

# THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## The Official Newspaper of the Church of God International

Vol. 37, No. 1

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

Spring 2016

## Islam—A Prophetic Consideration—Part II

*It has been estimated 54 million Muslims live in Europe today. This is approximately 1.5 times the population of Canada. The Islamization of Europe has accelerated exponentially, due primarily to the mass migration of refugees—and it continues to expand on a global scale. Should the world be concerned?*

by Bill Watson



Bill Watson

**A**ccording to the Pew Research Center's religious profile predictions, potentially, Islam may become the most popular religion around the world by 2070. This, of course, does not take into account any unforeseen circumstances, natural or supernatural, such as social movements, political upheavals, natural disasters, or simply a major war that would have an effect to alter these projections. Presently, there are about 1.75 billion Muslims and 2.25 billion Christians in the world.

Specifically for Europe, San Diego University did some research resulting in a stunning estimate—they claim in just the next dozen years, 25 percent of Europe's total population will be Muslim. Bernard Lewis, world-renowned Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, predicts that by the end of the 21st century, Islam will *dominate* Europe, *surpassing* Christianity as the continent's leading religion.

Many all over the world do not recognize or place any significance on this changing "cultural tide." Yet, one *cannot* dismiss the major effects, which are now considerably noticeable, and the *impact* it's having on the lifestyles and economies within European culture. This

is primarily due to the growing Muslim population in many cities throughout Europe, and the enormous burden it has caused on the social assistance programs within each country.

For example, the Swedish cities of Malmö, Marseille, and Amsterdam are presently 25 percent Islamic. Currently, Paris is surrounded by Muslim neighborhoods with significant areas identified as "no-go zones," with large numbers of young people under the age of 18 living in these districts. Admittedly, in the case of Paris, we have seen how this caused a degree of vulnerability from this culture change and non-assimilating/segregated Islamic lifestyle, and how multiple terrorist attacks are playing out against the indigenous French.

This illustrates what was already mentioned, and how Islam generally employs two specific methods of ultimately infiltrating for the domination of the cultures they target for submission: Jihad, of course, is one—but secondly, *embedding inside* the host nation, and by means from within, gaining dominance and causing the host nation to submit to Islamic Law. This is how it's done—and it's now occurring in the United States, also! Take a moment to read this link—it's shocking: <http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/zieve/070111>

We are beginning to see this occur most significantly in city after city where *accommodations* for Islamic culture are made. These compromises often lead to relaxing and making concessions that undermine the indigenous culture, consequently displacing ethnicities

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## What About History and Prophecy?

by Adrian Davis



Adrian Davis

**F**or many who read the Bible, it is a source of inspirational passages and instruction in Christian living. They become very familiar with the texts that offer encouragement and give them insight on how they can live a better life. The Bible, however, is much more than a "feel good" manual. In fact, focusing solely on the inspirational texts has distorted the Gospel into what we now know as the "Health and Wealth," "Name It and Claim It," "Declare and Decree" Gospel.

However, those of us called by God must approach the Bible differently. It provides a narrative that enables us to understand what God is doing. Rather than being confused by the chaotic events in our world, sticking our heads in the sand and hoping for the best, we are able to contextualize what is

happening against the backdrop of the biblical narrative. To do this, we must embrace the historical as well as the prophetic texts of the Bible.

The instructions on how to live as a Christian are our way of ensuring that we fit into God's narrative exactly where God wants us to fit in. The Bible begins with the book of Genesis. This book covers thousands of years of history from Adam to the twelve tribes of Israel. Everything that is happening in our world today is rooted in the opening narrative of Genesis. That is to say, we live in a cause and effect world, and the causes that were set in motion anciently continue to impact our modern world.

Genesis casts a long shadow from ancient history all the way to the end of the book of Revelation. Our "modern" world is just part of the narrative. With a proper understanding of origins, we will know what developments are significant today.

Two of the most important figures for understanding our world today are:

1. Nimrod (Gen 10–11)
2. Abraham (Gen 12–22)

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## Open Church Policy

**T**he *Church of God International* is an open church. We have many people attending who are new in the faith. Some will not always keep each of God's laws as they should, and some will not believe everything we teach. We pray that they may be strengthened through the services we render and the examples we set as they come to a closer walk with their God. We request that you be neither judgmental nor base your standard for obedience on what you see your brother do. Christ is our standard, not weak and sinful men. Always remember that you will be judged for what *you* do, not what others do. Your job is to pray for them, set the right example, and please the Father in all that you do. □

## 2016 Holy Day Calendar

**New Testament Passover**

**April 21, 2016 (Observed at sundown)**

**Feast of Unleavened Bread**

**April 23–29, 2016**

**Pentecost**

**June 12, 2016**

**Feast of Trumpets**

**October 3, 2016**

**Day of Atonement**

**October 12, 2016**

**Feast of Tabernacles**

**October 17–23, 2016**

**Last Great Day**

**October 24, 2016**

Holydays are observed beginning sundown the previous evening and end at sundown on the days listed. Passover is observed at sundown on the day listed.

Download the *Holy Day Calendar 2015–2017*  
<http://cgi.org/holy-days/>

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- It is the desire 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 pictures.
- With few exceptions, submissions should be from 800–1000 words in either .doc, docx, rtf, or .txt format.
- Submissions may be sent either to [vancestinson@cgi.org](mailto:vancestinson@cgi.org) or [lloyd Cary@gmail.com](mailto:lloyd Cary@gmail.com) or, preferably, to *both*.

DEADLINE for the *next* issue is

**May 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

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

*The Editor*



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**11:00 AM Central Standard Time  
 at [www.cgi.org](http://www.cgi.org)**

Simply go to the website, choose "Media," then click on the link for "Weekly Webcast." Best results are achieved with a high-speed Internet connection. *Please be patient and be prepared to retry the link until you connect.*

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that were there for generations. Undeniably, sometimes it's done through natural and legal means of migration and granting natural citizenship; but recently, due to the unrest and civil wars in the Middle East, combined with many competing terrorist groups driving this movement of literally millions of people, an overwhelming number of Islamic *foreign nationals* are now entering Europe as refugees, who are unknown and without any substantive background checks. They're allowed to settle in areas throughout Europe, which obviously stresses the ethos and economics in multiple ways. The size, scope, and enormity of this migration has not been seen since the days of WW II.

Unquestionably, this has caused a lot of hardship and tension within the cultures of Europe. For instance, many public schools in Belgium and Denmark will only serve halal food (specially prescribed and prepared foods according to sharia law) to the pupils. In French schools, teachers are encouraged to "steer clear" of authors considered offensive to Muslims. Homosexuals in Amsterdam are being beaten and mugged, while women are being sexually assaulted and raped, along with children as young as seven years old, both male and female. The history of the Holocaust can no longer be taught where Muslims attend due to their sensitivities. Sharia courts are now officially part of the British legal system. The following article is shocking as to what Britain is allowing: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1055764/IsI-sharia-courts-Britain-legally-binding.html>

This growing increase of Muslim dominance within hosting governments and neighborhood after neighborhood has also led to a rise in anti-Semitism, causing a record number of Jews to leave Europe. Clearly, the Islamization of Europe is underway and it isn't "politically correct" any more to stop it. Even Germany is welcoming enormous numbers of Muslim refugees to settle within the nation (approximately one million over 2015), while not knowing who they are, where they're from, or what they can contribute to the country. Actually, truth be known, many are just coming to receive the variety of entitlements offered under the social assistance programs subsidized and provided by the socialistic governments of Europe.

#### Gaining Some Context—An Historical Thumbnail Sketch

You may ask, *Have we seen this before?* Do we have any historical record of these kinds of circumstances occurring in the past? The Bible indicates that if we want to understand what will happen in the future, it is highly recommended to become familiar with what happened down through history (Isaiah 41:21–23). Why? Because there are patterns. It has been said that those who don't learn the lessons of history are indeed "destined to repeat it." And so often that is exactly what happens over and over again! That's why it's been said, *History repeats itself*, especially when considering the nature and patterns of empires and kingdoms and the cycles repeated time after time.

Since the rise of Islam, going back to the 7th century, just after Mohammed's death in 632 C.E., his followers have been conducting *insurgency*—rising up and either openly exercising jihad, attacking nations and literally slaughtering people, or infiltrating the social structure of the hosting culture, and from within, using the laws *against* the host nation, steering the hegemony to accommodate Islamic tradition and law. Either way, the profile fits the *non-assimilating* Islamic way, because it is not only a religion, but most importantly, it is a *secular* system imposing *political* control by embedding ultimately in the legislative sector of the culture it migrates to. Clearly, it is a *theocracy*! History proves this point very poignantly.

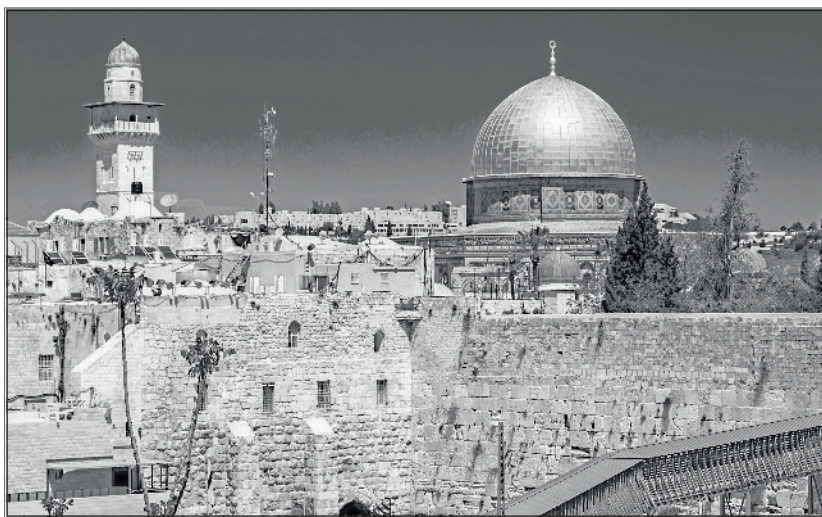
To illustrate: Many will say the *beginning* of the Crusades occurred at the end of the 11th century. Most modern historians will reference the call to arms that Pope Urban II conducted in about 1095 C.E. at the request of Alexius Comnenus. Alexius had seized the Byzantine throne in 1081 C.E. and assumed control of the remains of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman) as Emperor Alexius I. It was at the Council of Clermont, November 1095 C.E., that Pope Urban called upon Western Christians to help the Byzantines re-conquer the Holy Land from Islamic

dominance. It was met with a great outpouring of support from all classes of the population who were willing to go and fight the Muslims with and for the sign of the cross. But is this really how and what started the Crusades? Or was this a long overdue response to centuries of Muslim aggression, which continued to compound, growing ever more vicious through the years of genocidal jihadi attacks? Those who insist on rewriting history prefer you don't know what led up to Alexius' appeal for help to Pope Urban II—it's just not politically correct today for that historical detail of the narrative to be disclosed.

Interestingly enough, what most people don't realize, and what is often overlooked and dismissed by both Christian and Islamic historians, is that the objective of the Catholic Church sanctioning the Crusades was defined as a mission to *recapture* and *recover* former Christian territory that was taken by Muslims in previous centuries. Yes, the truth is, the Crusades were a direct response by Western Rome to counter the aggressive tactics—jihadist attacks—by Muslim hoards from centuries before. It was a reaction from Western Christians (Rome in particular) to answer the call for help from the Byzantines who wanted to reconquer former Christian territory.

Keep in mind, Muslims attacked and seized Jerusalem as far back as 638 C.E., just six years after Mohammad's death, which was a direct result of the weakening of the Eastern Roman Empire (the Byzantium) due to the Byzantine-Sasanian War of 602–628 C.E. The net outcome of this long, drawn-out and over-extended war contributed to enormous territorial losses that were exacerbated by the Islamic jihadist conquests of the 7th century. It was at this time Muslims initiated *invasions* into

Christian Byzantine lands. Some of the richest areas of the Eastern Roman Empire were lost to Muslim dominance as early as the 7th century. Over the years, Egypt, Syria, and parts of northern Africa, including Jerusalem, were all lost to these Arab warriors of Mohammad. They "capstoned" their conquest of Jerusalem by completing an octagonal domed Islamic building over the rock on Mount Moriah, built by the Caliph Abd al-Malik in 691 C.E. It was this building that we know as the Dome of the Rock today. That's about 400 years *before* what is commonly accepted as the historical be-



Dome of the Rock

ginning of the Crusades!

Approximately 450 years of relentless Islamic jihadist aggression over much of Eastern Rome *preceded* the officially recognized date the Crusades started! Remember, commencing in the 7th century, until the end of the 11th century, Muslims terrorized enormous numbers of Christian people residing in what was the Eastern Byzantium. This violence escalated in the 8th century when 60 Christians were crucified and the Muslim governor of Caesarea seized a small group of pilgrims, accused them of being spies, and executed all of them. Those Christians refusing to convert to Islam had the *jizya* (religious tax) increased by many Muslim rulers who also engaged in very vicious and horrific acts of violence toward those Christians among them.

In 772 C.E., the caliph, al-Mansur, ordered a *mark* to be stamped on the hands of all Jews and Christians, and if any were caught proselytizing, they would have their heads cut off as was done in 789 C.E. to many monks, when the Bethlehem monastery of Saint Theodosius was plundered. As the persecutions increased early in the 10th century, many Christians fled to Constantinople and other cities in the West. But the Muslims were unmerciful, harsh, and implacable.

This continued pillaging and ruthless advances of jihadists finally caused a counter attack to erupt in the 960s by a General Nicephorus Phocas who later became a Byzantine emperor. He was able to parlay a series of successful campaigns, which resulted in recapturing Crete, Cilicia, Cyprus, and parts of Syria from the Muslims. In 969 C.E., he was able to secure and recover the city of Antioch and continue his military successes on into Syria for a few additional years. But soon the Sunni caliph from Bagdad declared jihad against these Christian defenders in 974 C.E.

Many years of battles followed, but due to the complication of disunity among the Sunni/Shi'ite Muslims, which hampered their efforts to defend what they believed to be theirs (since Muslims believe once something belongs to Islam it is always Islamic)—a 10-year truce was negotiated in 1001 C.E., but it didn't last. Over the next ensuing

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years, 30,000 Christian church buildings were destroyed, including the Jerusalem Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where allegedly Christ was buried. During this 11th century, Christians were in a very precarious condition, and throughout this century persecution became more intense. Three thousand people were killed in Jerusalem, and that was nothing compared to the ongoing advances of the jihadists. The Seljuks established the sultanate of Rum (referring to the new Rome of Constantinople) in Nicaea, hoping to use it as a platform to threaten the Byzantines and harass the Christians throughout the area.

It was at this time that Alexius Comnenus, emperor of the Byzantine, reached out to Pope Urban II, asking for help in pushing back and *recapturing* the lands that *originally* belonged to the Byzantium of Eastern Rome. And as mentioned before, Pope Urban sent out the edict during the Council of Clermont in 1095 C.E. for all Christians of the Western world to come and help fight to regain and recapture the lands which originally were part of the Eastern Roman Empire. It's at this point most historians recognize the Crusades began, regardless of these Islamic invasions that were taking place for approximately 450 years previously. It's disingenuous, at best, not to include these attacks going back to the 7th century, if we're going to determine what really caused the Crusades and just how they actually got started.

#### What Lessons Do We Learn From History?

There is much to be learned from the history of these two religions of the Middle Ages and the *raw hate* expressed when confronting each other during the Crusades. However, it's important we understand a very deep-seated difference that underscores the animosity keeping these followers of Mohammed so visceral toward Christian beliefs. Most don't recognize there is a fundamental driving *doctrinal disagreement* that causes the Muslim to perceive and view the Christian way with disgust, aversion, and repugnance.

In the Qu'ran, there are Suras that present the basis of the antipathy that *all Muslims* hold toward Jesus Christ, and consequently, Christianity in general. They read as follows:

\* "In *blasphemy* indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ the son of Mary. Say: Who then hath the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and all every one that is on the earth? For to Allah, belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between. He createth what He pleaseth. For Allah hath power over all things" (Qu'ran 5:17, *Yusuf Ali* edition).

\* "They do *blaspheme* who say: Allah is Christ the son of Mary. But said Christ: O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Whoever joins other gods with Allah, Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help" (Qu'ran 5:72, *Yusuf Ali* edition).

\* "Then whoever disputes with you concerning him [Jesus] after knowledge that has come to you, [Jesus] being a slave of Allah, and having no share in Divinity say: (O Muhammad SAW) Come, let us call our sons and your sons, our women and your women, ourselves and your selves— then we pray and invoke (sincerely) *the Curse of Allah* upon those who lie" (Qu'ran 3:61, *Muhsin Khan* edition).

\* "That they said (boastfully), We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah;—but they *killed him not, nor crucified him*, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but *only conjecture* to follow, *for of a surety they killed him not:—*" (Qu'ran 4:157, *Yusuf Ali* edition).

\* "He (Jesus) said: Verily! I am a *slave of Allah*, He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet;" (Qu'ran 19:30, *Muhsin Khan* edition).



Crusades

\* "Christ the son of Mary was *no more* than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their food. See how Allah doth make His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they *are deluded* away from the truth" [of Islam] (Qu'ran 5:75 *Yusuf Ali* edition).

These are just a few of the many references to Jesus Christ, and yes, admittedly, there are additional Suras that appear to speak more favorably about Him, but that is not to ignore this *plain fact*: The Christian belief that Christ was God and actually became man so He could be

crucified and die so mankind could live is *utter nonsense* and complete *blasphemy* to Islamic doctrine! It's considered a doctrine of *idolatry* to them! This is an *important distinction* to make!

This is what underpins the extreme hatred toward Christians today—the fact that Christians will not concede this point: "And they were commanded only to worship Allah, and worship none but Him Alone (no gods beside God), and perform prayers and give charity: and that is the right religion" (Qu'ran 98:4-5). All Muslims are *committed* to this one theological statement of belief: Allah is God and Mohammad is His prophet.

With this as their driving motivation and tireless obsession to conquer the world for Allah, the *second* most important lesson we can learn from history is: Islam is *relentless* and will *not* stand down until all submit to the Islamization of the world. That is the overall objective for this theocracy, this movement that is committed to rule the world and bring all of humanity under Islamic law.

Remember, Islam is more than a religion. At its core, it is a *political movement* that is driven by *religious fanaticism* of apocalyptic visions of the 12th Imam, or Mahdi's (Messiah) return to rule the world and recover it from the chaos created by the Muslim jihadist movement! This is part of the "catalyst that generates the resolve" that Western nations are contending with, but *refuse* to acknowledge as a significant Islamic tenant. This denial is detrimental to those suffering from it, and blinds them from addressing this aggressively *determined* theocratic movement. However, that doesn't dismiss in the spiritual eyes and minds of most Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims that it remains a very *real* eschatological doctrine that is foremost in their religious beliefs. Don't doubt for a minute that it isn't a *compelling* belief that motivates them to do whatever it takes—even if they have to *kill themselves* doing it. They are driven by an *overwhelming passion* to dominate for the sake of Allah! In their minds all must "submit" in obedience to Allah, whom they believe is the same God as the God of the Old Testament. It is derived from the Arabic root *Salema*, meaning peace, purity, submission, and obedience. In the religious sense, *Islam means submission* to the will of Allah (God) and His Law—sharia!

Keep in mind that even the "father" of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther, claimed after studying the Qu'ran that it was a destroyer, enemy, and blasphemer of Jesus Christ. Yet many in the West refuse to admit the Qu'ran calls for the execution of those who commit blasphemy, which is considered worshipping any other God but Allah. It is *imperative* we start allowing this information to resonate with us!

In the minds of certain segments of Islam, there are Muslims who are considered *fundamentalists*, which do, in fact, take the Qu'ran *very literally*, and carry out what it instructs according to the Sura narratives. Therefore, it should not be surprising to know why there are Muslim groups—*Islamic fundamentalists* today, who claim France, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, England, etc., and multiple cities within many of the Western European countries, are the "carriers of the banner of the Cross in Europe" and must be *conquered*—they *must* be—it's mandated by the Qu'ran that they submit!



Christianity vs. Islam

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It is a well-known fact among Muslims today that sharia law, which is *Islamic* law, is *not* compatible with democracy. So, even among the non-violent Muslims (the so-called moderate Muslims), there are movements and groups working within present governmental structures of the hosting community, implementing tactics that fully intend to favor Islamic law. Obviously, as these groups begin to attain majority positions in government, they will be able to effect the changes they want and successfully change the law of the land—it's what they do. Watch this YouTube news story for additional details. It's guaranteed you will be stunned! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDKk15KcqNk>



**Pope Urban II Preaches the First Crusade**

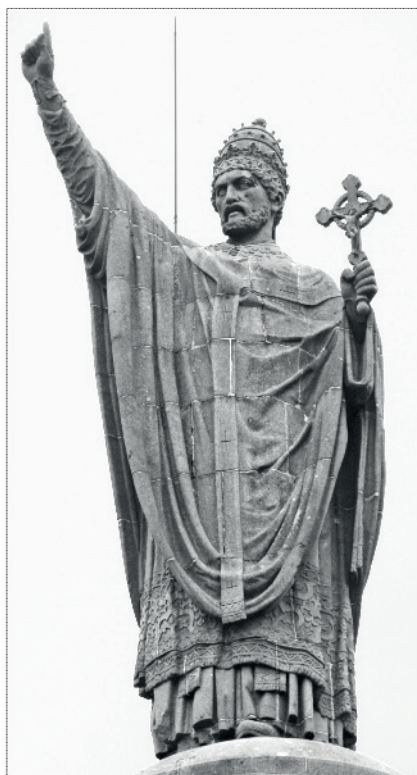
In addition, this perception shared by these *Muslim fundamentalists* includes the United States as being the “great Satan” and Israel as being the “little Satan.” In their minds, this isn't just rhetoric, or figures of speech—they really mean this *literally*. Remember, we are dealing with a *theology*—it's a *religion*! Yes, it is an ideology, but it is actually *rooted* and *underscored* by theology written in the Qu'ran and *magnified* by the Hadith. This makes it *far more dangerous* since the scriptures (Suras) they use for their instruction are so intolerantly myopic and prejudicial toward beliefs outside the laws (sharia) and traditions (culture) of Islam.

The Islamic attacks being conducted by these Islamic fundamentalists, under the guise of jihad, are testaments to this narrow-mindedness. Attacks against Jews and Christians, Yazidis, Hindus, Kurds, and other Sunnis and Shi'ites, only goes to illustrate the confusion and complexity of just what this movement is all about and how it's defined. It's often quite a tangled, convoluted narrative that simply is just vicious, spiteful, and cruel.

One thing is clear: If you do not concede to Islamic sharia law and conform to a Friday sabbath, halal foods, certain holydays and fasts, religious prayer rituals, and particular garb, (especially for women), polygamy, child marriages, and the oppression of women, homosexuals, and those who *do not believe* that Allah is God and Mohammad is his prophet—even execution and/or limbs or heads that can legally be amputated for certain offenses, with stoning included—then you must either pay a jizya (tax), convert to Islam, or be executed. These are some of the rules that govern Islamic sharia law.

Presently, these cultural differences are causing a lot of tension, confusion, hurt, and enormous disappointment and sadness among the European communities that are experiencing an influx of Middle Eastern refugees and immigrants. Due to the *non-assimilation* of these foreign nationals, those indigenous people from the hosting nations are beginning to suffer grotesquely due to the *intolerance* of these Muslim fundamentalists which are now having an effect on the lifestyles, safety, and in some cases laws, of those Western cultures that don't share in this theological ideology that is quite *fascist* in its implementation.

So, where is this leading, and to what prophetic *extent* can we expect this Islamic fundamentalist movement to affect the traditional Western Christian cultures of Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, and other so-called Christian nations of the world? We will illustrate some of that and what trends are already developing in our next installment.



**Pope Urban II**

### *History, continued from page 1*

Their level of importance to God is reflected in how much of the biblical text is devoted to them. Nimrod is important because he was the first man to be worshipped in the post-flood world, and he is the father of civilization. He was a mighty man who had a competing agenda to God for mankind. He was a proxy for the devil. Where God wants all men to be free, Nimrod wanted to control and enslave men. He used religion, politics, and economics to pursue his agenda, culminating in the tower of Babel, and ultimately, in the birth of all civilizations.

From the beginning of this Nimrod foundation, the book of Revelation highlights seven civilizations that are referred to as “beasts” (Revelation 17). What separates these seven civilizations (or empires) from all the others in the world, is that these civilizations are focused on the consumption and destruction of God's people. Even though the “beast” changes from era to era, it is the same Nimrod agenda manifesting itself in order to circumvent God's plan for mankind. Satan knows that if God's people cease to exist, God is unable to fulfill His promise to Abraham.

As Nimrod was a proxy for Satan, Abraham is a proxy for God. In the midst of worldwide paganism, Abraham exercised remarkable faith in God, in God's character, and in God's promise. From the foundation of Abraham's faith, God began a counter-civilization to paganism. This counter-civilization will eventually spread over the whole world and ultimately reach to the ends of the universe. The Bible is a love story between God and Abraham, with a villain called Satan, the Devil, who is doing all he can to frustrate God's covenant promises of love to Abraham and his descendants. His primary tool is deception. The Bible repeatedly warns us that Satan deceives the whole world. Jesus Christ repeatedly and lovingly warns us not to be deceived (Matthew 24; John 16).

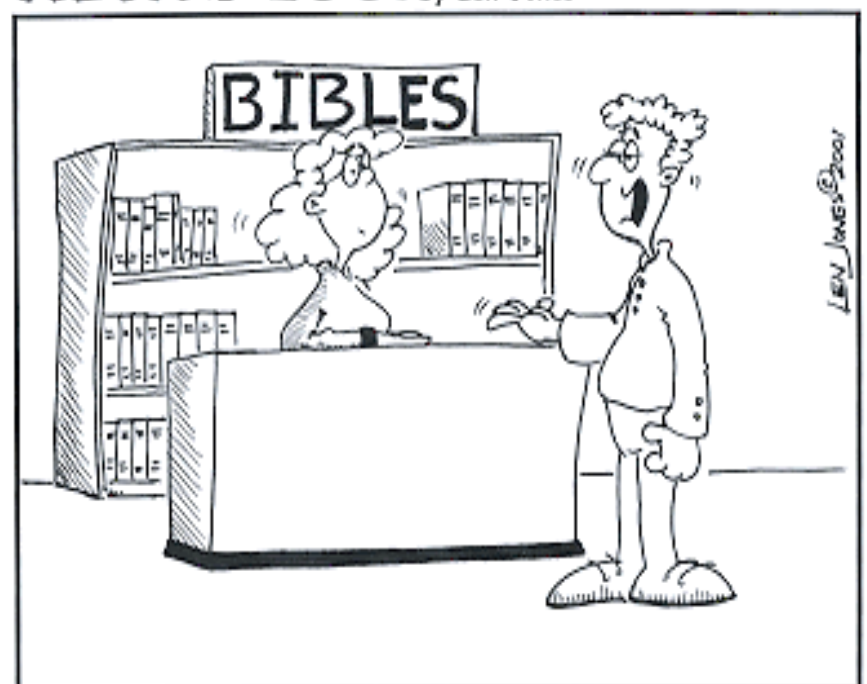
In Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, all the families of the earth will be blessed. The historical texts give us this fundamental narrative.

The prophetic texts enable us to foresee how Satan is disrupting this narrative, and they motivate us to stay true to our calling and our part in the narrative.

With the proper understanding of history and prophecy, the texts that address Christian living become far more precious and meaningful to us than anyone else. Rather than view the Bible myopically as a source of personal inspiration, we view the Bible strategically as a library of books that enable us to accurately interpret the world we live in and our part in it. Let us do all we can to be good workmen rightly dividing the Word of truth.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

### **ALTAR EGO** by Len Jones



“What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision.”



# The Third Commandment

**Which Commandment do you suppose is broken more often than any other than any other in today's society at large? Perhaps you may have indulged in it without even realizing it. James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." You need to be aware!**

by Lloyd W. Cary

**M**ore and more, our society today is becoming godless and without shame. No longer is God's holy name being honored, but instead is used as a cuss word. Do you doubt it? Just open your ears to what is being said around you!

Although the world may acknowledge the power of one's words, many people in the world think very little about how they actually speak. There was a time when filthy language was only used by unsavory characters, and dirty stories were reserved for private conversations held by "mature" adults. Today, profanity and filthy language can be heard by people in all segments of society, from preschoolers to senior citizens. Even people who call themselves "Christians" can be heard using foul language and telling dirty jokes. Many feel that because they use euphemisms, it is not real swearing.

*Webster's Dictionary* defines *euphemism* as: "The use of a less direct word or phrase for one considered offensive." Euphemisms are often regarded as "polite swearing." There are many categories of euphemisms, but the two most common are those that violate the Third Commandment and the ones that ask God to curse or condemn others. Unfortunately, many who claim to be Christian unknowingly use these euphemisms freely without even knowing it. Satan is in the process of deceiving the whole world (Revelation 12:9), and because Christians tend to absorb what is going on in the world around them, we must be extra alert and aware what is even coming out of our own mouths!

### Euphemisms Using God's Name

The Third Commandment states, "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; Deuteronomy 5:11). "In vain" literally means to use God's name in an empty or trifling way, without appropriate reverence for God.

In today's society, we hear this commandment violated overtly and habitually all around us, with "God," "Jesus," "Christ" or "Lord" uttered merely as "filler words," exclamations, expressions of anger or contempt, or in conjunction with cursing or profanity. One of the most common abuses of the name of God is the phrase "Oh my ...!", which has become so commonplace it now has its own abbreviation on the Internet as "OMG" for text messaging.

In addition to blatantly saying God's names, there are euphemisms that have modified the same names into less explicit or softened forms; but because they are merely modifications of God's name(s), they likewise are violations of the intent of the Third Commandment.

The list below is provided to help you identify common euphemisms for God's name, in order to avoid inadvertently making irreverent references to God's holy name. (You can find more information in many dictionaries that include slang words and euphemisms.)

For **"God"** people often substitute: Gol, Golly, Gosh, Gad, ye gads, by George, by Jove, Almighty, and the ever-popular, "Oh my God!"

For **"Jesus"** or **"Christ"** we hear: By Jesus, Gee, Geez, Jeezoo, Sheez, Gee-wiz (Jesus-wizard), Cripes (Christ), Jeepers, by Jingo, Jeezers, Be-jeezers, Jumping Jehosephat, and even the *initials* of Jesus Christ are used for stand for: Jiminy Cricket, Jiminy Christmas, Jumpin' Catfish, Jeepers Creepers, Jeezy Creezy, Judas Christopher, Jason Crisp, etc.

For **"Lord,"** we hear: Lordy, Lawd, Lawdy, and Oh, Lord.

**"Holy"** is a word that refers to God's nature, works or anything God is present or involved in. Any use of this word in conjunction with any other word (outside of its correct and proper context) is a violation of the Third Commandment. Examples: Holy Cow, Holy Smokes, Holy Moley, and even Holy Toledo.

Another category of euphemisms for eternal judgment would be those the individual might have a disagreement with by asking God to **condemn** ("damn") a person, place, or thing. Euphemisms for condemn include: Darn, Durn, Dang, Doggone (a euphemism for both the words "God" and "damn") and any other combination of these words with euphemisms for God.

While the Bible teaches that Christians must learn to discern good from evil (1 Peter 3:10), it also teaches that we should not condemn others in the sense of trying to determine their ultimate fate. God the Father has given the judgment of mankind to the Son (John 5:22; 2 Corinthians 5:10), and it is *His* prerogative to judge—not ours. Jesus warned, "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37). Jesus also cautions us: "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be

measured to you again" (Matthew 7:2) and "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7).

Are the words we speak important to God? Let the Scriptures speak! Jesus Christ said, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:36–37).

Of course, this is not to say that God will hold us guilty for being completely unaware that some word we use is a euphemism for His name. But we might be guilty of negligence in our speech. All of us have a responsibility to be careful in what we say (Matthew 12:36–37), but as lights in a dark world, we are to set the example not only in our conduct, but in pure speech as well. He will demand an accounting from those besmirching it (Matthew 12:36).

A few scriptures for you to consider in your private Bible study concerning this matter of using God's name:

Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 24:10–16; Proverbs 15:1–2; 18:21; Matthew 5:16; 12:31; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Ephesians 4:29; 5:3–4; Colossians 3:8; 1 Timothy 1:13, 20; James 3:2–8; Jude 16; Revelation 16:9, 11, 21.

## Know Your Minister

John Reedy



John Reedy

**J**ohn W. Reedy spent the first 18 years of his life in central Indiana. He began attending the *Radio* (later the *Worldwide*) *Church of God* with his mother when he was nine years old. After high school graduation, he moved to Texas to attend Ambassador College.

He did not intend to be a minister, but by the time he earned his diploma, he answered God's call. He

married his college sweetheart, Felicity, and they moved to Ontario, Canada to serve the Toronto West congregation. He was ordained in June, 1976. He later pastored a church in Windsor, Ontario and then a church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

During an upheaval in the *Worldwide Church of God*, John and his wife lost confidence in church administration, and he resigned. They moved to Tyler, Texas, and he started his landscape business. They were subsequently disfellowshipped.

In 1995, he was invited to attend church with Ron Dart in his home. He truly enjoyed the fellowship and renewal of the Spirit and stayed on to attend the *Tyler Church of God*. He preached when needed and eventually became the church pastor. Regrettably, the church board decided to explore other doctrines and speakers, and John had no option but to resign. He could not compromise on his beliefs.

He has been attending the *Church of God International* since March 2011. He preaches when needed and feels he has found a home with this special congregation. John appreciates CGI for offering a stable, Christ-centered community of believers.

John and Felicity have a son, Andrew Reedy, and a daughter, Amanda Turner. They have three perfect grandchildren and three step-grandchildren. Each is a blessing from God.



## Special Feast Announcements

### Feast of Tabernacles, 2016 Pinellas Park, in Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida

**W**e are very pleased to announce that the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, at 5851 Park Boulevard in Pinellas Park will again be the location of eight days of services dedicated to praising God and enjoying the education and fellowship opportunities with God's people that comes with observing the Feast of Tabernacles during the days of **October 17–24** this year.

The *Church of God International*, in cooperation with the *Church of God Miami* and the *Church of the Sovereign God*, will again co-sponsor this wonderful event for the edification and enjoyment of all those who choose to come and visit the variety of shops and entertainment facilities in conjunction with the gorgeous beaches, where so many ocean front accommodations are available for your enjoyment and relaxation.

Over the years, this Feast site has become known for providing a wide scope of activities that will include sermons (which will be “webcast” in real time every day, including two combined Bible studies with our Australian brethren halfway around the world), along with seminars, Bible studies, Sabbath school for the young, and teen classes designed for them. A variety of special music will be planned, so if you have some talent, don't “sit on it”—come on down and share it with the rest of your brethren!

There is also a broad range of things to do, including boating, deep-sea fishing, putt-putt golf, and “real golf,” too—even bowling and softball can be arranged. Additionally, a BBQ party, volleyball, and a family dinner dance is planned, along with many more things to do. And we haven't even mentioned the large selection of restaurants that offer a wide range of superb “eateries.” From the “beach-bum food shacks” to the four-and-five-star dining classics—they're all here, at the Tampa/St. Pete, Florida Feast site!

Accommodations are available throughout the area, from condos to hotel rooms and suites. They are located inland or on the beach, and can accommodate even the most fastidious tastes. The Holiday Inn Harbourside will again have discounts rates available for standard rooms and suites, but not until sometime after June. More information will be forthcoming on that. However, if you prefer, you can call *Capalbo Rentals* at 1-800-237-5960; or *Waterfront Vacation Rentals, Inc.* at 1-866-547-RENT (7368); or visit *VRBO.com* for additional condo information and other rental/lease properties available in the area. For additional information, please feel free to call Mr. Larry Sharp at 863-533-3525, or email him at [larrysharp@verizon.net](mailto:larrysharp@verizon.net)

Hope to see you in Tampa/St. Pete this year!

### Feast of Tabernacles, 2016 Collingwood, Ontario CANADA

**C**ome and join us in the beautiful community of Collingwood, Ontario, on the shores of Georgian Bay.

The sermons, seminars, and activities will leave you spiritually and physically rejuvenated.

We have negotiated the following rates:

— Hotel Rooms with 1 King or 2 Queen beds: \$79.00

(This price includes a continental breakfast.)

—1 Bedroom condo: \$119

—2 Bedroom condo: \$169

—3 Bedroom condo: \$219

(All condos have fully equipped kitchens but do not include continental breakfasts.)

Call now to reserve your room at: 705-445-9422 or 1-800-482-7894.

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to email Murray Palmatier at [murraypalmatier@yahoo.ca](mailto:murraypalmatier@yahoo.ca)

*Any of our American brethren will be able to take advantage of a great exchange rate that currently sits in the range of \$1.00 U.S. equaling \$1.40 Canadian.*

*Submitted by Murray Palmatier*

## 266 Hear Jamaican Presentation on Feast Days

by Ian Boyne



Ian Boyne

**T**he Kingston, Jamaica, congregation of the *Church of God International* has a concerted and targeted programme of reaching Church of God 7th Day congregations with the truth of God's holydays.

Furthering that objective, on December 26 last year, I responded to one bishop's invitation to address several congregations to give a defense of our view that the holydays have not been abolished, but ought to be observed today. Early last year I received a similar invitation from

another Bishop of Church of God 7th day to address a combined meeting of his leaders and congregations on this same issue. As a result of my presentation in February last year, that group opened its doors to holyday observance beginning with the Days of Unleavened Bread in the spring and ending with the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall. Praise God!

After the Feast, I made another presentation to solidify them in that truth, and after a vote of all four congregations, 95 percent decided they would all keep the Feast days. The Bishop of this group of Church of God 7th day congregations said the presentation I gave was the most lucid and impactful they had heard on the subject. They are rejoicing that God has led them into that important truth.

Similarly, a few months ago, the head of another group of Church of God 7th Day congregations, Selwyn Sewell, contacted me to say that he had privately come into an understanding of the Feast days, but that he needed my help, so he asked me to come to his church to present the best evidence for it. So on December 26, he brought his congregations together, giving us a total attendance of 266 persons. A number of ministers were also there. In my over 90-minute presentation (plus another 90 minutes of questions and answers), I drew from scholarly sources, including Craig Keener's massive tome on the book of Acts, to show that the arguments against continued holyday observance are weak and indefensible.

I quoted from Church of God 7th Day booklets as well as Seventh-Day Adventist scholar Ron du Preez's scholarly critique of Feast-keeping, titled *Feast-Keeping and the Faithful*. I demonstrated why all their arguments against the holydays fail. In the end, a number of persons asked for holyday calendars so they could start keeping them beginning this Feast of Unleavened Bread.

I will do a follow-up presentation in March to prepare them on the practical matters of keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread, as well as its spiritual significance. In discussions with Bishop Sewell, I have suggested coming back to make presentations showing that this is not the only day of salvation, Christology, and the matter of tongues speaking. Mr. Sewell is an educated man and is very open, congenial, and broad-minded. We have pledged to work together closely in the interest of truth. He, like Bishop Chambers, has a wonderful attitude.

God is opening up a lot of doors for CGI Jamaica, which is very evangelistic oriented. The church continues to hold public campaigns and is putting particular emphasis this year on personal evangelism. Growth is very important if the church is to fulfill its mission of preaching the Gospel and feeding the flock. Last year alone our congregation baptized

These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons (Leviticus 23:4).





# Holes In Our Holiness

*Are there holes in your holiness, gaps in your agape, or wrinkles in your righteousness?  
What does it mean to be holy? Why should we care? And what can we do about it?*

by Lloyd W. Cary



Lloyd W. Cary

**W**e've often heard the question asked, "Why are we here?" Good question! It forces us to think introspectively. If you have been in God's church very long, you understand that God's overall grand purpose is that He is creating a holy people who will become His holy family in the soon-coming Kingdom of God. That is our calling.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:7, KJV, we read, "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." Holiness is best defined as that which is separated to the service of God. "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). Holiness is a distinctive mark of God's people.

"And hast made us unto our God *kings* and *priests*: and we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 1 Peter 2:9).

"Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness" (Psalm 132:9; Isaiah 61:10; 1 Peter 5:5). Early on, God commanded His priests to array themselves in "holy garments." The holy clothing of the priests symbolized righteousness. The idea is, that in the service of a holy and just God, the priests, the ministers of religion, should also be holy. The consistency of true religion demanded it. By analogy, we as God's people are to be *spiritually* adorned in white clothing, picturing purity, righteousness, and holiness. We see in the book of Revelation that the slain martyrs of God are given "white robes," signifying they were washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ (Revelation 6:11; 9, 13-14). Revelation 19:8 tells us, "And to her [Christ's bride] was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: *for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*"

Would we, as God's future kings and priests, *dare* come before the throne of God wearing rank, spotted, torn, or moth-eaten clothing? Certainly not! That would be offensive and unacceptable to God. We would be like the man without a wedding garment in Matthew 22:11-14. We as God's people are to be as He is, to wit, holy.

## Holes in our Holiness?

Awhile back, I was digging through some of my old clothes and found one of my woolen ties with a moth hole in it!

A "hole" is an opening into or through something. A hole is an area where something is missing—it is *nothing*, a fissure, a *gap* where there should be *something*!

By analogy, we, as God's kings and priests, are to be clothed in righteousness. And the "holes" in our holiness would be—our *SINS*! We might also call it, "Gaps in our agape," or "Wrinkles in our righteousness." 1 John 1:8 reminds us, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

God's holydays are coming soon—a calling and an opportunity to examine ourselves to see if we have any "holes" in our holiness—and what we should do about it.

A large "hole" in the "holiness" of most professing Christians today is that they don't seem to *CARE* much about *PERSONAL HOLINESS*. Or, at the very least, they don't understand it. Their reasoning is sometimes, "that's trying to earn your salvation" or "that's legalism!" Think about that for a moment. Would we rather be "legal" with God, or "illegal?"

Paul spoke this, "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the *garment* spotted by the flesh" (Jude 23).

Your Bible says *if* you will obey God's voice and keep His covenant, "... *then* ye shall be a *peculiar* treasure unto me above all people" (See: Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 14:2; 26:18; Psalm 35:4; Titus 2:14; and 1 Peter 2:9). In today's society, "peculiar" is usually defined as someone who is radically "weird," "whacked out," "oddball," or "fanatical." But as the *Bible* uses the word, it means "exclusive property; that which belongs to a person in exclusion of others; a closely shut up jewel or peculiar treasure." (Compare Malachi 3:17).

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*" (1 Corinthians

1:26). In truth, we see there are comparatively few extraordinary Christians; but being an ordinary Christian is an extraordinary thing!

However, it seems most "churched" people in the world today do not take the Bible's call to personal or individual *HOLINESS* seriously! Some think all one has to do is "give your heart to the Lord" at an altar call and—*bingo!*—you are instantly, automatically, and eternally secure from that moment on, and there is nothing you can do to lose it! These do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God (Matthew 22:29).

Too many are "at peace" with worldliness, too "at ease" with sin in their lives, and too content with spiritual immaturity in their churches. The problem with this world's Christianity is that they only believe *on* and *in* Christ. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19). The problem is, they don't *BELIEVE* what God *SAYS*! Most will bedeck their catechism with out-of-context scriptures to give their personal theology perceivable credibility, but they will not repent or obey! These are the "HOLES" in their holiness!

**True faith is simply BELIEVING WHAT GOD SAYS IS TRUE!** Abraham, the father of the faithful, believed what God *said*, and it was counted unto him for righteousness (Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23). A case in point: How many in professing Christianity really believe *and act upon* what God says about His holy Sabbath day? (Exodus 20:8-11). How many whose houses are laden with idols and pictures of what they believe to be Jesus Christ and various saints ignore or rationalize the scriptures in Exodus 20:3-6? Do they really *believe* and *act* upon what God *SAYS*? Or do they circle their wagons and rely on the tradition of *men*? How many swap God's appointed holydays for the traditions of Christmas, New Years, and Easter? Can they find that in their Bibles? How many violate God's food laws (Leviticus 11) because *It tastes good* and *Everybody else does it*? Is that the criteria for truth? Jesus said, "Think *not* that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am *not* come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle **shall in no wise pass** from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:17-18). Most discard what Jesus *said* and choose to believe God's law is "done away" or "nailed to the cross" because some man or some man-made church organization they respect *says* so. These are "HOLES" in their holiness!

God says, "... but to *this* man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:2).

## Our Full Commission

Our commission in the world is to be a light, a witness, and a warning (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 14:23; Romans 10:17-18; Isaiah 58:1; Ezekiel 33:1-6). Some believe all that is required is to "watch yourself" or "feed the flock." It goes without saying that we need to "watch" or examine ourselves, our behavior, our spiritual growth, our attitudes, and our obedience to Christ (Mark 10:17-19; Luke 10:25; 18:18-20). We are cautioned to "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Corinthians 13:5). But this does not exclude watching world events. We are told to "learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, *when* ye shall *see* these things [wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, troubles, and so forth, the things we can *see*—Matthew 24:6-12; Mark 13:8-9; Luke, 21:9-11] come to pass, *know* that it is nigh, even at the doors" (Mark 13:28-30, Matthew 24:32-34). This is not "headline theology," but Bible prophecy. *Why* would Christ have inspired these things *in* the Bible if we are not to *WATCH OUT* for them? "Oh," gainsayers will argue, "but there have *always* been wars and evil happenings in the world." True, but that does not mean we should ignore, ostrich-like, what is going on in the world—yes, the good, the bad, *and* the ugly, as they gain in exponential intensity as we near the end of the age. These conditions are *signs* to watch for as noted in Mark 13:28-30 and Matthew 24:32-34. Those who refuse to look at world conditions *in addition to* watching ourselves are in a state of denial. Unfortunately, there are those who watch world conditions exclusively, to the neglect of watching their own spiritual condition. It is not a matter of "either/or"—either watch world events alone or watch yourself alone. We should be doing *BOTH*! "... but to *this* man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and *trembleth at My Holiness*, continued on page 9



*Holiness, Continued from page 8*

*Word*” (Isaiah 66:2). In addition, we are to patch up the “holes” in our own holiness, to put on the very mind of Christ! Our commission is not to compromise and be friends of the world and its system of things. It is to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:1, 14–15).

God planned “before the foundation of the world” that He would call out a “peculiar people” whom He would redeem and purify unto Himself. He would place His Holy Spirit in them and they would become His holy people (Ephesians 1:4; Titus 2:14)!

Too often people concentrate on what Christ has saved us *from*—a life of debauchery and sin—but little attention is given to all that Christ saved us *to*—Holiness! Immortality! We are called to be spirit beings, kings and priests in the Kingdom of God! Too often the pursuit of godly character and personal holiness does not occupy the place in our hearts and minds that it should. (Send for our free booklet, *The Second Coming...and Beyond!*)

### Was Jesus Politically Correct?

Political correctness (PC) is defined as “a term that describes language, ideas, policies, and behavior seen as seeking to minimize social and institutional offense in occupational, gender, racial, cultural, sexual orientation, religious belief, disability, and age-related contexts.” The key word here is *offense*. No individual or group is to be offended in the PC world. Certainly, as Christians, we are not to go out of our way to offend anyone personally, but the truth is, that Christianity itself *is* offensive to carnal man: “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Romans 8:7).

We know and believe, “*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). Do we allow God’s Word to reprove, correct, and instruct us in matters of doctrine and manner of life? Or do we fear to “offend” someone by being politically incorrect? We must ask ourselves, Was Jesus politically correct? Did He shyly tippy-toe around for fear He might offend someone? Or did He correct those who were in error after a godly fashion? Our charge is to “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). When we do this, we are warned, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 4:3–4). Neither John the Baptist nor Jesus nor any of the prophets employed “political correctness” when discussing what the Scriptures plainly say. This is especially true when they interacted with those such as the Scribes and Pharisees, who self-righteously felt they were God’s exclusive holy people.

There is much talk in Christian circles today about worldwide ecumenism, “blending in,” and “building bridges” toward a “one-world religion” instead of “walls” to keep people out. Most “mega-churches” are a noxious blend of many divergent beliefs, doctrines, and interpretations. The emphasis is usually on growing membership with accompanying increased revenues, along with a blend of philosophy and psychology stressing “fun” and “feeling good” about themselves. Did Jesus attempt to “build bridges” in this way—of compromise, appeasement, and reconciliation with the Scribes and Pharisees? Or did He call them what they were—hypocrites, blind guides, and a generation of vipers. A “bridge” implies *two*-way traffic, not an open door to diversification. “Syncretism” is a blend of two or more thought systems, forms of belief, or practice, and can be applied to philosophy, politics, and religion (2 Corinthians 6:14). Remember, it is God who adds to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47). We cannot suppose to do His job for Him by compromise or lowering our standards.

Are we to be friends of the world, or should we reprove them? Let the Scriptures speak! “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). “I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” (John 17:14). Should we place all our doctrines “on the table” as one large Church of God organization did in the name of being non-offensive and open-minded? One can become so “broad-minded” he becomes shallow. What saith the Scripture? “If there come any unto you, and bring not *this doctrine*, receive him *not* into your house, neither bid him God speed” (2 John 10). Jesus did not compromise—and neither should His church. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9). Worldly political correctness is spiritual poison for the true Christian! It is a gaping “hole” in our holiness; a gap in our agape; a wrinkle in our righteousness.

### Common Excuses for Neglect of Personal Holiness

Many church organizations spend much more time, energy, and finances on busy work, entertainment, youth activities, and “building bridges” to other organizations with whom they disagree, than they do to *PERSONAL HOLINESS*—putting *sin* out of their lives. Indeed, they all have their personal reasonings and rationalizations. But that is not cleaning up our personal lives and preaching the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God as we are told to do.

1) “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

For many American evangelicals, “holiness” conjures up musty images of revival meetings, Gospel trios, and old-time religion—along with stern prohibitions against drinking, dancing, smoking, and playing cards (as some would define it). To them, this *is* being “holy.” To them, “godliness” meant you just didn’t *do* these things, while negating the weightier matters of the law. Our younger generations have been conditioned to have little patience for “negative rules.” They either don’t agree with the rules, or they figure they’ve “got Jesus,” so that’s all they need! These are HOLES in their holiness!

2) Some fear that a personal *passion*—going “all out”—for perfection makes you a weird holdover from a bygone era. As soon as you mention what the BIBLE says about swearing, demonic music, tattoos, modesty, sexual purity, self-control, or just plain godliness, they become concerned that others will call them “legalistic,” or worse, a “funny-mentalist.” These are HOLES in their holiness!

3) We live in a culture of the “cool,” the suave, the debonair. To be “cool” means you differentiate yourself from others. It means pushing the boundaries with language, with entertainment, with alcohol, and with fashion. Young people whine, “But *everybody’s* doing it!” Of course, true holiness is much more than these things, but in an effort to be “hip,” many Christians have supposed personal holiness has little to do with these things. What *would* Jesus do?

Satan the devil is called the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) and is in the active present process of deceiving the whole world (Revelation 12:9). As a result, the Bible calls the world we live in “... this present evil world” (Galatians 1:4). Many professing believers embrace Christian “freedom” at the expense of pursuing Christian *virtue*. These are gaps in their agape. This present evil world needs you to be with at-one-ment with *God* more than it needs you to be *cool*, *hip*, and *with it*! These are HOLES in our holiness!

4) Among more liberal Christians, a radical pursuit (as they see it) of personal holiness is often “suspect” and perhaps even “cultic.” Any talk of “right” and “wrong” behaviors is viewed as being “judgmental” and “intolerant.” Some equate truth with “hate speech.” However, being “without spot or blemish” (Ephesians 5:27) necessitates we *distinguish* between which attitudes, actions, and habits are pure, and what sort are impure. The Bible defines the love of God in this way: “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

God’s Word is our standard, not ever-changing situation ethics or political correctness. The categorization of right and wrong will cause liberals to judge *you*! It is human nature to want to fit in to be like everybody else! We are conditioned to feel guilty if we do not “go along to get along.” Liberals say, “...See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy *not* unto us right things, speak unto us *smooth* things, prophecy *deceits*” (Isaiah 30:10). In other words, “Tone it down! Don’t call attention to yourself!” In other words, “Don’t let your light shine” (Matthew 5:16). These are HOLES in our holiness!

5) Among many churches there is the notion we should never talk about other churches’ false ministers. Paul did, and actually named names (2 Timothy 4:14; 2 John 9–10). Instead, they insist, we must observe political correctness, church rules, or men’s “tradition”—lest we “offend” someone some timid soul and turn them away from Christ! It is the Lord who adds to the church daily, not the clever contrivances of men (Acts 2:47). Liberal theology regularly shuns “harsh” words like *sin*, *repentance*, *diligence*, *effort*, and *obedience*. These are HOLES in their holiness! Scripture says, “Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear” (1 Timothy 5:20). “This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth” (Titus 1:13–14).

6) It is commendable that many young Christians today are genuinely excited about justice and serving in their communities.

*Holiness, continued on page 10*



*Holes, Continued from page 9*

You can find Christians “fired up” about evangelism, ecumenism, and witnessing and church building in many Protestant churches.

But again, we ask, *where* are the Christians known for their zeal for *PERSONAL HOLINESS*? Where is the passion for honoring Christ with personal obedience?

When was the last time we took a verse like Ephesians 5:4—“Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving”—to heart? “And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (James 3:6).

James 1:27 says, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *AND to keep himself unspotted from the world.*”

We are enjoined to “... gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:13–16).

*Resistance* to becoming holy as God is a HOLE in our holiness, a gap in our agape, and a wrinkle in our righteousness, and spots in our charity (Jude 12). Good works *are* praiseworthy and necessary, but God would have us be *much* more careful with our eyes, our ears, our mouths, our attitudes, and our thought lives. It is not pietism, legalism, or fundamentalism to take *PERSONAL HOLINESS* seriously. It is “the way” of all those who have been called to a holy calling by a holy God.

Our pursuit—our goal—should be eliminating all the little “HOLES” in our holiness. What about *us*? Do *you*, gentle reader, personally have any HOLES in *your* holiness? *PERSONAL HOLINESS* is the *patching up*, the *elimination*, the *healing* of the HOLES in our holiness by Jesus Christ, while remaining unspotted by the world (James 1:27)! Along the way, we need to look for progress in mending the holes in our holiness over days, months, and years—short term and long term. Permanent change! To err is human, to make progress is divine!

### Fine Tuning Our Holiness

We need to pay attention to the so-called “little” things in our lives. Holiness is the sum of a million “little” things—the avoidance of “little” evils and “little” foibles; the setting aside of “little” bits of worldliness, and “little” acts of compromise; it’s the putting to death of “little” inconsistencies, and “little” indiscretions; the attention to “little” duties, and “little” dealings; the hard work of “little” self-denials and “little” self-restraints, as well as the cultivation of “little” benevolences and “little” forbearances.

Overcoming the “big” sins in our lives is sometimes easier than the “fine tuning” of our character and thought patterns. By analogy, many old-time radios had a main dial for quickly moving across the stations, as well as a fine tuning knob for exact tuning.

Our goal, our “bottom line,” is simple. To eliminate any holes in our holiness, we should:

1) **EXAMINE OURSELVES** in the light of God’s Word. “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates” (2 Corinthians 13:5)?

2) **LIVE FOR GOD.** “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Matthew 6:33 cautions us to, “...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”

3) **OBEY THE SCRIPTURES.** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1).

If you will *do* these things consciously, consistently, studiously, and prayerfully, you will be well on your way to building the godly character He has foreordained, and fulfilling God’s grand purpose in creating a holy people, who will be born again in the coming Kingdom of God.

## A Few New Testament Scriptures to Consider Relevant to Holiness

Luke 1:75—In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

Acts 3:12—And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

Romans 1:4—And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Romans 6:19—I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Romans 6:22—But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Romans 12:1—I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 Corinthians 7:1—Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:3-5—But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Ephesians 4:24—And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

1 Thessalonians 3:13—To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:7—For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

2 Timothy 1:9—Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

1 Timothy 2:15—Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

Titus 2:3—The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Hebrews 12:10—For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Hebrews 12:14—Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

1 Peter 1:15—But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.

1 Peter 2:9—But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

2 Peter 1:21—For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 3:11—Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness

Revelation 18:20—Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Revelation 20:6—Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 22:6—And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Revelation 22:11—He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Revelation 22:19—And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.



# The Symbolism of Moses' Veil

*"We are symbols, and inhabit symbols"*  
*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

by Robert D. Giovi

**A**s a student of literature, I have always had a great appreciation for an author's ability to convey or create the intricate execution of the literary device, symbolism. An author can exemplify so many different aspects of the story and teach us, as readers, through its usage.

Through my studying of the Scriptures over the years, I've grown in awe of God's ability as an author to show and teach us through the use of symbolism. Symbolism, as defined as a literary device, is an object, action, or sometimes a spoken word that's meaning is different from its literal sense.

For instance, a veil can be described as a thing that conceals, disguises, or obscures something. It's a physical cloth, but as we look deeper into the Scriptures, we can see the symbolism that the veil takes on, and most importantly, what we can do to remove it.

In the thirty-third chapter of the book of Exodus, God explains that He will allow Moses to see His back as He passes by on Mt. Sinai. This is a very important event. But if we notice, there is a stipulation included in God's walking near Moses on Mt. Sinai. In the same chapter, verse 20, it says, "And he [God] said, 'Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.'" The relationship between man and God that we see here in Exodus is different than the relationship we witnessed in Genesis.

If we recall Adam's relationship with God in the Garden of Eden, we can see an intimate relationship. They interacted with one another.

Genesis 2:19, KJV states, "And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." We see a trusting relationship; God cared so much for Adam that He created Eve for him. They were together, they were in unison, they spoke to one another, and God trusted Adam with tending the Garden. It was a faithful, cohesive relationship. God didn't tell Adam not to look at Him or else he would die. Something changed and was altered.

As we know, Satan deceives Eve, and both the man and woman eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And because of their actions, their transgression against God, they were removed from the Garden. "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." (Genesis 3:24). So man was put out of the Garden where God walked in the cool of day. Man was separated from that intimate, close relationship with God. That is what has changed by the time we come to the top of Mt. Sinai where God tells Moses not to look at Him.

But God, through the use of symbolism, continues to teach us about the relationship between Himself and mankind. In Exodus 7:1, God explains the role Moses will have when dealing with the Pharaoh of Egypt and the children of Israel: "And the LORD said unto Moses, 'See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.'" Moses takes on the role as a type of God the Father and Aaron is the spokesman, the logos, a type of Christ. Now that we can see the symbolism of Moses as God, notice what takes place after Moses comes down from Mt. Sinai in Exodus 34:29-35: "And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him" (Exodus 34:29-35).

The children of Israel could not look at Moses (God) after he came down from receiving the commandments, but why not? It says in verse 30 that "the skin of his face shone and they were afraid to come near to him." Where else in Scripture do we see fear causing someone to hide or flee from God's presence? In the garden, both Adam and Eve hide, fearful that God will see that they were naked: "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." Notice in both cases what sin causes: fear, and the separation of God and man. Isaiah reiterates this claim: "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear..." (Isaiah 59:2). Is it a coincidence that Moses had to put a veil over his face when he spoke to the children of Israel? The veil is symbolic of the relationship between God and His people. It's separated, or obscured.

But is the veil still there? As we know, our Messiah lived a perfect life for us to use as an example. And His sacrifice cleanses us of our sins, when we repent. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18). Notice Peter's choice of words—"bring us to God." Messiah has allowed that relationship to change. Look at the symbolism at the time of Jesus' sacrifice: "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent" (Matthew 27:50-51). The first symbolic act that God takes after the death of Messiah is to tear the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the people. What does this tell us? Ephesians 2:18 states, "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.." Through Jesus' sacrifice, we now all have the ability to draw near to our God.

In the book of Revelation, John tells us of the new Garden of Eden, and takes special notice of how it's described: "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads" (Revelation 22:3-4). We shall see Him as He is, there will be no veil, and it will not be obscured. That close intimate relationship is being accessed now to our God through prayer and repentance. And it will be fulfilled in the New Jerusalem.

When we read the stories of the men and women of the Bible, we examine their choices and use their lives for meaning and wisdom. We see them as examples, just as we should be examples for those who will come up in the second resurrection.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "We are symbols, and inhabit symbols." We must ask ourselves daily, if our lives were written in the Scriptures, would they be examples of what to emulate, or of what not to emulate? Remove the veil, repent, and draw close to the Eternal, so that you might have His name written on your forehead.



Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable (Hebrews 11:12).





**Question:** Is telling “little white lies” to help or protect someone a sin, or is there a form of lying that does not constitute sin?

**Reply:** We know lying is a sin (Leviticus 19:11; Proverbs 12:22). But what about those “little white lies” that involve an ever-so-slight stretching of the truth? Do the small lies matter, or are they harmless? What if telling the truth might hurt someone? There are no white lies and black lies. They are all lies. God does not color code lies from black to white. By analogy, only a “little” arsenic in a glass of water does not make it non-poisonous.

Lying is defined as “making an untrue statement with the intent to deceive.” A white lie is an untrue statement, but it is usually considered unimportant because it does not cover up a serious wrongdoing. A white lie is deceptive, but it may also be polite or diplomatic at the same time. It could be a “tactful” lie told to keep the peace in a relationship; it could be a “helpful” lie to ostensibly benefit someone else; it could be a “minor” lie to make oneself look better in some area.

Some white lies are common: lying about one’s age, for example, or the size of the fish that got away. We live in a society that conditions us to lie by telling us that, in many situations, lies are justified. The secretary “covers” for the boss who doesn’t want to be disturbed; the salesman exaggerates the qualities of his product; the job applicant pads his résumé. The reasoning is, as long as no one is “hurt” or the result is good, little lies are fine.

It is true that some sins bring about worse consequences than others. And it is true that telling a white lie will not have the same serious effect as, say, murdering someone. But all sins are equally offensive to God (Romans 6:23), and there are good reasons to avoid telling white lies. First, the belief that a white lie is “helpful” is rooted in the idea that the end justifies the means. If the lie results in a perceived “good,” then the lie is considered justified. However, God’s condemnation of lying in Proverbs 6:16–19 contains no exception clause. Also, who defines the “good” that results from the lie? A salesman telling white lies may sell his product—a “good” thing for him—but what about the customer who was taken advantage of?

Telling a white lie to be “tactful” or to spare someone’s feelings is also an unwise thing to do. What do we call someone who tells an untruth? A person who consistently lies to make people feel good will eventually be seen for what he is—a *liar*. Those who traffic in white lies will damage their credibility and harden their conscience.

White lies have a way of propagating themselves. Telling more lies to cover up the original lie is standard procedure, and the lies get progressively less “white.” Trying to remember which lies were told to which person also complicates relationships and makes further lying even more likely. Telling a white lie to benefit oneself is nothing but selfishness. When our words are motivated by the pride of life, we are falling into temptation (1 John 2:16).

“Little white lies” are often told to preserve the peace, as if telling the truth would in some way destroy peace. Yet the Bible presents truth and peace as existing together: “Love truth and peace” (Zechariah 8:19). Tellers of white lies believe they are speaking lies out of “love”; however, the Bible tells us to speak “the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). We are to worship God in spirit and *in truth* (John 4:24). Sometimes telling the truth is not easy; in fact, it can be downright unpleasant. But we are called to be truth tellers. Being truthful is precious to God (Proverbs 12:22); it demonstrates the fear of the Lord. Furthermore, to tell the truth is not a suggestion, it is a command (See Psalm 15:2; Zechariah 8:16; and Ephesians 4:25). Being truthful flies in the face of Satan, the “father of lies” (John 8:44). Being truthful honors the Lord, who is the “God of truth” (Psalm 31:5). God’s Word, the Bible, is defined as “truth” (John 17:17). God Himself *cannot lie* (Titus 1:2), and we are to become like Him.

Every now and then some gainsayer may say, “Lying isn’t a sin, according to the Bible. The Bible doesn’t forbid lies, it only forbids ‘bearing false witness’—a specific and detestable kind of lying.” Do not be deceived! If you have looked up all the verses listed in the text above, you will know from the Bible itself that that statement itself is a *lie*! Such deceivers are counting on the ignorance of the deceived one. We are told in Revelation 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, *and all LIARS*, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

We encourage you to send for our free booklet, *The Q&A Book—Questions and Answers*; and our CDs, *Many Are Called, Few Are Chosen* and *What Does Holiness Look Like?*



## Forever Yours

by Johnnie M. Pernell

Father, I am forever Yours,  
The one You love and adores  
I will tell the world; I am not ashamed  
That I trust and call upon Your holy name.

I have taken a sacred vow  
And will always honor it somehow.  
Whether come sunshine or come rain,  
Forever Yours I will remain.

Being forever Yours I can stand  
Because I will not let go of Your hand.  
On Your great promises I do believe,  
So thankful for Your blessings I do receive.

Why I worship You others do not see.  
They do not understand what You mean to me.  
My love for You continues; it soars.  
Forever, forever I am Yours.

My Alpha and Omega; my Beginning and End.  
Whatever I have need of, You always send.  
You guide me; You bless each endeavor.  
Truly, Yours I am forever.

Brought me through many toils and snares;  
Healed my infirmities; calmed all my fears.  
Each day Your great love I do see.  
No wonder, forever Yours I will be.

To me You are a Parent, my Rock, a best Friend.  
I know You will be with me to the very end.  
Providing the best; opening opportunity doors.  
Father, certainly forever I am Yours.

You are worthy of my worship and my praise;  
Both I will freely give to You all of my days.  
From now until the time I finally get to glory,  
Telling how I am forever Yours will be my story.

Yes, Father, I am forever Yours,  
forever Yours,  
forever Yours.

## Speaking of Easter...

**To millions of professing churchgoing Christians, “Easter” is one of the chief religious festivals.**

But what do eggs, rabbits, new clothing, sunrise services, and hot cross buns have to do with Jesus Christ? Answer: NOTHING!

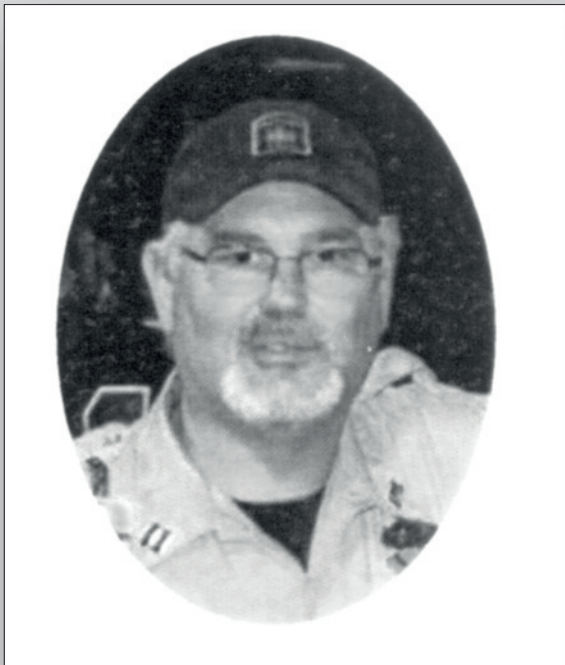
Undeniably, Jesus Christ was Jewish and observed Passover. Jesus never kept an Easter in His life! So how was this holyday changed? And who changed the day He observed, chose, and instituted as the holyday for taking His sacrificial emblems, representing His body and blood? Where is the biblical record confirming the authority for this replacement? Answer: IT DOESN’T EXIST!

When was the last time you went to your public library and looked in the leading encyclopedias or histories and studied an article on Easter? If you’re like the average person, the answer is probably, “Never!” The good news is, we have done your homework for you.

The answers are found in our free materials, *SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE EASTER?* as well as *HOW WAS PASSOVER REPLACED BY EASTER... AND WHO DID IT?* And while you’re at it, also request our free booklet *God’s Seasonal Plan*.



# In loving memory...



**Kevin Eugene Bounds**

**F**uneral services for **Kevin Eugene Bounds, age 55, of Plain Dealing, Louisiana**, were held Sunday, December 20, 2015, at the Bailey Funeral Home Chapel in Springhill, Louisiana, with Mr. Steve Wood officiating. Interment followed at Rocky Mount Cemetery in Plain Dealing.

Mr. Bounds was born on October 2, 1960, to Winifred “Dub” Cullen and Alice McKinney Bounds in Tucson, Arizona. He died on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 in Plain Dealing, Louisiana. Mr. Bounds had been a resident of the area for 48 years and was a member of the *Church of God International*. He had served in the Navy Reserve and was an EMT/Paramedic for over 38 years. Kevin’s life was serving and helping others. He will be missed by his family and many friends.

He is survived by his mother, Alice McKinney Bounds of Plain Dealing; three brothers, Kenneth Bounds (Vera) of Plain Dealing, David Bounds (Sheri) of Porter, Texas, and Dennis Bounds (Rebecca) of Spring, Texas; a number of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and many friends. Mr. Bounds was preceded in death by his father, Winifred Cullen “Dub” Bounds.

Pallbearers were members of Pafford EMS and members of the Springhill Fire Department.

## A Mother’s Prayer

**O**nce in a while, there is a family story that needs to be told. This is one such story.

On a snowy, March day in 1952, parents-to-be of four very special sons excitedly made our way across the endless Texas highways toward Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, Arizona. Dad (W. C. Bounds) had begun his military career and Mom (Alice Bounds) was an excited expectant mother. We were eager to set up our new home.

City life would be very new to both of us. We grew up in a small farming community in northwest Louisiana called Rocky Mount. We loved the quiet, peaceful beauty of the rural countryside and probably believed that the fastest lifestyle we would ever see was that suggested in the rock-and-roll songs we heard on the radio. Country life was in our blood.

All four of our children would, however, be born in a more urban setting, in Air Force hospitals in the very beautiful desert country of Arizona. Our firstborn, Kenneth, arrived in September 1952; David, two years and two months later, in 1954. Both were born at Luke Air Force Base.

After a year spent in Korea, Dad was stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona. Kevin joined our family in 1960 and baby

Dennis weighed in at 4 pounds, 6 ounces (a preemie) in November 1962. (Kevin just celebrated his 55th birthday on October 2 this year.) Our family was now complete in numbers, and we grew restless for the old days of life in Louisiana. Dad requested and got a transfer to Barksdale Air Force Base near Shreveport. The big boys became baseball stars and the little ones Dad’s helpers as we all enjoyed a superb Little League Baseball Club at Barksdale from 1963 to 1967. Dad was a much-loved coach for both the youngest teams and the All-Stars.

But all of this was still city life, and I still yearned for the peaceful quietness of rural life, searching diligently for the right place to consider a permanent home—a place for possible retirement for Dad a few years hence. I uttered many prayers to that end because such places were not plentiful and were usually very costly. It took a while.

In February 1967, my prayers were answered. Upon our first visit to our “farm,” we knew we were at long last HOME! With enthusiasm, we completed our move to our “Country Paradise” on July 4, 1967. As often happens in the military, that was the time to transfer Dad—even against his wishes. With three and one-half years left of the 20 years to earn his retirement, Dad was sent to a base in Michigan. It was there that he spent that time.

The same year that we bought our farm, it became apparent that God was beginning to take a more active part in our lives. I began to listen to Mr. Armstrong on the *World Tomorrow* broadcast and recognized quickly the possibility of finding answers to many troublesome questions that no one seemed able to provide. Obtaining all the literature offered, more than two months of day and night study, and praying earnestly and often for guidance, we arrived at the only decision possible: this is God’s Work and His Church! Request for a visit from the ministry met a quick response, and we began attending services. I was baptized in November 1968 on David’s 13th birthday. The boys were then ages 15 (Ken), 13 (David), seven (Kevin), and five (Dennis).

Proverbs 6:22 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

We need no clearer proof of the truth of this scripture than the record of the lives of these four sons. As I began to learn one precious doctrine at a time, I studied them with these boys. We studied daily and had devotionals every night. We learned to pray on our knees, each one making a “sentence prayer” to God. We practiced as best we could the Scripture as we understood it—at home, at school, at church. This training lays a solid foundation for a child’s life and memories that never fade away.

While it is assured that a child will be strongly influenced by this foundation, it also does not suggest his immediate compliance. Often we see much time, sometimes much heartbreak, before they are able to see that God’s way is the one that truly leads HOME. Our first Feast was in 1969, and the last one together until this year was 1974.

It took 41 years for all four of my sons to all be able to attend the same Feast area together as baptized members of God’s church. I was most blessed to also be able to be here with them—and with all of you—this past year of 2015. It was my 47th year in the church. There is nowhere that I feel more at HOME!

Sadly, the epilog of our family story ends with the death of my son Kevin. After seven months battling renal cell cancer, Kevin entered rest in December 2015, and our family misses him deeply. We are so thankful for the hope that God has given us of the glorious resurrection. That is where our faith and confidence abide.





# In loving memory...



**William Furman "Pop" Morgan**

**Mr. William Furman "Pop" Morgan, 84, departed from this life on Thursday, January 14, 2016.** He was the son of Erastus Orthanel Morgan and Clara Galloway Morgan.

"Pop" was a graduate of Simpson High School. He worked for the former Greenville General Hospital that later became Greenville Hospital and now is Greenville Health System for several years. He also worked for Easley Baptist Hospital for several years. He was a member of the *Church of God International*. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Wilhelmina West and Thelma Robinson, and a brother, Northern Morgan.

Treasured memories will be remembered by his loving wife, Mrs. Francis Liddell Morgan of Easley, South Carolina; daughter Kay Williams and Tangela (Jorge) Ibarra of Simpsonville, South Carolina; sons William A. (Vira) Morgan and Kevin Morgan, both of Easley, South Carolina; a granddaughter, Beatrice Austin of Easley, South Carolina; and Brian (Tonya) Anderson of Easley, South Carolina; sisters, Ruby Looper of Columbia, South Carolina, and Helen Walker of Cleveland, Ohio; brother, Fredrick (Melvin) Morgan of Ft. Meyers, Florida; 10 grandchildren, 12 great-granddaughters, three great-great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

*Acknowledgment: The Morgan Family would like to thank everyone for their calls, visits, gifts, food, thoughts, and prayers during our time of bereavement.*

## An Ode to Grandfather

It was all set and done,  
And now it's time to say Goodbye.  
Hearts have been broken  
And eyes are filled with tears.  
You left us with memories  
That will last lifetime.

The stories you've shared,  
The hearts you've touched,  
The friends you've made,  
And especially the songs  
You've sung will be the lasting ones.

We understand that God loaned you to us,  
Just for a moment, then your work was done.  
There will be a time when  
We'll get to see each other again.

So for now we will dry our eyes,  
Hold our head high, and  
Be proud to share your stories,  
Your songs, and the love you gave  
To others that no words can describe.  
We love you; we miss you,  
My Grandpa, my friend.

Apryl Williams



**Calvin L. Amos**

**Calvin L. Amos passed away February 13, 2015, at his home in Queen City, Texas.** He was surrounded by family and friends.

Calvin began attending with the Texarkana, Texas congregation of the *Church of God International* in 1982. He attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Branson, Missouri; Wagoner, Oklahoma; and Harrison, Arkansas for many years.

He is survived by his sons, James Q. Amos (Elizabeth) and Troy Lowery (Linda); and daughter, Shelly Melder; his brothers, Gene Amos (Merle) and Paul Echols (Tammie); sister-in-law, Sharon; stepbrothers, Dan Echols (Judy) and Jerry Echols (Sandra); stepsister, Marie Phillips (Gayle); and sister-in-law, Cathy Echols.

He leaves behind six grandchildren: Cory Lowery, James Amos, Jr., Abigail Amos, Joel Lowery, Elijah Lowery, and Holly Lowery. There are numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins left to remember him.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Opal Echols; stepfather, Roy Echols; wife, Margarite; sister, Mae Billingslea; brother, Bill Belyeu; sister-in-law, Marilyn Belyeu; and brother, Frank Amos.



**Julius C. Reed**

**We are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our brother in Christ and host of the CGI Jacksonville, Arkansas congregation, Mr. Julius C. Reed.** Mr. Reed, a long time member of God's church, passed suddenly February 13, 2016 in Jacksonville.

Mr. Reed's life was a fine example of servant leadership in the congregation. Julius had a genuine outgoing love for his fellow man, and he faithfully led our music worship service every Sabbath without fail. We will all miss his big voice, and his even bigger heart. He was a truly gentle man, whose life was dedicated to loving and caring for the God's people. We should all have such a good report. "Brother Julius" will be greatly missed. *Until we meet again.*

Mr. Reed, 78, was a retired Master Sergeant from the U.S. Air Force, where he served for 25 years. He also held a bachelors degree in Business Management.

Mr. Reed was loved and survived by his children, Donna Cook, Barbara Reed, and David Reed; one sister, June Carrel of Tennessee; five grandchildren, Sarah Sutton, Kenneth Cook, Wesley Copeland, Rachelle Jolly, and Ronnie Reed; three great-grandchildren, William Ward, Brylie Sutton, and Josh D. Jolly, Jr.

The funeral service was held on February 23 at the Smith-North Little Rock Funeral Home Chapel, with minister Ron Elkins officiating. Pallbearers were: Alan Sutton, Richard Webb, Billy Webb, Roland Baus, John Jacoby, and Mike Mackey. Internment followed at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery.



# In loving memory...



Ronald L. Dart

**F**uneral services for **Ronald L. Dart, 82, of Tyler, Texas** were held Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at Stewart Family Funeral Home, with Jonathan Garnant officiating. Burial followed at Whitehouse Memorial Cemetery in Whitehouse, Texas.

Mr. Dart died peacefully in his sleep on an early Sabbath morning, January 23, after a prolonged battle with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. He was preceded in death by his father, mother, and sister, Nana Williams. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 62 years, Allie.

Mr. Dart served his country four years during the Korean War in the Air Branch of the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of First Class Petty Officer. He attended Hardin Simmons University, graduated from Ambassador College, and worked toward his PhD at the University of Texas at Austin. He served in the ministry of the *Worldwide Church of God* and *Church of God International*, and was founder and president of *Christian Education Ministries* and the voice of the international *Born to Win* radio program.

Ronald Dart was one of the Church of God movement's finest Bible teachers. He will long be remembered for his depth of understanding of the Bible and his remarkable ability to teach with clarity.

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

**S**hortly 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 evening and Sunday morning? Can you explain this sign to others *right from your own Bible*? Prepare to be surprised!

Once you fully understand *The Three Days and Three Nights*, you will see there is absolutely *no* credibility in either the Easter tradition or Sunday worship.

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](http://www.cgi.org)  
E-mail: [info@cgi.org](mailto:info@cgi.org)  
Phone: 903-939-2929

Ask for:

## Mirror of the Soul

As a child I remember pressing close to the glass;  
The silver-backed portal seemed mysterious when passed.  
My breath that I blew warm stayed but a while  
Till my reflection appeared revealing a smile.

Maybe so young I knew of the thrill  
Of a simple enjoyment and innocence still,  
For if we be wise as we grow towards old  
We'd still realise what truths mirrors hold.

They speak to us quietly as morning wakes up  
And we say our hellos and then we look up.  
We stare for a moment and ponder it all  
How it is for what reason we speak to it on the wall.

Does it care how we look as we groom and get dressed,  
Sometimes talking to it as if it knew best;  
Then with a moment we pause and stare at those eyes,  
Two mirrors that capture the years and our lives.

How is it their power can prick at our heart  
As if we forgot something important in part  
Was a misspoken word reflecting our guilt  
Bounced back at us through two mirrors God built.

When He chose to breathe life into us to be souls  
He created two eyes to reflect back His goals.  
Love is the message His Word has foretold  
And the truth is revealed if we care to behold.

How when as a youngster we knew of life's joys  
Like a mirror's reflection bounced back as a toy;  
But the years can place layers to cover God's light  
And the glass can go dim in a world dark as night.

Our eyes can speak stories of lives to be told,  
Of the pain and the struggles and the hurt that we hold.  
So forget not the others who walk the same plight  
And feel for God always and look to His light.

For too often we stumble and behind them we hide,  
Misgivings and hatred, and envy and pride.  
Know the eyes are like doorways that show us our soul;  
How quick go their sparkle, with death they grow cold.  
Beware of the falsehoods this world we are told  
Through their mirrors of kingdoms and stories we're sold.  
When pass our reflections let not our demise  
And seek not we only the tales and the lies.

With His wisdom eternal God knows of your needs  
And with eyes as mirrors they help plant His seeds.  
Always remember to hold His truth in your eyes  
And forget not He always stays close by your side.

As we search for the answers and look with our might  
Let your eyes be as beacons and shine forth His light;  
Hold fast to His message to which we are told  
Is why He made eyes to mirror the soul.

by Dianne Prather-Tuskes

### SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE EASTER?

When you read the Bible, you will find that the Bible does not command Christians to observe Easter. In fact, the Bible teaches that Christians should observe the Sabbath, which is the seventh day of the week, from Friday evening to Saturday evening. The Bible also teaches that Christians should observe the Passover, which is the feast of the firstfruits, on the first day of the month of Abib (the month of the barley harvest). The Bible does not mention Easter at all.

### God's Seasonal Plan



### HOW WAS PASSOVER REPLACED BY EASTER... And Who Did It?

Christianity is a man-made religion. It is a religion that was created by men, not by God. The Bible teaches that there is only one God, and that He is the Creator of the universe. The Bible also teaches that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that He died for our sins. The Bible does not mention Easter at all.



# Passover Service, 2016

This year the Christian Passover, commonly referred to as the Lord’s Supper, should be observed on the evening of Thursday, April 21st, which corresponds to the fourteenth of Abib (Nisan), the first month of the Sacred Calendar. You should begin just after sunset. Jesus observed His last Passover service in the evening hours of this same day, just after sunset and through the hours before midnight on the 14th of Nisan.

All Christians, baptized members of the church, take part in this entire service. Non-baptized adherents, however, are welcome to be present and to take part in the foot-washing portion of the ceremony.

When there is a reasonable number of participants in a locality, the church leadership will arrange for use of a suitable meeting hall. This is the best way, by far, as the Christian Passover is by definition a fellowship assembly. If a service has been arranged in your area, you are strongly urged to make every effort to attend.

When it is impossible to attend with other brethren, the service may be held at home, preferably with at least one other participant of the same sex—this because of the foot-washing ceremony. Husband and wife, of course, may freely wash one another’s feet.

The Christian Passover is a most solemn celebration, and all that’s done should reflect this. For example, part of the preparation might be to have young children either in bed or supervised. And, of course, ahead of time, you’ll need to set out a sufficient number of glasses containing a little dry red wine, and a small plate of unleavened bread. A basin with some warm water and a towel, for each person, also need to be on hand.

We have included a video of a recent Christian Passover service online at <http://cgi.org/passover/>. You may elect to use this video by starting and stopping it during the appropriate segments of the service.

If you will play it through ahead of time and make the

preparations indicated on this page, we believe you will be able to partake of the Passover service in a manner well pleasing to God.

If you prefer not to use the video, we recommend that you observe the following guidelines:

A period of quiet reading of appropriate scriptural passages may also be useful to refresh your memory and to really appreciate the fullest meaning of this night. This could perhaps include, but not be limited to, Matthew chapters 26 through 28, Luke chapters 22 and 23, and also Psalm 51.

Open the service with prayer, and perhaps a reading of Psalm 22, followed by John 13:1–17. Next comes the foot washing, which conveys an attitude of humility and service. After the foot washing, read Isaiah 52:13–53:12, followed by 1 Corinthians 11:23–34.

Prior to breaking the bread, which symbolizes Christ’s broken body, read Matthew 26:26. Then take a portion of the bread (*RyKrisp* or *matzos* will do) and a small glass of wine (preferably a dry, natural red wine). Ask God’s blessing over the bread and eat it; you will already have read the many scriptures on the subject and know the fullest meaning of discerning the Lord’s body. Then read Matthew 26:27 and ask God’s blessing over the wine, which is symbolic of Christ’s shed blood, and drink it.

After introducing the disciples to this new institution in memory of His death, Jesus spoke to them at length on various matters. It’s our practice to read, at this point, from the Gospels some portions of what He then taught the disciples (John 13:31 through chapter 17). You could select portions of this in advance. Finally, they sang a hymn (Matthew 26:28–30).

If you have any questions about these directions, please feel free to call our office for clarification. The number is (903) 939-2929.



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