



THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Official Newspaper of the Church of God International

Vol. 32, No. 1

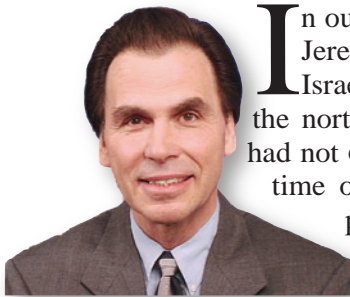
"Put on the whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:13)

Spring 2011

A World In Transition —Part 6—

by Bill Watson

Jeremiah has much to say about a nation named Israel, but curiously, at the time of his prophetic writings, Israel didn't exist as a nation; only Judah remained! So, to whom is he writing? Why is he warning the nation Israel, when it doesn't exist?



Bill Watson

In our last chapter, we reviewed what Micah and Jeremiah had to say about the Israelite nations of Israel and Judah. We were reminded that Israel, the northern section of the once divided kingdom, had not existed as a nation for over 100 years at the time of Jeremiah's writing! Obviously then, this presents a dilemma if we're going to be contextual with his writings.

Remembering to put Jeremiah into his contextual timeline, we recognize one of his primary objectives was to warn Judah about the impending invasion and perils the Babylonian Empire posed to this last remaining tribe of Israel. However, in addition, it appears he has a message for Israel; but remember, the Assyrians had conquered the nation Israel over 100 years prior to his writings—yet strangely, he writes to them *by name* as though they are a legitimate nation existing alongside Judah, but they don't! What are we missing here?

Perhaps the best way to approach this is by reviewing some of the more prominent scriptures pertaining to Israel and Judah in this *parallel context*. Doing this will help us see if it makes any sense when putting it into the *present timeline* of Jeremiah, or if it makes better sense to use the principle of "prophetic duality" and overlay it on the end times, extending it out into the future. So, let's resume exploring the book of Jeremiah and pick up where we left off.

Exploring Jeremiah's Writings

Jeremiah's ministry lasted over a period of about 40 years. Most scholars will conclude his prophecies commenced in about 626 B.C.E. and continued until the fall of Jerusalem in about 586 B.C.E., when the

Babylonians successfully completed their invasion and occupation of Judah, the southern sector of Israel. It was over this duration of time that Jeremiah's prophetic warnings took place, being directed *primarily to Judah*. However, this does not dismiss the fact that throughout the course of his writings, he occasionally includes prophetic warnings to the "House of Israel," which again, let me reiterate, *DID NOT EXIST at the time of his writings*.

Clearly, the larger part of his book is dedicated to historically chronicling the prophetic warnings to the original nation of Judah, explaining their failure to please God, and God's consequent dissatisfaction with them as a nation. Through Jeremiah, God warns Judah, *specific for that time*, that they are going the way of "backsliding Israel" (Jeremiah 3:7-8). But, as was pointed out in Jeremiah chapters 3 and 5, we see Israel mentioned during Jeremiah's lifetime as though they are a contemporary nation alongside Judah; and incredibly, is also extended and carried out into the end times!

For example, consider this future event: "Therefore, behold the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought the children of Israel [Jews included] out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel [Jews included] from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he [God] had driven them: and I will bring them *again* [all 12 tribes, Jews included] into their land that I gave unto their fathers" (Jeremiah 16:14-15).

Here is a perfect example of an event plainly described that *did not happen* during the timeline of Jeremiah's writing. We're shown that a *future Israelite exodus* will marginalize the historical *original* Israelite exodus from Egypt. However, this one is *different* and much *larger* because it portrays

Transition, continued on page 3

What's In a Name?

by Lonnie C. Hendrix



Lonnie C. Hendrix

More particularly, what is the significance of God's name? What is God's name? Is there a proper name that we should all be using to address Him? In short, do sacred names exist for the Father and His Son that we should be using instead of the more generic term "God?"

Before we begin to answer those questions, we should nail down the parameters for our discussion and define exactly what we are talking about. Let us return to our original question: What's in a name? *Webster's New World Dictionary* defines the term "name" as: 1) a word or phrase by which a person, thing, or class of things is known, called, or spoken to or of; appellation; title; 2) a word or words expressing some quality considered characteristic or descriptive of a person or thing; epithet; 3) a) fame, reputation, or character; b) good reputation; 4) a family or clan. In communicating with each other, we use names to reference each other and to designate exactly who or what we are referring to.

For example, you understand that Lonnie Hendrix is currently addressing you, because my name appears as the author of this article. If we were in church services together, and you called out "Lonnie" or "Hendrix," I would understand that you were referring to me. The name "Lonnie" in that setting would clarify for both of us exactly who was being addressed or discussed (unless my father was also present, then we might have to resort to pointing or the use of middle names). This is an important point to understand in discussing names. To communicate effectively and successfully, *both* parties must recognize who is being referenced when a name is used.

Another important point to understand about names is that they have meanings of their own in language. In modern times, this fact has often been obscured or forgotten in our usage of names. Nevertheless, in times past, names had meanings. *Name, continued on page 8*

In This Issue:

What Would You Do If...?

Lloyd W. Cary
Page 2

Should New Testament Christians Keep the Passover?

Page 7

Where is the Church?

Mary King
Page 9

Jesus According to the Gospels

Drew DeJarnette
Page 10

In Loving Memory

Page 11

Missed Opportunities

Vivian Hall
Page 12

Beware of Spiritual Hazards

Evan J. Chase
Page 13

Diabetes/Good Health

Page 14

More...

www.cgi.org

What Would You Do If...

by Lloyd W. Cary

When old-time comedian George Burns appeared at public affairs, he would often quip, "It's good to be here. At my age, it's good to be *anywhere*!" He would follow up with, "If I had known I would live this long, I would have taken better care of myself!" He lived to be 100.

On January 23, 2011, an American diet and exercise icon died: Jack LaLanne. He *did* take care of himself—and he was only 96.

King David lived only 70 years. Some loved longer; many less.

Mark Twain once jested he wished he knew *where* he was going to die, because he would never go *near* the place!

No matter how well we take care of ourselves, we all die (Hebrews 9:27).

In Numbers 20:7–12, and 27:12–14, we see that Moses sinned against God by striking the rock twice in rebellious anger. As a result, he knew he had only a *short time* to live. He would never reach the Promised Land—*alive*. His days were numbered.

King Hezekiah knew that after fifteen years, his time was up (Isaiah 38).

Nobody likes to think about dying. We often tend to *ignore* the subject of death altogether.

The Bible teaches us in Psalm 90:12 "to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto *wisdom*."

Psalm 90:10 says, "The days of our years are *threescore years and ten*; and if by reason of *strength* they be *fourscore* years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Psalm 103:15: "As for man, *his days are as grass*: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth."

James 4:14–15 says, "Whereas ye know *not* what shall be on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a *vapor* [a mist], that appeareth for a *little* time, and then vanisheth away."

Luke 12:16–21 tells of the parable of the foolish rich man. Read it.

If God were to somehow let you know that *you* had only 60 days to live, what would you do?

Some *might* scoff, "I'd stop paying all my bills!" or "I'd tell off my boss!" or "I'd take that dream vacation" or "I'd live it up! Wine, women and song for me!"

If we asked for audience participation from God's people, *Most* of us would probably say something like, "I'd make amends," or, "I'd draw close to God." We would probably all have similar answers.

Let's be specific. What would you *DO*?

- Would you feel sorry for yourself? Or would be thankful for the years and blessings He has already given you?
- Would you help someone in need or ask forgiveness of someone you hurt?
- Would you visit someone who was sick or afflicted?
- Would you clear your conscience by undoing a wrong?
- Would you tell your spouse, your children, or your parents how much you really love them? Would you, somehow, *show* them? How?
- Would you "cram for your finals"? Would you *pray* more? *Study* more? Would you *meditate*—think deeply on these things?

IF THESE THINGS ARE TRULY IMPORTANT—WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Why not do them now, today? Think! How would *you* answer the question?

Think again: at some point in time we will all have just sixty or thirty or ten more days to live. What would you *do* if you knew for a certainty just when that day will be? *When* would you begin? Ephesians 5:16 speaks of our redeeming the time we have left. Seriously, don't we *all* have some things we *ought* to do—*now*? *Wise* is the person who doesn't leave the important things in life for the last minute. What will you wish you had done?

Ephesians 5:16 reminds us to redeem the precious time we have left. Now, while we still have some time, isn't it time to get over our speculations, private interpretations and differences, and get *back to the basics*?

James 4:8: cautions, "*Draw nigh* to God, and He will draw nigh to you. *Cleanse* your hands, ye sinners; and *purify* your hearts, ye double minded."

God's spring holydays are nearly upon us, a time for SELF-EXAMINATION—a time to think back upon the promise we made to God when we were baptized—a time to draw nigh to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Again, the question of the day is: "WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?" W

Notice!

- It is the goal of the staff to publish *The International News* quarterly. We can do this only if *you*, the reader, help by submitting timely articles, reports, and photos.
- Publication is subject to content, timeliness, accuracy, and space available. Not all submissions can or will be published, but all will be carefully considered and archived for possible future publication.
- Published articles will be paid 3¢ per word. There is no remuneration for news articles, church news, photos, poetry, etc.
- Guidelines: With few exceptions, submissions should be from 800–1000 words in either .doc, .rtf, or .txt format.
- Only electronic submissions are accepted.

Submissions may be sent to either:

vancestinson@cgi.org,
lloydcary@gmail.com
(or, preferably, to both).

DEADLINE: All submissions for the next issue must be received by **May 15, 2011**.

We look forward to seeing you... *in print!*



THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS 3900 TIMMS ST., TYLER, TX 75701

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS is the official newspaper of The Church of God International, Tyler, Texas, USA. Copyright © 2011 The Church of God International. All rights reserved.

Editor-In-Chief: Vance A. Stinson

Editor: Lloyd W. Cary

Contributing Writers: Lloyd W. Cary, Evan J. Chase, Drew DeJarnette, Vivian Hall, Lonnie Hendrix, Barbara Owens, RN, Bill Watson, and to the many who contributed behind the scenes, *thank you*.

Production: Lloyd W. Cary

Chief Executive Officer: Charles E. Groce

Business Manager: Benny Sharp

NOTICE: *The International News* welcomes submissions of articles, features, church news, pictures, or manuscripts. However, it cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited materials. All materials submitted should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

OVERSEAS OFFICES:

Australia: Minister, Herb Haupt: The Church of God International, PO Box 171, Boonah, Queensland 4310, Australia

Canada: Minister, John Coish: The Church of God International, 1299 Oxford St., PO Box 33034, London, Ontario, Canada N5Y 1A0

Jamaica: Minister, Ian Boyne: The Church of God International, 60 Cairncurran Ave, Western Dist. PO, St Andrew, Kingston, Jamaica

Philippines: Minister, Rene Corpuz: The Church of God International, 7 Opal St., Severina Subdiv, KM 18 South Superhighway, Paranaque, Metro Manila, Philippines. Email: rene@cgiphils.org

CGI Website: www.cgi.org

CGI E-mail: info@cgi.org

Phone: (903) 939-2929

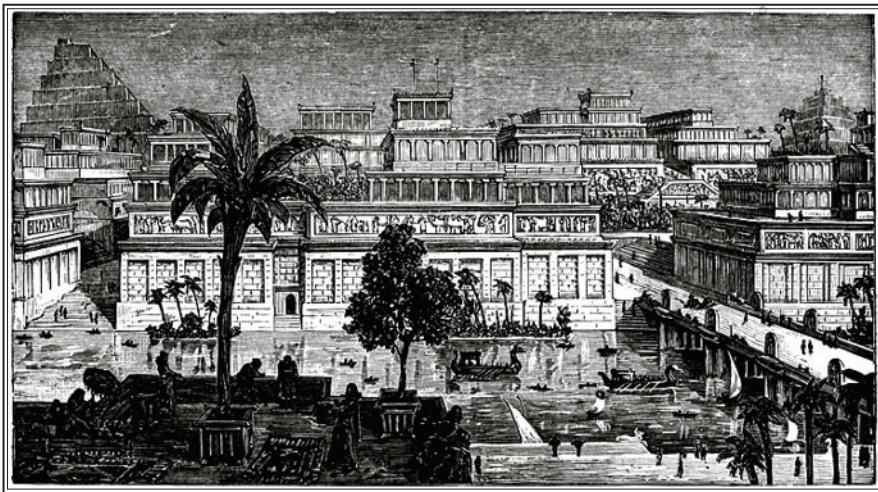
Transition, continued from page 1

both houses of Israel returning *together* from the “land of the north and from all the lands whither He [God] had driven them,” back to the land of Palestine—and is described as happening “again,” at the *time of the end*!

In other words, this is a *repeat* of what was done originally when they left Egypt some 3500-plus years ago. However, please keep in mind: Judah (presently in Palestine) and Israel (the remnants of the 10 northern tribes) have *NOT returned together* to the land of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, which is Palestine. This has *not happened*. Clearly, it is yet in the future!

Now some may argue, since the Jews are already in their homeland of Palestine and presently enjoying the international status of a recognized sovereign Israeli nation state, that this qualifies as a fulfillment of this particular prophecy. But remember, according to Daniel 11:40–43, *a future, end-time* Greco-Babylonian/Roman system will invade and subdue *present-day Palestine*, apparently attacking the Jews and conquering and/or occupying them a *second time*, as did the Romans 2000 years ago. Even Jesus warned us of an end-time *abomination of desolation* that would occur, marking the *beginning of the last days*.

So, here’s the point: the Jews will be displaced and militarily overwhelmed or occupied *again* by this invading, *present-day*, king of the north. Keep in mind that this event, described in Daniel 11:40–43, could never have happened until a Jewish nation-state was reestablished, which it



Babylon conquered Judah over 100 years after the Assyrians conquered Israel.

was in 1948, making possible the *obvious prophetic fulfillment* of an invasion of a latter-day “Judah” in the end time! So, it’s fair to say, this portion of the “prophetic stage” is presently set, and they will be invaded and occupied sometime in the future!

Now surprisingly, in Jeremiah 23, this latter-day exodus is mentioned once more, except this time it plainly explains *when* it will happen and *whom* it includes. Notice, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days [this is *when*: in the days of this Branch] *Judah* shall be saved, *and* [in addition] *Israel* shall dwell safely [this is *who* it includes: *both houses of Israel*]: ...Therefore, behold the days come, saith the LORD, that they [both houses of Israel] shall no more say, the LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt [the first exodus]: But [instead] the LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel [both nations are included] out of the north country, and from all the countries whither I [God] had driven them [the second exodus, yet future]; and *they* [plural] shall dwell in their own land” (Jeremiah 23:5–8).

Here again, we are reminded this exodus concerning the re-gathering of *both houses* of Israel will minimize the *original* exodus of Israel leaving Egypt. It will occur when the *Branch of David* (Jesus Christ, Revelation 11:1; Zechariah 3:8; 6:12) returns to execute judgment and set up justice on the earth.

Obviously then, this will be at the *beginning* of the Millennium, when Christ returns and lands on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:9). Therefore, it clearly proves there will be an *end-time Israel AND Judah*, with both the northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) portions of Israel *existing at the time of the end*—and this *second Israelite exodus* happens when Jesus Christ (the Branch) returns to set up His government! The Bible describes this re-gathering and establishment of the *nation Israel* as one of the first major “nation-building” reconstruction projects at the *commencement of the Millennium* and includes all the people/cultures of nations that were formerly connected to the 12 tribes of Israel and who were conquered and put into captivity a second time, in the latter days. Essentially, the conversion of *all nations*, at that time, will begin with Israel finally becoming the “light upon the hill” for the entire world to look upon as an example nation, approved and managed by the laws of God and executed by Jesus Christ as King of kings!

Jeremiah 30—Jacob’s Trouble?

Obviously, before that second exodus can occur, enormous geopolitical adjustments, rearrangements, and acts of war will cause the neutralization and captivity of modern-day Israel and Judah. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, causing a time of trouble that ultimately will threaten the very existence of mankind. These events are still ahead of us! But what leads up to this? Let’s explore Jeremiah’s description of the circumstances he claims will drive this future invasion and captivity of these latter-day, modern Israelite cultures.

Chapter after chapter throughout the book of Jeremiah, present *time-specific explanations* of events are introduced with statements like, *The word, which came upon Jeremiah from the Lord* or, *Thus saith the LORD*. Over and over, these introductory and qualifying announcements are used to clarify separate and distinctly different warnings contained thereafter in each chapter that generally is *time specific* to the audience of *Jeremiah’s time*—until we come to chapter 30.

Surprisingly, in this chapter we are faced with what appears to be an insertion, or as some would describe, a *digression*. It’s as though he’s writing completely off the present timeline, or out of context, compared to the previous chapters. He describes a condition he labels “Jacob’s trouble.” What is this about? Why does he interrupt himself from the previous continuum?

Typical to the opening of a specific revelation, the chapter opens with: “The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, saying...” God proceeds to tell Jeremiah to write all the words that He spoke in a book. He then explains that this particular vision and specific prophecy is for the future, because he *includes Israel* with Judah, and we know Israel doesn’t exist at the time of this writing; yet Jeremiah includes them in this chapter as though they do, and furthermore, mentions they, too, will share in the “trouble” reserved for *both* of these houses of Israel. This is very odd and curious at best, unless we understand this warning as being for the future.

Now notice: “For lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will *bring again* [return, restore, retrieve, bring back] the captivity of my people *Israel and Judah*, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to *return* [bring again, recover, send back] to the land that I gave to their fathers and they [plural] shall possess it” (Jeremiah 30:3). God claims He will bring captivity upon



The Old Testament prophets have a contemporary warning voice for our time.



The Assyrians invaded and exiled the ten tribes over 100 years before Jeremiah the prophet lived.

them (both houses) *again*, and secondly, He will restore or bring *again* the people of Israel and Judah from captivity and “they” (plural) will return to the land of their fathers (via the second exodus as previously mentioned). He then continues with, “And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel *and* concerning Judah” (Jeremiah 30:4). He plainly states these words concern *both groups* of Israelite people (cultures), or both sections of the divided kingdom of Israel.

In addition, keep in mind, Israel was already in captivity and Judah was about to be conquered by the Babylonians and put into captivity—yet Jeremiah is talking about bringing them both into captivity “again,” or “returning them both to, or bringing them back” into captivity. What’s he talking about? How can he say this, when essentially they were in captivity at the time of this writing? What are we to make of this? How should we understand him? What’s he talking about?

Transition, continued on page 4

Transition, continued from page 3

It becomes clear, if you consider this as the plausible perspective: Jeremiah is speaking of “future days,” beyond his present time, describing a subsequent captivity of a people considered to be the remnants of Judah and Israel—but out in the *future*, in the *end-times*, being put into captivity *again*, or returned to captivity. Clearly, you cannot put someone into captivity “again,” or “return them to captivity” until you have put them into captivity *first*—then you can return them to it later. It was in Jeremiah’s time when the *original* captivity of the Jews took place—and 100-plus years previous when Israel was taken by the Assyrians. The Jews and Israel have *not* been put into captivity “again”—at least not yet! Therefore, it’s reasonable to consider: we are presently *between* captivities of these end-time cultures who carry the present-day identities of Israel and Judah.

Jeremiah continues to describe a very traumatic and tumultuous time of travail which will cause men to tremble with fear and pain like a woman with child. They will be “pale” (white) with fear because this is a time *like no other*—never before, a first—a time of Jacob’s trouble! But who is Jacob? Jacob was called Israel (Genesis 32:28). He placed his name, Israel, on his two grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph (Genesis 48:15–16). It is these two birth-righted tribes (cultures) that are being talked about in this context, too. They are the ones carrying Jacob’s name, Israel. However, remember the original nation of Israel did not exist at this time—they were taken into captivity over 100 years before.

So, where the nations of “Jacob” are *NOW*, including the Jews, is where the *trouble is targeted*. If we can determine what modern-day nations fit the descriptions of the birth-righted nations and Judah, we will be able to identify this modern-day house of Jacob (Israel). Keep in mind that Jacob was the father of the Jews also; so, it’s consistent to understand this will include the Jews as well.

As mentioned in Parts 3 and 4 of this series, please keep in mind: the “Israelite worldview paradigm” we are speaking from identifies the United States of America and the commonwealth nations of Britain’s once global empire to be “Jacob” of Jeremiah 30, along with the Israeli Jews (Judah) presently in Palestine.

When and if one accepts this, and combines that understanding with the present difficult social, political, and religious circumstances these cultures are currently contending with, it becomes very clear: the *present trouble* these birth-righted nations are facing is just the beginning of what will develop into the very demise of these countries as we know them today. Our days are numbered in the United States and other commonwealth nations associated with the United Kingdom according to the *prophetic voice of Jeremiah*.

Notice, back to Jeremiah 30, verse 8: “For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts...” Then God, through the prophet, assures Israel and Judah they will be saved out of this trouble—but the *time* is when King David is raised up from the dead (the resurrection). When is that? *At the beginning of the Millennium!* This is the same time when the Branch (Jesus Christ) will return to set up His world-ruling government! That is when the resurrection of the dead occurs (1 Corinthians 15:22–23).

Read through Jeremiah 30:8–10. God explains that at that time, during the Millennium, the “yoke” and “bonds” of “strangers” will no longer be characterized as leeches, selfishly benefiting off Israel. Instead, Israel will be free from this servitude and saved from afar, out of “the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, [the second Exodus] and none shall make him afraid” (Jeremiah 30:10). As previously mentioned, they will be collected and brought back to their homeland in a mass exodus at the beginning of the Millennium, exceeding the size and scope of the original exodus from Egypt (Jeremiah 16 and 23).

Let me plainly state: **this has never happened!** The northern ten tribes of Israel have *never returned* from the original captivity of the Assyrian Empire. They were hauled off as a conquered people and moved into the cities of the Medes, the Caucasus Mountains, and migrated westward, out beyond the Caspian and Black Sea area. This is why they are considered in history as the “Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.”

Ultimately, however, these people continued westward taking on different names like *Sacha*, which comes from Isaac; or *Gimri/Cumri*, which comes from King Omri of Israel. The Greeks called these migrating people *Cimiri*, or *Gimira* and *Kimmerior*. The Persians called them *Sacae*, which later was corrupted to *Saxons*. The Assyrians, Babylonians, and Elamites called them *Kumri*.

These tribes of people finally settled throughout western Europe, England and North America. History has proved they matured into the

greatest company (commonwealth) of nations the world has ever seen. At the peak of the United Kingdom’s growth, its flag flew over two and a half times the geographical land mass of China. Approximately 14 million square miles of planet earth had been colonized by Britain. The greatest single nation in the history of the world, the United States, combined with them their military strength and social leadership throughout the world. They became like the sands of the sea (Genesis 21:17–18; 48:19–20), thus fulfilling the “birthright” promise made originally to Abraham and then passing on down to his sons (Genesis 12:1–3; 49:22–26; Deuteronomy 33:13–17).

However, it’s becoming sadly apparent that the day of their zenith has passed, and the rest of the world is now *socialistically emerging* and fast surpassing these once very dominant “free market” Judeo-Christian “birth-righted” and God-blessed societies.

The world’s nations are presently on a collision course with what formerly was considered the model government that many people on earth have literally risked their lives to come to: the United States of America, the only *true free market republic*. As mentioned in the opening segment of this series, it’s becoming more and more obvious that unless the governments of today’s nations control many of the assets (natural resources and corporate entities), countries who *don’t* have their governments subsidizing their assets will find it more difficult to compete on the international level. So a new “government model” is becoming more politically correct and acceptable. Disguised as democracy, it’s called **State Capitalism**. It’s a more neutral term and more palatable than using the more accurate term, which simply stated is **socialism**.



The birthright promise to Abraham commenced fulfillment with the British Empire, ultimately including the USA.

Clearly, the world is moving toward a global socialistic coalition that is described to become dominant in the last days. The Bible calls it “Mystery Babylon The Great, The Mother of Harlots.” Eventually, it will become a combine of 10 nations, operating as one, directed by an autocrat (the beast) and fueled by a religious leader (the false prophet), who is actually possessed with spirits of devils, and who works miracles and goes forth unto the kings of the earth throughout the whole world (Revelation 16:12–14). It will be this government and system that will eventually invade the Middle East as the king of the north, pushing back against the king of the south, as it attempts to rule the world and finally meet its fateful destiny upon Christ’s return (Revelation 17:9–18; Daniel 11:40–43; 7:23–24).

Now getting back to our question, how could this coalition of nations (Greco-Babylon, the king of the north) invade the Middle East, as Daniel 11:40–43 portrays, when it’s obvious that the present geopolitical situation would cause the United States and Britain to defend the Jewish Israeli state? Unquestionably, something must have happened to cause the U.S. and Britain not to be a factor—but what? Perhaps Jeremiah can answer that. Notice: “...though I make a full end of all nations yet will I not make a full end [not totally destroy] of thee [Israel]: *but I will correct thee [Israel] in measure and will not leave thee altogether unpunished*” (Jeremiah 30:11).

Modern-Day Jacob Will Be Punished

Did you notice what He said through the prophet? “But I [God] will correct you in measure and will not leave you altogether unpunished.” What’s the *meaning* of this? Clearly, this end-time Jacob *will be punished in measure* for correction—correction from what? “...for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee” (Jeremiah 30:15).

This modern-day Israel, understood to be the United States, Britain, and some of its commonwealth nations, are in disarray. They are unraveling in many areas: politically, economically, socially, morally, and religiously. There are so many things that could be listed that would illustrate how far these cultures have drifted from the original tenets of their Judeo-Christian origins. It’s very disappointing and sad that so many of their leaders and people have become reprobate (void of proper judgment) and refuse to recognize how much, as a culture of people, they have failed God.

Perhaps the apostle Paul says it best when describing the end of days: “This know also, that *in the last days* perilous [dangerous] times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1–5).

Unfortunately, this says it all. Amazingly, Paul encapsulates in these five verses precisely what we are *Transition, continued on page 5*

Transition, continued from page 4

witnessing today in our western society. As a culture, we have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. God is not amused by our misappropriated values and misguided standards. Notice again what He says: “For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous. There is none to plead thy cause, ...thou hast no healing medicines. All your lovers [allies] have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement [correction] of a cruel one... Why criest thou for thine affliction? Thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: *because thy sins were increased*, I have done these things unto thee” (Jeremiah 30:12–15).

The reasons for the correction and *future destruction* and captivity is plain: our sins have caused the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to remove His *hedge of protection* from the United States, Britain, and ultimately the Jews, making us vulnerable to our enemies. Unfortunately, the demise of the United States and Britain as we know them today will contribute to producing world conditions that will essentially lead to the invasion and occupation of Palestine by the king of the north, displacing the Jews while destroying their current Jewish Israeli state.

The present trends are making it obvious: the United States and Britain are on a path that will lead to more weakness economically, socially, politically, and militarily. The eve of destruction is closer now than ever before for them. There are so many potential perils that are presently threatening their liberties, freedoms, and sovereignty, especially that of the United States, England, and the Jewish Israeli state in Palestine. Without a doubt, it’s just a matter of time before a domestic terrorist attack happens again, or some international event ignites a series of incidents that cause some kind of panic and alarm, which will lead to a global condition of destruction and chaos, sending the world into a tailspin that generates the circumstances for this Greco-Babylonian Mystery Government to come together and emerge onto the geopolitical stage for “all to wonder,” healed from its historical wound, as it begins to dominate the world, playing out the role of its incredible horrific destiny (Revelation 13:3–9).

These conditions result in a world void of the balance of power the United States and Britain bring to the table for the benefit of the rest of the world. Sadly, a world without the United States and Britain will secure the “times of the Gentiles.” This will prove to be a time of such great tribulation, that unless those days were shortened, no human being would remain alive (Matthew 24:21–22; Mark 13:19–20). It will be like no other time in the history of mankind. Notice: “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles [a prophetic statement of Jewish displacement and captivity *again in our present day*], until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24).

This corroborates exactly with Daniel’s description of the end times: “And at the *time of the end* shall the king of the south push at him [the king of the north]: and the king of the north [Babylon the Great] shall come against him [king of the south] like a whirlwind... and he [king of the north] shall enter into the countries... He shall enter also into the glorious land [Palestine, Jerusalem, occupying the *present-day* Israeli nation], and many countries shall be overthrown” (Daniel 11:40–42). Remember, this happens at the *time of the end*, just as Jesus Christ described in the Gospels.

God will save Israel and Judah out of this woeful distress and devastation, and additionally, Christ will set up His kingdom, re-establishing Israel and Judah as a model nation when the Millennium commences (Jeremiah 30:22). The point of all this is plain: what’s *most important presently, in this time between captivities*, is the decline and devastation prophesied to happen between “now” and “then” to modern-day Israel and Judah! This plainly illustrates why the voice of Jeremiah deserves serious examination as a very timely and *contemporary warning* to the cultures of the Jews, United States, Britain, Canada, and Australia, as well as a few others!

Additionally, here is another remarkable reason we should acknowledge this chapter so strongly—it’s *because of this matter-of-fact statement*: “The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he [God] have done it, and until he [God] have performed the intents of his heart: *IN THE LATTER DAYS YE [you and I] SHALL CONSIDER IT*” (Jeremiah 30:24). *Consider what?*—the *prophetic words* of the Lord that are written by Jeremiah in chapter 30!

The reason we are told to “consider this in the latter days” is because there is an incredible “parallel duality” that is undeniably appropriate to *connect* with the last days. Therefore, the prophet himself encourages us to apply this information when it’s understood by the generation who recognizes it through the paradigm of an “Israelite worldview.” Why? So we can comprehend with affirmative validation the significance and urgency of our times. And additionally, we who have the heart should also have the courage to warn the people of these great nations that their “house is burning” and “perils of destruction” are building momentum!

If you have eyes that see and ears that hear, then you must admit: *world history is what it is*, and the present *reality* surrounding us does indeed fit and therefore prove, the trends described in our Bible, labeled as the *signs of the times* for Jacob’s (the USA, the UK, and the Jews) coming trouble are in fact real!

W

To be continued...

From our archives:

Q&A’s on Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

What about Passover?

Q. I am writing to find out some information about your church....Regards to day [do you observe a specific day?] in which you drink wine and eat bread? Can you tell me what this day is called, and do you also do the washing of feet at this service. Also, do you have to be a baptized member in order to attend?

K.R., Victoria, B.C., Canada

A. Once each year, baptized members of the Church of God take a little piece of bread and small serving of wine as symbols of Christ’s shed blood and broken body in the annual “Passover” service. We do it in the evening of the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Nisan (March-April), which is the night Christ gave His disciples bread and wine and instructed them concerning the commemoration of His death. In addition to taking the bread and wine as emblems of Christ’s body and blood, we follow Christ’s example by washing each other’s feet. Anyone can attend the service, but only baptized persons should partake of the bread and wine. [This year we will be commemorating Christ’s self-sacrifice on the evening of April 17.] Read Matthew 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:14–20; John 13:1–17; 1 Corinthians 11:23–29.

Should we use leavened bread at Passover?

Q. [Condensed and paraphrased]: It is my understanding that the Greek word *artos* always refers to leavened bread, while the word *azumos* means unleavened bread. The New Testament says that Christ gave His disciples *artos* at the Last Supper. Why, then, does the Church of God International use unleavened bread at the Passover service?

R.G., Beeville, TX

A. The word *artos* is not limited to the definition “leavened bread.” It can refer to bread of *any* kind, including the unleavened variety. The LXX (the Septuagint, or Greek translation of the Old Testament, dating from before Christ) sometimes uses the term *artos* in texts that speak of the bread that was used during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Having determined that the term can refer to any kind of bread, the next step is to determine which kind of bread best represents Christ. Since the memorial of His self-sacrifice is rooted in the ancient Passover/Unleavened Bread festival, and since leavening (in relation to the spring festival) is associated with sin (1 Corinthians 5:7–8), our conclusion is that unleavened bread is a most fitting symbol of the sinless Savior.

Who really killed Jesus?

Q. [Condensed and paraphrased]: Who killed Jesus? Was it the Jews or the Gentiles?

R.S., Summersville, WV

A. Certainly the Jewish religious leadership played a part in bringing about His crucifixion, as did Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus’ own disciples; and the Romans actually carried out the execution. These facts are made clear in all the Gospel accounts of the last 24 hours of Christ’s earthly life. So both Jews *and* Gentiles were involved in killing Jesus. As the prayer recorded in Acts 4:27 states, “For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, *and* Pontius Pilate, *with* the Gentiles, *and* the people of Israel, were gathered together.” And, of course, we cannot deny our *own* guilt: “... that Christ died for *our* sins according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Q. Should New Testament Christians keep the Passover?

A. Absolutely! See pages 6 and 7 of this publication for a complete answer.

W

Should New Testament Christians Keep the Passover?

Most professing Christians believe that Passover is a “Jewish” holiday that is not applicable to Christians today. Instead, they substitute Communion, the Mass, or “the Lord’s Supper.” In view of this, we must ask the question, “What does the Bible say?”

by Lloyd W. Cary

One cannot help but wonder how much the average professing Christian really knows about the Lord’s Passover. The extent most people know about it has been gleaned from the Cecil B. DeMille’s epic film, *The Ten Commandments*.

Israel’s miraculous release from over 400 years of cruel, hopeless, and abject slavery in Egypt came by the hand of Almighty God through a series of warnings and plagues, and was climaxed by the death of all Egypt’s firstborn. On that very night, the Hebrews were set free, and were urged by the devastated Egyptians to get out of the country as quickly as possible. This remarkable deliverance by the hand of God has been commemorated ever after by the Jewish people by a yearly festival called the Passover.

The Passover was so named on the account of the “passing over” of the houses of the Hebrews by the angel of death. The Passover lamb foreshadowed Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God (John 1:29,36) who would deliver God’s people from the bondage of sin and death. The first time the word “Passover” is mentioned in the Bible is found in Exodus 12:11: “And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD’S passover.”

Notice, the Bible calls it “the LORD’S Passover,” not the Jews’ Passover. It is *His* Passover because He ordained it, fulfilled it, and commanded it. To the Israelites, the Passover was a “Festival of Freedom,” commemorating the deliverance of Israel from over 400 years of abject slavery in Egypt. The deliverance of more than two million people from slavery is not an event to be forgotten!

But What About Today— Should Christians Observe the Passover?

Referring back to the original Passover, we read in Exodus 12:14: “And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance *FOR EVER*.”

How long? This Scripture says we are told to keep this feast *forever!* This does not contain any verbiage by which a Christian could reasonably conclude that the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread ended with Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. The original Passover was a physical *type* of a much larger spiritual event than merely sparing the firstborn Israelites. It also pictured the death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Although much lip service is given to following Christ’s example in mainstream Christianity, few consider the fact that the New Testament says, “... For even Christ *our passover* is sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Both *Christ and His disciples kept the Passover*. We read of Jesus Christ during his last Passover. First, He washed the disciples’ feet (John 13:8, 14–17). We further read, “And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is [symbolically represents] my body, which is broken for you: this *do* in remembrance of me. After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this *do* ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, *ye do shew the Lord’s death* TILL HE COME” (1 Corinthians 11:24–26). He concluded, “For I have given you AN

EXAMPLE, that ye should *do* as I have done to you” (John 13:15). Sadly, instead of following Christ’s humble exmple, most of Christendom’s churches have substituted the traditions of men such as “communion,” “the Mass,” and “the Lord’s supper.” “Why,” He asks, “*call* ye me, Lord, Lord, and *do not* the things which I say” (Luke 6:46)? “Ye hypocrites,” He exclaims, “well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, ‘This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.’ But *in vain* they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of *men*” (Matthew 15:7–9).

“But,” some will object, “the Passover was only for the Jews.” It is referred to as “the Jews’ Passover” not because they owned it, but because the Jews were observing it. It is called the Jews’ Passover in John 2:13; 6:4; and 11:55, because in that culture the Gentiles did not keep it—only the Jews were obliged to keep it.

Just as most people misunderstand prophecy because they cannot identify the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel, much of the confusion as to whether Christians should keep the Passover surrounds the issue of *WHO IS ISRAEL*. Most Christians have been taught that Israel means only the Jews. This notion is erroneous.

In the first place, in the 8th century B.C., the ten northern tribes of Israel were carried away by the Assyrians. Unlike the Jews who had returned from captivity in Babylon, the ten northern tribes were never repatriated to Israel as a group. Although some undoubtedly did return as stragglers, the majority ventured west and have become referred to as “THE LOST TEN TRIBES OF ISRAEL.” The Jews retained their

national identity of Judah, because they kept God’s identifying sign, the Sabbath and holydays, while the northern ten tribes did not. While the nation of Judah incorporated hundreds of added laws and traditions in order to “build a hedge” of protection around the Sabbath and holydays, the nation of Israel lost their identity and eventually assumed they were Gentiles. [For a thorough in-depth study of this fascinating subject, be sure to request our eight-CD series and accompanying booklet entitled *The Biblical Origins of the United States and British Commonwealth*.]

Secondly, we are told by no less an authority than the apostle Paul, “... They which are the *children of the flesh*, these are *not* the children of God: *but the children of the promise* are counted for the seed” (Romans 9:8). This was in opposition to one of the most settled and deeply-cherished opinions of the Jews. They supposed that the mere fact of being a Jew entitled a man to the blessings of the covenant, and to be regarded as a child of God. Paul clarifies, “But he is a Jew, which is one *inwardly*; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God” (Romans 2:29). Christ said, “If ye love me, *keep* my commandments” (John 14:15). This includes the keeping of God’s commanded Passover *forever*. Paul said, “*All* scripture is given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16), and, of course, all they had in the time of the apostle Paul was the OLD Testament! Christ said, “Think *not* that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am *NOT* come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17). This should be enough to convince even the least discerning believer that even a “Gentile” Passover, continued on next page



Passover, continued from previous page

Christian has part in this everlasting remembrance of God's Passover. To assume we are children of God who are *not* required to follow God's "house rules" is foolishness at best and rebellious at worst.

The Early Church Was Instructed to Keep the Passover—and They *Did*!

Not only did Christ keep the Passover, but He commanded His followers to keep it as an annual remembrance of Him. A memorial is observed *annually* on the day of the event, not weekly, monthly or bi-annually. "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: *THIS DO* in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19).

1 Corinthians 11:24–26: "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death *till he come*." Read that again! THAT is what the Passover represents to Christians!

Christians *did* keep the Passover for hundreds of years after Christ's death and resurrection.

If the early Christians followed Christ's command and example in keeping the Christian Passover, *why* have believers stopped keeping it and begun observing the pagan Easter celebration instead? As Dresden James philosophized, "When a well-packaged web of lies has been sold gradually to the masses over generations, the truth will seem utterly preposterous and its speaker a raving lunatic." The customs and traditions of Christendom certainly fit this saying. Passover was suppressed in much the same way that pagan observances were instituted. It was the *Roman Empire* followed by the *Roman Catholic Church* that decreed it to be so.

The Influence of the Roman Empire

It is estimated that as many as one million Jews died in the Great Revolt against Rome (66–70 AD). Because of the enmity between Rome and Jerusalem on account of this revolt, Rome levied a heavy tax ("Fiscus Judaicus") against the Jews. The criteria to determine who was a "Jew" was computed as follows: Anyone who kept the *Sabbath*, studied the *Torah*, kept God's *dietary laws*, *circumcised their sons*, and kept *God's feast days* were counted as Jews, and were taxed accordingly.

When the power of the Roman state transferred to the Roman church, this animosity did not stop, but continued as a Roman cultural prejudice. As a result, the Roman hatred of anything associated with the Jews was absorbed by the church, including any obedience to the *Torah* (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), as well as any observance of the holydays. Such anti-Semitism has continued to this day.

The Influence of the Roman Church

The Roman church, although not exactly approving of it, tolerated observance of Passover out of respect to the *Apostle John*, *Polycarp*, and the other disciples. Tensions rose higher and higher after the death of Polycarp, whose disciples continued to keep the Passover and other biblically ordained feast days.

In 325 AD, the Roman Emperor *Constantine* made Christianity the "official religion" of Rome. Out of political expediency, he soon "Christianized" the *pagan feast days* to preserve calm and order in his realm. Legalizing the *mixture* of pagan customs and feast days with those of Christianity was soon enforced by seizure of property, freedom, and pain of death. *Fox's Book of Martyrs* details many of the persecutions and martyrdom of those who insisted upon keeping God's Sabbath, the Passover, and holydays as taught by Christ and His apostles. See Revelation 2:2,10, 13, 25; 3:3,11, and 17:6.

Eusebius recorded the Emperor Constantine's words concerning the practice of pure Christianity: "Let us have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd." An official declaration from

Constantine stated that it was considered to be "...*improper to follow the custom of the Jews in the celebration of this holy festival*." Thus, Christians were no longer free to keep the Passover in Rome, a prohibition that continued when the authority that had once belonged to the old Emperor of Rome transferred to the new Emperor called "*the Pope of Rome*."

Thus, Passover was no longer recognized by the Roman church, having been replaced by the pagan celebration in honor of *Venus*, called *Easter*. The same goddess is called *Ishtar* by the Assyrians and Babylonians, who had carried the people of Israel into captivity.

And so, just as the children of Israel were held in *physical* bondage for their idolatry and their unwillingness to honor God in spirit and in truth, so they now find themselves in *spiritual* bondage in their unwillingness to hold fast to the truth. The sad fact is that some believers may not have the strength of conviction—unable to break the bonds of tradition and false Christianity—to honor God as He has commanded us in His Word.

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (James 4:8). We "draw nigh" to God by OBEYING Him as revealed in His Word, the Holy Bible. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Boiled down to its simplest form, all God says to His people is, "Just obey Me. Just do what I tell you and all will be well." That's all He said to Adam and Eve in the Garden. That's all He told ancient Israel. And all He

says to us today.

When addressing the foot washing part of the Christian Passover ceremony, Christ said, "If I wash thee *not*, thou hast *NO PART* with me" (John 13:8). SOBERING WORDS! "Therefore let us *keep* the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:8). Back to our title: "Should New Testament Christians today be keeping the Passover?" *Absolutely!*

Passover 2011 begins at sundown, April 17. Will you be observing your Lord and Savior?

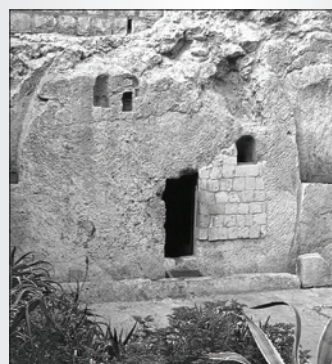
Announcing a brand-new booklet!

Did Christ Die On a Friday and Rise On a Sunday?

Shortly before His crucifixion, the murder-plotting religious leaders of Jesus' day demanded a "sign" that He was, indeed, the Messiah. He gave them a sign—a sign that religionists *disbelieve to this very day*: "For AS Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so [in like manner] shall the Son of man be three days *and* three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:39–40).

Most of Christendom traditionally believes that Jesus was crucified on Friday afternoon (Good Friday), was placed in the tomb before sundown Friday night, rested in the tomb on the Sabbath (Saturday) and was resurrected on Sunday morning at dawn. Shockingly, either that tradition is *false*, or you have no Savior!

The sign Jesus gave was not *just* the fact of His death or even of His resurrection—no, not at all—but the **LENGTH OF TIME** He would be in the heart of the earth—the grave—before being resurrected. Yet millions deny that sign! Was Jesus mistaken? Did He lie? Do the math! Can you honestly squeeze 72 hours between Friday and Sunday? Can you explain this sign to others *right from your own Bible*?



Was this Christ's Tomb?

Be sure to request your *FREE* copy of this shocking, yet easy-to-read and understand booklet, *The Three Days and Three Nights*! You have never read anything quite like it.

CGI Website: www.cgi.org

CGI E-mail: info@cgi.org

Phone: (903) 939-2929

Church of God International
3900 Timms St., Tyler, TX 75701

Name, continued from page 1

Moreover, people were called by a particular name for a reason.

As an example, “Lonnie” is the English form of the Spanish *Alonso*, which in turn was derived from *Alfonso*, and it means “of noble family.” My surname is “Hendrix,” and it is of Dutch or Germanic origin, meaning “descendant of Henry.” Likewise, your own name has a history and a meaning, though you may not be aware of what it is at present. The point is that all names originally had meaning attached to them, and this point will be important to understand in going forward with our discussion.

So names have meaning, just like other words in our language. Moreover, just like other words, they are spelled and pronounced differently in different languages. “Steven” is *Etienne* in French, *Stefano* in Italian, and *Esteban* in Spanish. “James” is *Jacques* in French, *Jaime* in Spanish and *Shamus* in Scottish. “John” is *Jean* in French, *Giovanni* in Italian and *Juan* in Spanish. I have included these examples to underscore the importance of understanding this principle to our greater discussion.

Hence, in communicating with each other in a common language, we must understand that: 1) words have meaning; 2) words were often derived from other languages (they have a history); and 3) each language usually has its own word to identify or describe something. All of these points also apply to personal names. Now, with these more general observations in hand, we are ready to begin our discussion of the particulars of our subject.

In the HEBREW Old Testament, there are primarily two words or names used to refer to God. The first of these is *Elohiym*, which is the plural of *Elowahh*. According to *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, *Elowahh* means a deity or god. Hence, the plural is indicative of the Supreme Deity or the Supreme God. *Elohiym* is generally translated into English as “God” in the King James Version of the Bible. Sometimes, the name simply appears as *El* in the Hebrew. The second word or name is *Yehovah*, which means “Self-Existent One” or “Eternal One.” It is generally translated into English as “LORD,” but it also appears as “God” in many passages. Less frequently, the word or name *Adonay* is used, and it is most often translated into English as “Lord” in the King James Version. Finally, the word/name *Shadday* is also used to refer to God in the Hebrew Old Testament. It appears in the King James Version as “Almighty.”

It is important to remember when we are looking at these names and exploring the whole subject of God’s name that there were many gods in the ancient world. As a consequence, the Old Testament scriptures emphasize that all of those other divinities were not really gods at all. They were the product of men’s imaginations and the work of the hands of their craftsmen. Thus, the Hebrews took pains to emphasize the fact that their God was unique, and that He was not one of many. Hence, the Hebrew names for God all point to the fact that their God was THE ONLY GOD.

Now that we have identified the names which the Hebrews most frequently used for their God, we have to ask ourselves about their significance. We know what they mean, but do they have any special significance for us today? Are these Hebrew names important? Is one of them more important than the others? More importantly, what does God think?

First, we should all be willing to acknowledge and accept that names are important to God. In addressing this topic, many have sought to minimize the importance and value of names to God. In so doing, they have ignored Scripture and fallen into error and deception. In short, we know that names are important to God, because Scripture is literally full of statements that make unambiguous the fact they are important to Him.

You will recall that God changed the names of two of the Hebrew patriarchs to better reflect His plans for their lives. God changed Abram’s name to *Abraham*, which indicated that he would become the father of a multitude (Genesis 17:1–6). God also changed Jacob’s name to *Israel*, which underscored the fact that he had won God’s favor and blessing (Genesis 32:27–28). These scriptures make very plain the fact that names matter to God.

Even so, the most emphatic evidence we can produce to prove names are important to God is the fact that God considered the subject of His own name to be so important that He included it in His great fundamental law, the ten commandments. God told Moses, “Thou shalt not take the NAME of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his NAME in vain” (Exodus 20:7). That sounds like definitive proof to me that names (especially His own) are important to God!

The prophet Malachi emphasized the importance God attaches to this subject in His message to Israel. He wrote, “If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my NAME, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart” (Malachi 2:2). He also wrote about the future, “Then they that feared the LORD spake often one

to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his NAME” (Malachi 3:16).

Having established beyond all doubt that the subject of His name is important to God, it seems reasonable to conclude that this is also worthy of our attention. Hence, this is a subject we should all want to study closely and become completely familiar with our responsibilities in the matter. In fact, we should be eager to demonstrate our respect for God and His name.

In thinking about these things, the next question that came to my mind was: Has God ever addressed the subject of His personal name? The answer, of course, is *Yes*. When Moses went to examine the burning bush and found God waiting to speak to him, he asked God about His name. We read: “And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, what is his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: THIS IS MY NAME FOR EVER, and this is my memorial unto all generations” (Exodus 3:13–15).

In answering a rather straightforward question by Moses, God used a number of names to refer to Himself in this scripture. First, He tells Moses that He is the “I AM” or the *Hayah* in Hebrew, THE ONE WHO EXISTS, THE ONE WHO IS. God is making a definitive statement to Moses about His identity, while also conveying to the man before Him that He is beyond his own concept of what a name means. Then He goes on to identify Himself as *the One Whom your ancestors worshipped*. God concludes His answer to Moses by stating that *this is the name He had chosen* for the Israelites to use in referencing Him for all time.

A little later, God told Moses, “I am the LORD [Yehovah]” (Exodus 6:2). Then He goes on to reveal that that was the first time He had chosen to identify Himself by that name to His people. We read: “And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty [El Shadday], but by my name Jehovah [Yehovah] was I not known to them” (Exodus 6:3).

We should interject here that many people have claimed *Jehovah*, *Yehovah*, or *Yahweh* is God’s only personal name. In fact, they assert this is God’s sacred name, and the only name which is truly proper to use in addressing the Divine. It is interesting in this connection to take note of the scripture we have just referenced in the preceding paragraph. It is clear that the Hebrew patriarchs never used this name to address their God. They did not even know about it! Yet the same One who is telling Moses about this name accepted their use of *El Shadday*. In fact, He made His covenant with these individuals and made His promises to *them*. Hence, it cannot be argued that it is essential to use *Yehovah* or *Yahweh* in dealing with or addressing God.

Moreover, one might well wonder why the name appears above in three different forms. The reason is simple. We simply do not know the exact pronunciation for the name, because the Hebrew people would not pronounce the name aloud out of respect for God. Indeed, they would not even write down the vowels for the name when they were copying the scriptures onto the scrolls which they used to preserve them for future generations.

In addition to the difficulties this created within the Hebrew language, the matter was further complicated by the differences between that language and English. In short, many English-speaking peoples failed to account for the differences between the two languages with regard to how the first letter of many Hebrew names should be pronounced. In Hebrew, the sound was “Y” as in *Yehovah*. In English, the name became *Jehovah*. This phenomenon is not unfamiliar to us in modern times. The letter “J” in Spanish sounds like the English “H.” Hence, it is not “Jesus” in Spanish, but pronounced “Hay-Soose.”

Also, while we are on the subject of language, it should be noted that although the Old Testament was preserved in the Hebrew language, the New Testament was preserved in Greek. This made sense, because Greek was the universal language of the Eastern Roman Empire during the time of Christ and the founding of His church. Greek was the language of the elite and the educated.

Hence, in the inspired language of the New Testament, “God” is *Theos*, and “Lord” is *Kurios*. The Hebrew names for the Divine are not used in the New Testament, because it was written and preserved in Greek. It is not the Hebrew *Yehowshuwa* or the shortened form *Yeshua*; it is the Greek *Iesous*. In English, the same name appears as “Jesus.” This is entirely a product of the differences in these languages, and it has absolutely *nothing* to do with who is being addressed or discussed.

Remember, God made it very *Name, continued on page 11*

*God is known by many
different names and
titles, and He recognizes
every one of them!*

Where is the Church?

by Mary King



Mary King

Love for the brethren, commitment to the commandment to keep the Sabbath, and attention to the apostle Paul's admonition to not forsake gathering motivates local North Carolina CGI members to travel from Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, Mount Airy, Wilmington, and Charlotte when possible; but for some time now, the Raleigh church has had the desire to take the church to the members, so to speak. About five years ago, Roger King, who serves the Raleigh/Greensboro area, established a means of outreach that allowed for individuals and their families to participate in church services by telephone hookup. Today, that system is

still connecting members from as far away as Denver, Colorado. It has also proven to be a blessing for local members during illness or inability to congregate in person. Continuing in this outreach, the CGI Raleigh/Greensboro church has had a mindset to honor its members by visiting individual locales with the purpose of bringing church to the members and others living near them who may wish to experience a CGI church service. That mindset bore fruit on January 29, 2011, when the church made the first of what is hoped to become a long tradition of member location visitations.

Destination: Charlotte, North Carolina

Picture this: It is 6:40 AM and Roger and Mary board a train headed for Charlotte, North Carolina. The first stop is Cary, North Carolina, and the distinguished looking Thomas Covington walks past them with a big smile. The excitement mounts. The next stop is Durham. Will they see another familiar face? No, regretfully, Barry Dunn cannot make it. As they head toward Burlington, the sun is rising behind them and reflecting perfectly on the train's tinted window panes. They can look at it without harming their eyes. *Twenty minutes to Greensboro, twenty minutes to Greensboro*, a voice says through a speaker mounted on the wall as the train slides into motion again. On they move through clusters of wooded areas, patches of thinly populated neighborhoods, and a commercial district or two. Every now and then the path narrows, giving the impression that the train is snaking its way through a mountain. At other times, it seems to get uncomfortably close to another train, but all things considered, riding the train is very exciting and comfortable.

Next stop, Greensboro, the speaker on the wall announces. From the window, Roger and Mary peer anxiously at the crowd of people waiting for the train to stop. Their hearts leap as they count not two, but four familiar faces: Lois Henley, Patrick Williams, and his two gorgeous daughters, Madelyn and Mariah. Hooray! It is on now. "Conductor," they want to say, "Take us straight to Charlotte." Unfortunately, saying it will not make it happen, so they settle down and enjoy the rest of the ride. The train stops in High Point, Salisbury, and Kannapolis before the seven are able to embrace each other in Charlotte.

Now, to get from the train station to the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Charlotte, they grab the nearest taxi and all seven pile in. Our driver is a pleasantly agreeable chap from Africa who gets them to their destination in under seven minutes. Once inside the hotel, the clerk ushers them to the Trade Room on the second floor where they are to hold services. It is a lovely, quiet room that meets their needs to a tee. Complimentary coffee, along with Lois's special cheese pate and crackers makes everything feel warm and homey.

Setting up for service, the group hopes to see Herbert and Rachael Baggett walk in, but the first to arrive is the Petty family (Marie, Russell Sr., Russell Jr., Angel, Christy, and Priscilla) whose presence adorns the room with joy and enthusiasm. Shortly after that, Monique Rice and her family (Ashley, Hannah, Terrell, Kylie, London, and Andrea) arrive with heartfelt hugs and kisses for all.

As the service begins, we find out that Herb and Rachael are on the telephone along with Isaiah and Felicia Eaton, and Mr. Levi Lester. Even though there is distance between those in the room and those on the telephone, all realize that in a very real way there is no distance between them at all.

After songs and prayers, Roger King presents a sermon entitled *Church in the Wilderness*. It focuses on the fact God's church extends to not just those known, but also to others not known. It could be a group in another land, or a single individual living two doors down who is striving to keep the Sabbath alone. The group learns that this means they must be welcoming and representative of the church at all times.



After service, lunch is the dominate concern, and attendees depart for Showmar's Restaurant for good food and conversation. Fellowshiping with the Petty family and the Rice family is a delight that is very similar to a mini-Feast, but too soon it is time to say goodbye and journey homeward. Waiting for the train, Mariah Williams says something important: "Being with my father for my first train ride made me feel very close to him," and Madelyn agrees, stating, "This is special quality time I will never forget." Lois scans her notes and verbalizes major points in the sermon. "The best part was learning that the real location of the church is the resurrection," she says.

The evening sun is setting as the train heads toward Greensboro. The original seven are sitting together discussing the joys of the day and contemplating the next trip until the Greensboro group departs. The train rattles onward through the encroaching darkness outside, but conversation continues all the way to Cary where Thomas steps off the train to make his way home to Holly Springs. Fifteen minutes later, Roger and Mary arrive back in Raleigh with the satisfaction of knowing the day has been well spent, and why shouldn't it have been? After all, it was a Sabbath and it was spent in church—the church in the wilderness. W

Do you want to know more about Church History?

Can you answer these basic questions?

- What is the Church?
- Why was the Church founded?
- How did it begin?
- What is its destiny?
- Is the Church organized?—if so, how?
- What about Church eras?
- Where is the Church today?
- What is the real purpose of the Church?
- What is the Church in relation to past history?
- Why was the Church scattered?
- What about the world's Churches?
- Could you explain these things to others?— Now you can!

Send for your **FREE** 3-CD set
"Church History" by Bill Watson.
 Request your set *now*, before you forget.
 Phone (903) 939-2929
 Email: info@cgi.org

Holydays for 2011

New Testament Passover: April 17, 2011*
 Feast of Unleavened Bread: April 19 - 25, 2011
 Pentecost: June 12, 2011
 Feast of Trumpets: September 29, 2011
 Day of Atonement: October 8, 2011
 Feast of Tabernacles: October 13 - 19, 2011
 Last Great Day: October 20, 2011
 *Observed at sundown.

Feast Site information for the Feast of Tabernacles, 2011 will be posted as soon as details have been finalized. Check back for updates.

Jesus According to the Gospels

by Drew DeJarnette



Drew DeJarnette

There are only four accounts we have in our Bible to speak of the life of Jesus. Each of the Gospels gives a unique perspective on the life of Jesus. A careful examination of each individual account must be done in order to gain insight into the makings of His life. The Gospel according to Mark shows that Jesus was indeed human, while John's Gospel shows that Jesus is indeed God. The other two Gospels are slightly more complex in their description. Matthew's account parallels the Torah and relates the events of the life of Jesus with those of Moses, while Luke's account

parallels 1 Samuel and lays out the events of the life of Jesus with those of King David. Following these parallels allows for an understanding of the authors' intents in piecing together who Jesus was and how He was viewed in the first century.

Matthew is conveying in his Gospel that the climax of the Israelite story is in the life of Jesus. His audience was Jewish Christians who would have understood his parallels to the Old Testament. His Gospel starts with a reference to Genesis and ends with a reference to Deuteronomy with a constant parallel with the Torah throughout the entire Gospel. This parallel is culminated through the connection of the old mediator, Moses, to the new mediator, Jesus. It is paramount that the reader understands this in order to appreciate this narrative of the life of Jesus.

The first two words in the Gospel of Matthew are *biblos Geneseos*, which literally means "the book of Genesis." As it is translated into English, this can also mean "the book of generations." Matthew continues in the first chapter to outline the essential plot of his Gospel and the purpose for which Jesus came. The genealogy of Jesus breaks history into three distinct sections. The first section begins with Abraham, which is where the story of the Israelite people began. This section concludes after fourteen generations, and the second period begins with David as the period of the earthly kingdom of Israel. This period concludes after the second set of fourteen generations with the Babylonian exile. After another fourteen generations, Jesus comes to conclude the third period of exile. Matthew is implying that the Israelite people are still in the exilic period and are experiencing a separation from God when Jesus comes onto the scene. His ultimate purpose is to end that period and make the people right with God. A careful observation shows that, starting with Abraham, Jesus comes to begin the seventh set of seven (three sets of fourteen) generations. This implies that Jesus is the apex or completion of the story that started with Abraham. The overlying plot is that the letter of the law is made complete by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the introduction of the spirit of the law.

The connection with the Torah did not end in the first chapter. Matthew breaks his Gospel into five distinct sections, which, incidentally, are exactly the number of books found in the Torah. These sections are identified by the phrase, "And it came to pass, when Jesus finished..." (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 26:1). The first section (which includes the Sermon on the Mount) contains the familiar beatitudes, which is a list of blessings, and another section contains a list of woes (chapter 23). These blessings and curses mimic those found in the last few chapters in Deuteronomy (27–30). These chapters include the last speech of Moses. In this speech, Israel is given an ultimatum: choose life or choose death. Matthew picks up on this theme with contrasts such as sheep and goats, or light and dark. The ultimate connection parallels Jesus Himself with Moses.

Consider the events of the life of Moses as laid out in the book of Exodus as well as those for Jesus in the Gospel according to Matthew. Both of the stories begin with the ruler of the land declaring that all baby boys must be killed (Exodus 1:22; Matthew 2:13–18). In both cases, the child in question flees to Egypt, or, in the case of Moses, to the Egyptians (Exodus 2:5–6; Matthew 2:13–21). Several years later, Moses leads his people out of Egypt and goes up to a mountain to receive the law written in stone (Exodus 19). Jesus similarly goes up to a mountain to give His famous Sermon on the Mount, in which He gives the spiritual aspect of the law that is written in our hearts (Matthew 5–7). While Moses was on the mountain receiving the law, he fasted for forty days (Exodus 34:28). Likewise, Jesus fasted forty days to begin His ministry (Matthew 4:2). To seal the covenant, Moses acted as mediator by sprinkling blood on the people (Exodus 24:6–8). Jesus, too, as Mediator of the New Covenant, sealed it with the shedding of His blood (Matthew 26:28). At the end of Moses' life, he calls for the people to

continue in the observance of the law, then goes up to a mountain and dies (Deuteronomy 32–34). Jesus goes up to a mountain to ascend to the Father, and gives His disciples the same instruction (Matthew 28). With this connection, Matthew's Gospel has shown that Jesus is to the New Covenant what Moses was to the Old, and that the entirety of the Old Covenant was climaxed in the life of Jesus and brought to new light and new understanding.

The Gospel according to Luke makes a similar parallel, but to David as outlined in 1 Samuel, in order to show that Jesus is indeed the true Davidic king. First Samuel starts with a couple who cannot conceive a child, but through the promise of God are blessed with the birth of Samuel (1 Samuel 1). Interestingly, Luke's Gospel opens the exact same way, but with the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1). The most important event in the life of Samuel was the anointing of David as king (1 Samuel 16:12–13). The most important event in John the Baptist's life is his baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:22). After David is anointed by Samuel, he sets out and defeats the enemy of Israel, Goliath, who had been threatening the Israelites for a period of forty days (1 Samuel 17). The first thing Jesus does after He is baptized and receives His Father's blessing is to defeat the temptation of Satan after a forty-day fast (Luke 4:1–4, 13). David had received thanks from his fellow countrymen, but Saul despised David from there on out (1 Samuel 18:6–15). Jesus preached the same message wherever He went, but was rejected by His home town (Luke 4:14–44). The rest of the book of 1 Samuel depicts David as constantly on the move under threat of death, with only a small band of followers, as Luke's Gospel shows Jesus as doing the same thing (see Luke 13:31–33). This parallel is to show that Jesus is the true Davidic king, as told in the promise God gave to David in 2 Samuel 7. In content and outline, Luke portrays Jesus as the righteous king, who will overturn the social order by bringing the poor and oppressed to a higher stature, while relegating the rich to the lower echelons of society.

It is important to understand these parallels and the overall plots of each Gospel to understand the importance of the text as a whole. It was not the authors' intent to convey an unbiased history of the life of Jesus. Instead, the authors used the narrative style of His life to convey a very specific point or theological concept about who Jesus was and why He came. Events were reordered or presented in a different fashion across the four Gospels to defend their specific plot. It is ill advised to try to construct one super Gospel by combination of the four individual ones, because these overlaying plots and parallels would be lost. Understanding these ideas helps show who Jesus was and why He came, and allows Him to be seen through the lens of first century Christian theology.

W



I've heard...



- It takes more courage to repent than to keep on sinning.
- To grieve over sin is one thing; to repent is another.
- It is easier to repent of sins we have already committed than to repent of those we intend to commit.
- Reputation is precious, but character is priceless.
- It takes but a moment to lose a good reputation, but a long, long time to regain it.
- Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.
- The things we love tells who we are.
- If Christ is in your house, your neighbor soon knows it.
- Truth is "hate" to those who hate the Truth.
- Satan is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping Christian.
- If you *really* want to be a rebel, become a true Christian.
- Many pious people would rather study the Bible than practice what it teaches.
- A Bible known is worth more than a dozen merely owned.
- Love looks through a telescope; envy through a microscope.
- So live that when death comes, the mourners will outnumber the cheering section.



Name, continued from page 8

clear to His prophets that the time for a truly universal language for the peoples of the earth was in the distant future, when Christ will have established the Kingdom of God on this earth. We read: "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the *name* of the LORD, to serve him with one consent" (Zephaniah 3:9). We also read: "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his NAME one" (Zechariah 14:9). However, until God intervenes to change the factor of language, it will continue to be a source of differences in the way people use words and names. We speak in the tongues of *men*. Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, and English are not God's language!

The Hebrew word for "name" is *shem*. According to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, the word means "an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication, honor, authority, character..." Sounds a lot like the *Webster's* definition quoted at the beginning of this article, does it not? Names have meaning. They point to the uniqueness, honor, authority, and character of the people who bear them. A name is meant to clearly identify its owner so that effective communication with others is possible.

In the Old Testament, God bears many different names and titles. Why? It is because He is such a great and limitless personality. He is simply too big for a single name in any language on earth. He is too big to be put into a neat little box of our own devising. *He is* many things, and He has children among all of the different languages that share this planet. His Word has been translated into most of them.

When he prophesied about the Messiah, Isaiah wrote: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his NAME shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). In other places, He was referred to as "Immanuel," "Lamb of God," "Word," "King of kings," "Lord of lords," and "Jesus Christ."

Brethren, our God is great. He is known by *many* different names, and He recognizes every one of them! When you were a child, you probably called your parents "Mom and Dad." At work, perhaps you have referred to your employer as "Boss." They knew who you were talking to or about when you used those names in those settings, and Almighty God knows who you are addressing when you call on Him!

Nevertheless, many of those who attempt to put God into a box refer to Psalm 83 to justify their claims. It reads: "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth" (Psalm 83:18). This scripture, however, does not state that Jehovah is God's only name. Read it again. It states that He is the only Jehovah!

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God's name is important. Christ said, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy NAME" (Matthew 6:9). Christ proclaimed God's name (John 17). Christ also instructed His disciples to pray to God in His name (John 15:16 and 16:23-24). His disciples baptized into His name (Acts 2:38, 8:16, and 19:5), cast out demons in His name (Matthew 7:22), and healed in His name (Acts 3:6). When Peter addressed the priests and officials of the temple about Jesus Christ, he asserted, "Neither is there salvation in any other: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED" (Acts 4:12).

Hence, it is clear that names are important to God and should be important to us. Even so, God's commandment and Christ's statements also make plain that how those names are used is even more important than the names themselves. Christ said: "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (Matthew 7:21-23). Christ said there would be people who knew and used His name to do good works who will not be in the kingdom!

Clearly, *how* we use God's name is much more important than which *one* of His names we use. God is listening when you use His name. When you say "God," "Father," "Elohiym," "Yehovah," "Theos," "Almighty," "Eternal One," or one of a host of other names, God hears you! Even so, when you use one of those names, you would be well advised to make sure that you are using it in a manner worthy of the One who bears it! May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bless us all and help us to use His name in accordance with His wishes and purposes.

W



"... for thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy name."

Psalm 138:2

In loving memory...



Effie Bost

Effie Bost

Effie Frances Fincannon Bost, 86, of Statesville, NC, passed away Thursday, June 3, 2010, at Iredell Memorial Hospital, following a lengthy illness. She was born December 3, 1923, in Iredell County to the late Thomas David Fincannon and Martha Lou Fincannon. She became the beloved wife of William Clyde Bost on September 30, 1941, and had 69 beautiful years with Clyde and their eight children. She loved having her family around her. She was

a homemaker, worked for Scotts Elementary School, and was a member of Church of God International.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Lee Fincannon, Odell Fincannon, and Willie Ingram; and four sisters, Mary Tucker, Clara Faircloth, Berlie Fox, and Edna Eckerd.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her four sons, Bill Bost and wife Audrey of Connelly Springs; David Bost and wife Barbara of Lakeland, FL; Stephen Bost and wife Dee of Pacific Palisades, CA; Jeff Bost and wife Laura of Statesville; four daughters, Karen Jessup of Hudson; Fran Plunkett of Peachtree City, GA; Helen Rainelle of Sanford, FL; Janet Byers and husband Jeff of Statesville; one brother, David Chapman; one sister, Lorene Fox and husband Wade all of Taylorsville; thirteen grandchildren, Toni Potterf of Everett, WA; Ted Bost of Issaquah, WA; Tammy Scruggs of Lakeland, FL; Kacy Mayew of Indian Rocks Beach, FL; Michael Jenner and Chad Jenner of Orlando, FL; Brad and Maggie Plunkett of Peachtree City, GA; Carmen Garcia of Sanford, FL; Gina Kypriades of Gainesville, FL; Jacob Byers of Chula Vista, CA; Matthew Bost and Noah Bost, both of Statesville; and thirteen great grandchildren.

A "Celebration of Life" was held at 4:00 PM Saturday, June 5, 2010, at the Crossroads Church of God in Statesville. A graveside service was conducted at 2:00 PM Monday, June 7, 2010, at the Stony Point Cemetery. Pastor Mike Nolen officiated. Special music was provided by William Morgan. Ω

Losing a Friend—Donald Wesley Cordle, Sr.

Monday, December 20, 2010, a dear friend in the Morehead, Kentucky, congregation passed away in the Community Hospice Care Center, surrounded by his loving family.

Donald Wesley Cordle, Sr., 70, of Ashland, was the owner of Donald Cordle Plumbing. Donnie was baptized and became a member of the church in August, 2009. Not too long afterwards, he learned he had bone cancer. With the help of his wife, Virgie, he fought with courage and remained positive and confident of recovery. But cancer is an aggressive enemy, and soon moved to other parts of his body.

He was an avid fisherman and hunter, and liked to read the Bible. Because of his illness, he wasn't able to meet with us each Sabbath, and we missed him and his big smile. Although he had to give up the things he enjoyed doing, his condition didn't stop him from helping others.

Donnie is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Virgie Roberts Cordle; a son, Donald Wesley Cordle, Jr. (wife Deborah); two daughters, Reba Cordle Cleary (husband Tim); and Denise Cordle Bustetter (husband David); six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; two brothers, Gaylord David Cordle (wife Carol) and Roger Lee Cordle (wife Sharon); and many nieces, nephews, extended family, friends, fishing buddies, and his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Goodbye Donnie, 'til we meet again.

Ω

Submitted by Alice Edwards Lauria

Missed Opportunities

by Vivian Hall



Vivian Hall

Did you know there are words that do not offend, say much, help a lot, and cost little? These same words can edify, comfort, enrich, and uplift! Much can be gained by practicing the use of them. *Thank you! Wonderful! Hello! Excuse me!* Many, with no ill intent, neglect to use these simple words regularly.

An example: a minister studies for hours, looks up references, practices delivery with diligence to give a message to the congregation. Services

called to order—he delivers. People in the congregation fidget, yawn, and miss much of what is given. A simple “Thank you, sir” could do wonders to encourage his efforts and show an appreciation for the message. Do we realize this missed opportunity to *DO GOOD*? Missed opportunities cannot be recalled.

I remember a story told me many years ago. It happened that a city experienced a terrible storm. It rained for hours and hours and the wind blew strong and destructive. In the area, a devout couple prayed earnestly, asking God for intervention and deliverance. Alarms rang out, warning residents of approaching danger. Firemen came in huge trucks, urging evacuation. The couple continued to pray and stay. The strong winds blew their house off its foundation. The rain brought more than 20 feet of rushing water. The pair climbed to the house top and continued to pray for intervention. A neighbor came by, shouting from his boat, “Come, let me help!” They turned him away, awaiting God. Authorities sent helicopters out to rescue the stranded. The misguided couple waved them away. They prayed, clinging steadfast to their roof until the rushing waters swept them away, and they drowned. Later, an angel awoke them. They told the angel what had happened and asked the angel to tell them why God did not intervene. The angel answered, saying, “God sent to you the alarm bells, firemen in trucks, a neighbor in a boat, and finally helicopters to rescue you. You missed every opportunity for salvation.” We must not only look for, but recognize opportunities presented to us. We must learn to focus on what we have and do what we can. We can be kind. We can be thoughtful. We can be polite. We can just politely listen and learn such simple acts that edify much. Acts affect not only our salvation, but the salvation of others. Paul writes, “As we have opportunity, do good to all, especially those of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Pray for someone you think about. Call a lonely person. Visit the sick. Cook a meal. Don’t short-change yourself into thinking your little is needless. Allow others to serve you. Don’t miss your opportunities.

Others, from time to time, make a sincere effort to do some good thing for us. Without thinking it through, we often refuse their services. We certainly don’t want to be dependent. However, the other side of that coin is the person desiring to help may actually have a need to serve. Our refusal denies them an opportunity to grow character by their acts of servitude to us. The story about the storm is a good case in point. The alarm company needs the merit of a survivor to give credibility to their system. The firemen have need of a successful evacuation. The neighbors had a needful desire to take another neighbor to safety. The helicopter pilot could have slept well, having rescued them from the roof top. (Instead, he may have encountered bad dreams.) In our quest to be independent, we may cause offense with our brusque attitude. Humility and acceptance can actually be a service, an opportunity to allow someone to grow. Let people know you appreciate their help and service. Don’t take for granted that they already are aware. There is no better opportunity than fitly spoken words that edify and comfort.

We can only work out our own salvation. Did you know your own quest for salvation affects others? Examples from Scripture tell of patriarchs who used disastrous experiences to utilize their opportunity to grow closer to God by praying for someone other than themselves. Moses prayed for his siblings. Job prayed for his friends. Each of us has an opportunity to become part of the family of God. We can actually be a part of His kingdom. Let’s gird up and use every opportunity to reach that great goal. This is our greatest opportunity. Do not miss this one!

W



Opportunities

Look upon each and every day
As an opportunity to bring,
A chance to do or say
Something good and uplifting!
Do not think a deed left undone will cause no hurt or harm.
You may not know the seeds (deeds) you sow
Leave lasting impressions along the way.
(Things you do! Things you say!)
While they may not conquer all,
They may lighten a hurt or fall.
Don’t take it light. Shine bright!
Do or say something kind. Help the tight unwind!
Put yourself out, just a bit.
Your life will be richer for it.
Give that smile. Go that extra mile.
When everything in you wants to hold back, don’t do that!
It could be the chance you need
To mend a fence or sow a loving seed.
Shown kindness is never in vain.
Don’t miss the opportunity again!

W

Vivian Hall

We Missed It!

Nations boast and say with pride: our literacy rate cannot be denied!
We are a learned society. We question things that seem to be.
We have many scholars to our credit. Many books and records we revise and edit.
Men and women have dedicated their lives, to promote knowledge and advance the wise.
We slice through mysteries with inquiry our knife. We have unlocked the code of life.
We’re left with more questions than answers true; in our quest we attempt to do!
There is no area we hesitate to explore, dissect, or investigate!
This still, boggles my mind: what prompted the origin of mankind?
Is there a Source greater than we? We’ve missed it; we did not see!
Is there a book we can look, some place not, some ancient record we forgot!

W

Vivian Hall

Eternally

Lord, unto you I pray.
By your love and wisdom
Please guide me each day.

Please let your mercy
Guide me through my sinful ways,
And the Holy Spirit enter in,
The rest of my days.

May on life’s road,
Every day and night,
Your glory and love
Be my delight.

May your wisdom
Daily I claim,
That your love and peace
Eternally remain.

Thank you, Jesus!

Ω

Lawrence Gardner
New Brunswick, Canada

Beware of Spiritual Hazards!

by Evan J. Chase



Evan J. Chase

One of our foundational beliefs is also one we sometimes assume doesn't apply to us: **Satan deceives the WHOLE world** (Revelation 12:9)! This deception can even leak into our lives as Christians! Let's take a closer look and avoid some of these deceptive traps that can stunt our spiritual growth, interfere with our relationship with our Father and Jesus Christ, and possibly eventually cause us to fall away!

Just as a train traveling on the main track can be diverted to a side-track, Satan can trick us to get off the road to God's Kingdom. I'm sure most of us as Christians are aware of some or all these hazards. God instructs us to exhort and admonish each other in love as the day approaches (Hebrews 3:13)! So let's recognize not only Satan's—and the world's—influence, but our own carnal nature (Romans 8:6), which we must strive to overcome with the power of God's Spirit. God called us to be in His Kingdom—let's be aware of anything that can hinder us getting there!

1) **Politics**—Christians are admonished again and again *not* to be “of” the world or *speaking evil* about our present world's leaders! (John 17:16; Colossians 2:8; James 4:4; 2 Corinthians 6:17; 2 Peter 2:10; Jude 1:8). In 1 Corinthians 2:6, we are told *all* the world's leadership will ultimately come to nothing. Still, we often hear others comment negatively about our leaders and political parties. We shouldn't be listening to the “hate-media” radio and TV hosts whose agenda is to demonize political parties and leaders. As we listen to them, we sit in a “scorners chair” and fill our minds with strife! (Psalm 1:1; Galatians 5:20; 1 Timothy 6:4–5). We all should realize that NO political party—conservative or liberal—has the answers to man's problems, despite their lofty claims. Men apart from the true God have devised their own rule—remember what God said to Samuel when ancient Israel wanted their own leaders and government: “...they haven't rejected you...they have rejected ME, that I should not reign over them” (1 Samuel 8:7). Jesus Christ NEVER scorned or criticized the civil government when He was on this earth (Mark 12:17), and Paul also respected the government (Acts 25:8). The Bible actually tells us what our attitude should be, even though we may disagree with our rulers: respect the civil government and pay your taxes (Romans 13:6–7, 1 Peter 2:13,17). Remember, it is God who temporarily allows the world's governments their positions of rule (Daniel 4:17). Yes, the present political systems in ALL countries are corrupt and not according to God's laws at this time—but we are heirs and future kings and priests of a *new*, glorious, and *just* Government soon to come—and it *will* be *perfect*, since the glorified Jesus Christ will rule. *That* is what we should be talking about, thinking about, and preparing for!

2) **Set in Our Ways**—How often have you heard that in families? As we get older, our upbringing and life experiences and previous traumas influence how we treat those around us. These traits could be coolness towards others, stubbornness, anger, depression, and so many more potential spiritual handicaps, which are opposites of the fruits of God's Spirit

(Galatians 5:22–25). As we bear these fruits, and put away the works of the flesh (and get professional help if necessary), we—and those around us—will be much happier, and our growth will not be hindered. Pray that God will help you bear more fruit and put away the works of the flesh. Remember what Christ said about those who don't bear much fruit (John 15:2,6). We are told to have the attitude of a child toward God (Matthew 18:3,4)—and children haven't gotten set in their ways! The Christian life is one of *change* toward the personality of Jesus Christ!

3) **Conspiracy Theories**—As I was channel-surfing on cable TV recently, I noticed all the old conspiracy theories are alive and well. The common thread in them is a convincing mixture of truth, speculation, and paranoia. Even back in the early 1970s in God's church, I kept hearing from some brethren about multi-national banking families, the anti-income tax movement, and the Communist conspiracy to take over America, etc. I saw several families leave the church because of these movements. Then in the 1980s and 90s, it was the militia movement, anti-government, etc. Now in 2011 we have a large selection of far-right and left-wing agendas to pick from on the Internet, many accusing the present U.S. administration. Just as politics, spending time imbibing these agendas is something that can be damaging to our spiritual growth! In 2 Timothy 1:7 we are told we are not called to the spirit of *fear*, but of *love* and a *sound mind*! Conspiracy theories preach fear, suspicion, paranoia, hate, and sometimes even include Bible prophecy interpretations! These can be dangerous to a Christian! They take our minds and eyes off the *truth* of the Bible—we *already* know *future history*—and God wins!

4) **Divisions**: God's church has dealt with division since New Testament times, and we must avoid this work of the flesh! Remember, Satan was the original author of division when he drew away a third of the angels (Revelation 12:4). As we know, since the “fall” of the large “parent” organization in the early 1990s, true Christians have been *scattered*. From a worldwide total of about 150,000 members in the 1970s, a large number fell away in the early 1990s, and the rest formed “splinter groups.” Over the years, there have been more divisions and offshoots from these groups. It is evident that division displeases the Father and Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10, 3:3; 11:18). As a remnant, we as Christians should prove all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Timothy 2:15), dwell together in *UNITY* (Psalm 133:1; Ephesians 4:3, 13), and overcome our carnal natures (1 John 4:4, 5:5; Revelation 2:26). Pray that the splinters can be grafted back onto the trunk of the tree! Remember, the foundation of our calling is *love* and *fellowship*, which means being *together*! (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 8:4; 1 John 1:3, 6–7)—as well as a work of warning and teaching (Matthew 24:14; 28:19–20).

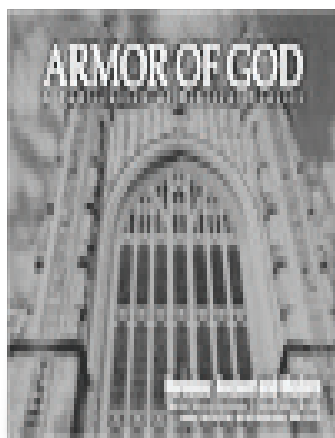
The Apostle Paul summed up what a happy and joyful Spirit-filled Christian will be doing and thinking: we will concentrate on what is true, honest, pure, lovely, and known to make life joyful (Philippians 4:8–11)! God called us to be in His Kingdom, so let's move forward with work, faith, joy, and endurance on that wonderful journey!

W

A new resource of written material
for God's people!

The story of the Church of God down through the annals of history is quite a saga. It is written in the blood, sweat, and tears of literally tens of thousands of God-fearing devoted people simply caught in the *crossfire* of so-called “Christian” religious persecution. Over the centuries, this *true story* develops into an epic that is sometimes stranger than fiction when considering who was responsible for inflicting what some considered a merciless genocide on quiet, hard-working, God-fearing family communities—all in the name of Jesus Christ and Rome's Universal (Catholic) Church.

What is the truth concerning these historical benchmarks that discolor and blister the alleged Christian Church? How is it that a “work of charity” in the name of Jesus Christ can continue to be so revered in our modern day, and yet be responsible for so much innocent bloodshed and not be held accountable, but instead remain believable? Is it because most of today's secular society and culture is unaware? Perhaps they just don't care because *pop-culture* has them too distracted. Maybe they really are too busy to take the time to search out the information that discloses these atrocities and changes. Or perhaps many have just simply lost a love for God's truth.



Access the periodical on
the web page at www.cgi.org.

Whatever the reason, this issue of the **Armor of God** has assembled a variety of in-depth, hard-hitting articles revealing information which for some will be extremely eye-opening regarding Christian church history. You will be exposed to an assortment of particular specifics concerning so-called cherished *Christian* traditions and beliefs that will explain there is nothing Christian about them; and furthermore, Jesus, His apostles, and the New Testament do not mention them at all.

We have attempted to make it easy for you, the reader, to obtain some of this basic fundamental information that should be easy for you to evaluate, and if you choose, access additional information for further education in this segment of ecclesiastical history. So pay particular attention in the course of the articles and sidebars for recommendations for more **FREE** material designed to improve your awareness of just how much of our Lord Jesus Christ's teachings have been compromised and abandoned. If you are sincerely seeking the truth, this issue should be of particular value to you. Remember, our Lord said, “I am the truth and the light...” and yes, the truth will indeed set you free!

W

Understanding Diabetes

by Barbara Owens, RN, Indianapolis, IN

According to a recent Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index Survey, cases of diabetes are rapidly rising in the U.S., afflicting 11.3 percent of American adults, or about 26 million people. If current trends continue, more than 37 million will be afflicted by 2015. Diabetes can cause diseases of the heart, blood vessels, kidneys, and nerves, leading to blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, and stroke.

What *is* diabetes? It is a breakdown of the normal way our body uses digested food for growth and energy. Glucose (sugar) is the main source of fuel for our body. In order for glucose to get into cells, insulin must be available. Normally, the hormone *insulin* is produced by the pancreas and secreted in just the right amount to move glucose from the blood stream into body cells. When this process is not operating correctly, glucose builds up in the blood and overflows into the urine. As glucose passes out of the body, it loses its primary source of fuel, even though the blood contains large amounts of sugar.

The role of insulin is to transfer sugar and other nutrients into cells, which then turns nutrients and sugar into energy. As sugar enters cells, the amount of circulating blood sugar decreases, which signals the pancreas to secrete less insulin so that low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) does not occur.

There are 3 types of diabetes—type I, type II, and gestational. This article will address only type I and type II.

Type I is sometimes referred to as “juvenile onset” when children are afflicted. It can occur for several reasons, most of which are not preventable, such as an autoimmune problem when the body attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas, surgical removal of the pancreas, or viral infections. Since insulin is not secreted, the body is unable to utilize sugars, and the cells are starved for nutrients; therefore, other body systems must compensate. The body begins to break down fat cells for energy, which creates acidic chemicals called “ketones” that can be used for energy. Meanwhile, the liver begins to help out by releasing stored sugar, but since the body cannot produce insulin, blood glucose levels rise.

Type II diabetes, often called “maturity onset” diabetes, is a chronic condition in which the cells are unable to change sugar into energy even when insulin is present; therefore, blood sugar levels rise. The onset of type II occurs gradually, unlike type I. Type II is associated with obesity, abnormal cholesterol levels (HDL, good cholesterol, levels less than 35), high triglycerides (greater than 250), a family history of diabetes, and age over 45 years. Ethnicity also plays a role. Hispanics, Blacks, Native Americans, and Asians have a greater risk for developing diabetes. Although ethnicity, age, and family history are not factors that can be controlled, the risks can be reduced by proper diet and exercise. The symptoms of type II diabetes are often subtle. One third of the people afflicted with it do not even know they have it.

Symptoms of diabetes are caused by abnormal blood sugar levels. When blood sugar is too high, the condition is called *hyperglycemia*. They include increased thirst, dry mouth, frequent urination, and unusual weight loss or gain. More advanced symptoms include headache, blurred vision, and fatigue. Serious signs include frequent yeast infections, itchy skin, and sores or cuts which are slow to heal.

Symptoms which occur when blood sugar is too low are nervousness, feeling jittery, nausea, extreme hunger, rapid heartbeat, trembling, or numbness and tingling sensations in fingers or lips. If untreated, one can experience more severe symptoms such as cold clammy wet skin, or excessive sweating not caused by exercise, mood changes such as irritability, anxiety, anger, restlessness, confusion, difficulty thinking or concentrating, blurry vision, dizziness or headache, weakness, poor coordination, difficulty walking, staggering or slurred speech, fatigue, or drowsiness. Life threatening symptoms which require emergency medical care are seizures, coma, and hypothermia (low body temperature).

Both type I and type II are serious conditions which can lead to painful neuropathy, amputation of limbs, blindness, heart disease, and even death. Although type I diabetes is not preventable, eating a healthy, well balanced diet, getting regular exercise, and avoiding weight gain can greatly reduce the risk for type II diabetes in spite of a family history or ethnicity. Diet and exercise can even reverse the disease, if it is diagnosed early.

Although we look forward to the time when we will no longer be afflicted by disease, we can do our part now in managing or preventing diabetes by applying biblical principles to our life. Ω

Good Health Is NO Accident!

by Evan J. Chase, Toledo, OH

We live in a *VERY* sick world. How many people do you know who have chronic or serious health problems? How many are on expensive prescription drugs? How many of us go day to day not feeling the best, or having the energy to accomplish as much as we can?

We’ve heard it before—and it is still true—there is a CAUSE for every effect!

The amazing human body was designed by a loving and all-intelligent Creator to operate for many decades of vibrant and energetic health! Over the last 50 years, commercially grown and produced food has actually become more of a POISON to our bodies than a fuel! In the interest of bigger profits and long shelf life, our food has many chemicals added, as well as pesticide residues that accumulate in our bodies over time. Most of these chemicals are proven to cause cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, and the biggest curse of our modern day—obesity.

We CAN do a lot to protect and build our health! Remember, God WANTS us to be in good physical health—AS much as good spiritual health! (3 John 2). Our Christian life will be much easier, enjoyable, and active if we have good health!

I have studied this subject for many years and am going to share some basics to help you improve your health and lower your chances of getting diseases.

What we EAT: There is now an American FDA certification that insures you are getting food that was produced without harsh chemical pesticides or additives. Now that it is in higher supply, ORGANIC products are now much more affordable and available at many supermarkets, health food stores, and local farmers’ markets. The added cost of wholesome food is a bargain compared to the expense of doctor’s visits and medicines!

The highest organic labeled priorities: DAIRY PRODUCTS, MEATS, FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. Another health hazard is fast food—even though it may taste good, it promotes obesity and diabetes. Fast food is loaded with highly processed and genetically modified ingredients that can only later cause health problems due to its high fat, sugar, trans-fats and hormone-treated meats. The same goes for overly processed frozen and canned foods found in supermarkets. Once you start cooking with wholesome ingredients from “scratch,” you will never want to go back to those artificially made fast or processed “non-foods.” Your body will thank you with better health once you eat natural, chemical-free foods you cook yourself! Eating a whole, balanced diet should also minimize the need for vitamins or supplements.

What we DRINK: Today millions are ruining their health consuming SOFT DRINKS, whether diet or regular. The high fructose corn syrup in soft drinks, as well as in most processed and fast foods, is making diabetics out of a big percentage of our population! Synthetic sweeteners are also virtual POISON to our bodies. Best alternatives: organic coffee or tea, and best yet, drink lots of purified and filtered water daily. ALCOHOL can easily be a toxin if used too often or in excess. MILK, if not certified organic, is produced with dangerous hormones that cause a host of ailments, including obesity.

Remember, take good care of yourself—we must glorify God in our bodies! (1 Corinthians 6:20). You wouldn’t take a \$60,000 Mercedes-Benz and put leftover dirty chainsaw gas in it! So why would you put unwholesome fuel in your body? Just as we are in a spiritual fight to keep the world’s poisons out of our minds, we are also in a physical fight to preserve our health in this current corrupt age!

Some other health-building practices are proper exercise, maintaining a sound, stress-free mind, getting enough sunshine and doing good for others. This short article is only intended to make you think about improving your health, and obviously it is a very big subject. There are many well-known health practitioners who have daily email newsletters promoting living an organic, medicine-free and healthy life. For those changing their eating habits, improvements in health often show up in weeks and months!

When Jesus Christ returns to rule all nations, all peoples will eventually have good, wholesome foods and will enjoy good health—and we can enjoy better health now if we do our part. Ω

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”
(3 John 1:2).



Church News

Baptismal Report



“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:3, NKJV).

“The ceremony of water baptism is performed by immersion, for the forgiveness of sins, upon true repentance and acceptance of Christ’s sacrifice. After this ceremony, and as a result, one receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. Baptism symbolizes the renunciation of the past sinful way of life, the burial of the old man in a watery grave, and the emergence of a new, Spirit-led man living with Christ’s mind and following in His footsteps” (*Church of God International Statement of Beliefs #11*).

The CGI Toronto congregation welcomed five new members into God’s family on the sixth sabbath of the Feast of Weeks.

The water baptism ceremony was conducted by Toronto’s resident Pastor George Ramocan and Deacon Kenroy Allen, with approximately 50 witnesses present.

The angels in heaven rejoiced (Luke 15:7) over the repentance of:

- ❖ Kimberley Marshall
- ❖ Shawn Wideman
- ❖ Stephanie Chin
- ❖ Martha Milovanovic
- ❖ Wolson Stowe

Most of these recently converted souls are new members of the Toronto congregation, which is continuing to grow physically in terms of attendance, and spiritually in terms of gifts and talents. Praise be to God! Ω

Submitted by Zion Hezekiah



Honoring Bella Barbara McCandless

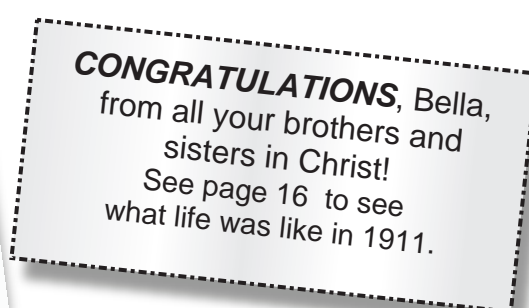
The Bath, Ohio congregation wishes to honor our eldest member with a little story of her life. Bella will be 100 years old this coming May 12, 2011! It is this writer’s opinion Bella is a great lady, wonderful friend to many, and an inspiration to all who have had the pleasure of knowing her.

Bella was born on May 12, 1911 in Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Ohio to Belle Radway and William Kraph. It was a very sad time in her life when she lost her father, at the age of 11. Later, she lost her mother on her own birthday, May 12, 1957. She had a sister, Dorothy, who passed away on September 12, 2005. She spent her school years at Washington Park Elementary and South High School. Late in life, Bella married her husband, Gerald L. McCandless, who was a fireman. He passed away on August 15, 1978. They had two children: a daughter, Linda (and husband, Charles Rini), who gave them two grandchildren, Dana and Bryan; and a son, Jeff (and wife, Beverly), who gave them three grandchildren, Luke, Jason, and Amanda. Later, Jeff and his second wife, Jennifer, had one child, Jeb. Bellas’s son Jeff passed away on May 11, 2009. Bella also has five great-grandchildren: Remy, age 7; Makena, age 5; Blake, age 4; and twins Keenan and Dillon, age 4.

Bella came into the Worldwide Church of God and was baptized March 20, 1971. Later she became a member of the Church of God International on March 22, 1986. Bella has attended the CGI for 26 years, through all our ups and downs. I recall that Bella was still driving her own car to services when she was in her 90s. I also recall many years ago, Bella and her lady friends at CGI volunteering time to run a little table to loan out our cassette sermons to all who asked for them. I never dreamed she was later to become my best friend. Visiting Bella at her little apartment is quite a joy; it is so homey, and shows the love of her family with all their photos, Bella’s beautiful art work she can no longer do, and of course her own piano which she still plays.

Bella says that some of her fondest childhood memories are of her sister and cousins. Her best memories of CGI are traveling to the Feast of Tabernacles with the Watson family. Her greatest desire now is to see the church grow. It was my pleasure to take Bella to the Feast on several occasions when neither of us were able to stay overnight. It was a delight to have her by my side.

Bella says she has no advice for living a long life—it has just been a gift of God. I asked her what she thought of all this new technology today, and she replied: “The old ways were *sooo* nice.” Bella may be getting up in years, but I feel she has been and still is a very strong person who is also compassionate, giving of herself, and is an inspiration to others besides myself. She has a way of making me feel closer to God. My own grand daughters think she is a very special lady, and I am quite sure our congregation agrees. *We all love our dear Lady Bella!* Ω



Watch Sabbath Services Live On Your Computer!

You are invited to attend church services in Tyler, TX or Nanaimo, BC via the Internet. We invite you to tune in Saturdays:

Tyler, TX, 12:00 Noon, EST at www.cgi.org and Nanaimo, BC, 2:30 PM, EST at www.cognanaimo.org

Simply go to either website and look for the link to “Live Webcasting.” Best results are achieved with a high-speed Internet connection. *Please be patient and be prepared to “retry the link” until you connect.*

Coming Soon! Sermon Transcripts on line!





100 Years Ago In America...



- The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.
- Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- A three-minute phone call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California.
- With a mere 1.4 million people, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!
- The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour.
- The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all U.S. doctors had no college education. Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."
- Sugar cost four cents a pound.

- Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.
- Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were: 1) Pneumonia and Influenza, 2) Tuberculosis, 3) Diarrhea, 4) Heart disease, and 5) Stroke.
- The American flag had 45 stars.
- Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea had not been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.
- Eighteen percent of households in the U.S. had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then the pharmacist said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."
- Only six percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Two out of every ten U.S. adults could not read or write.

Now imagine what life will be like in the *next* 100 years!



THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS
3900 TIMMS ST., TYLER, TX 75701
Published by the Church of God International

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
C.O.G.I.

Spring Issue

Check us out on the Web"
www.cgi.org