beliefs. Even Jesus was affected by others of negative thinking and had them removed from His presence.

Lance Wallnau explains the need to remove negative influences so that we may fully focus on God's power working in our lives. His latest post will give you good food for thought. Then see how we may be more effective in doing God's work.

[The People In Your Room – Lance Wallnau](#)

GMO Atlantic Salmon –
to eat or not to eat from a scriptural perspective
(Copyright) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

“Q: AquaBounty calls the AquAdvantage™ an "advanced hybrid" fish and the company's president Ronald Stotish said recently on CNN that there is not "any material difference between the AquaBounty salmon and an Atlantic salmon." Is this fish an Atlantic salmon? And is it a hybrid or a genetically modified animal?

A: The AquAdvantage™ salmon is an Atlantic salmon with a Chinook salmon growth gene inserted into its DNA. In addition, a regulator protein from a fish called an ocean pout has been added to the Chinook growth gene turning the gene permanently in the "on" position. It is a genetically modified animal.”

<https://www.good.is/articles/everything-you-need-to-know-about-genetically-modified-salmon>

What about the ‘Ocean Pout’ with its regulator protein?

“NON-KOSHER FISH

Pout See: Ocean pout = Ocean pout or eelpout (Macrozoarces americanus)

<https://www.kashrut.com/articles/fish/#oceanpout>”

So, it appears Atlantic Salmon is not something I would want to eat due to the added regulator protein of the Ocean Pout, a fish that does not meet the scriptural requirements; at least as far as I can determine.

Isn't the term "Government School" more meaningful and truthful than the term "Public School"? (Copyright) by Jeffrey Caldwell (Arkansas)

I'm currently reading a book that is chock-full of great quotes and thoughtful passages I'd love for a lot of people to be exposed to. This snippet is not necessarily the most compelling, but merely the latest one I've come across ... please correct me if I ever employ the term "public school" again!

If the government's education system--like so much of what the federal bureaucracy touches--is such a disaster, then why do we turn our children over to it for their entire youths? Lots of reasons, starting with the name--"public school." They are government schools, but we call them "public." What a difference a word makes! *Public* sounds open, transparent, free, and wholesome, while *government* sounds compulsory, bureaucratic, wasteful, and hostile to freedom. The mere use of the word *public* is a powerful and deceptive marketing tool of governments all over the world. *Public land* sounds inviting while *government land* makes us feel like serfs.

From: The Marketing of Evil: how radicals, elitists, and pseudo-experts sell us corruption disguised as freedom
by David Kupelian.

Tongues Question (Copyright) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

This college student writes me from time to time. Tho' not of our organizational genre, he is unusually astute and very much on track!!

College Student writes:

What would you say regarding the gift of tongues? 1 Corinthians 14 states that "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church."

Rich Traver writes:

This I would say strongly suggests that the 'tongues' being referred to is a known language. A 'tongue' that needs no 'interpretation' to those who speak that particular language. What confuses the issue is the idea you refer to below, that it means some unique verbalizations that no hearer speaks, or would be expected to speak, needing to be deciphered. (A lot of times (all the time?) when multiple 'interpreters' translate what is uttered, they each 'hear' something different.) This situation alone speaks volumes!

College Student writes:

So presumably tongues is lower on the "gift hierarchy" according to Paul at least. But would you say that the gift of tongues has been poured out yet?

Rich Traver writes:

In the day, where there were many languages spoken, and nationalities co-mingled, (Acts 2:9-11) there was more need for such. But today, we have sources for translation / transcription, where the phenomenon isn't common, nor is there the same need to have it 'translated'. Now, another angle on this is the absence of scripture for the first thirty plus years of the NT Church. (New) Truths were revealed by the spoken word, as the LORD gave utterance. In audience, there could be multiple language speakers, thus the situation Paul speaks of. Now, with so much in writing today (the New Testament) there's less need and less questioning of what's being 'revealed'. We have the basis ourselves now to assess the accuracy of such utterances using the WORD! Another factor (benefit) of having the unique utterances 'interpreted' is that IF the speaker was off-base, the translator stood as an intermediary to filter out what was being incorrectly alleged. That way, there was some control over what was being disseminated. We assess these scriptures of Paul in the context of today, not factoring-in the situation they had to deal with. Another thought, does the utterer know what he is saying? I never heard of an utterer contradicting his interpreter and say, "NO that isn't what I said!!"

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College Student writes:

Many profess to speak in tongues, but it is more akin to incoherent babbling than any discernible human language.

Rich Traver writes:

Right! Those situations that I've been exposed to (where there was interpretation) the utterances, when explained, is more often than not just some kindergarten level babble. Things like "Jesus loves you" or "the Lord is coming soon", things at that level. Nothing everyone doesn't already well know. No need to have someone make such utterance in some 'inspired' unknown (unique) not-real language. If such 'revelations' contained something profound, then we might look at the phenomenon differently. But what we see actually, is a 'show' on the part of the utterer as though they were extraordinarily 'spiritual'. It's just a vanity trip!

College Student writes:

What language or communication method would you presume to be prevalent in the millennial kingdom and onward.

Rich Traver writes:

Can only speculate, but likely one that has the enormous vocabulary and a wide spectrum of nuances that English has. Too many 'dead' languages don't have the ability to convey the subtleties that modern languages can. Hebrew and Greek are limited in that respect, as the Bible translators realized.

College Student writes:

Or would glorified beings not communicate verbally unless necessary? There will be language.

Rich Traver writes:

Yes, things can also be co-conveyed at the thought level, I suspect.

College Student writes:

Perhaps telepathy, telekinesis, and the like would be par for the course for all that become part of the God family?

Rich Traver writes:

Don't angels have that now?

College Student writes:

Would you say the Godhead used "language" of any sort prior to their creative efforts in pre-eternity?

Rich Traver writes:

Well, He communicated with Adam & Eve using a spoken language. What it was before Babel we can't say for sure.

College Student writes:

As always, I look forward to your scriptural insights

Editor's Note: See the following “Contending for a More Pure Flow of Prophetic Ministry” by Eddie Hyatt in Issue #24 in regard to the tongues question. “Angel Sighting” by Laura Lee in regard to do angel speak. “Just too Explosive to Tell” by Jonathan Gray in Issue #83 in regard to what language did they speak before Babel. We also have an article coming in the future in regard to the tongues question. Laura Lee

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To ALL Contributors and Readers. Thank You!