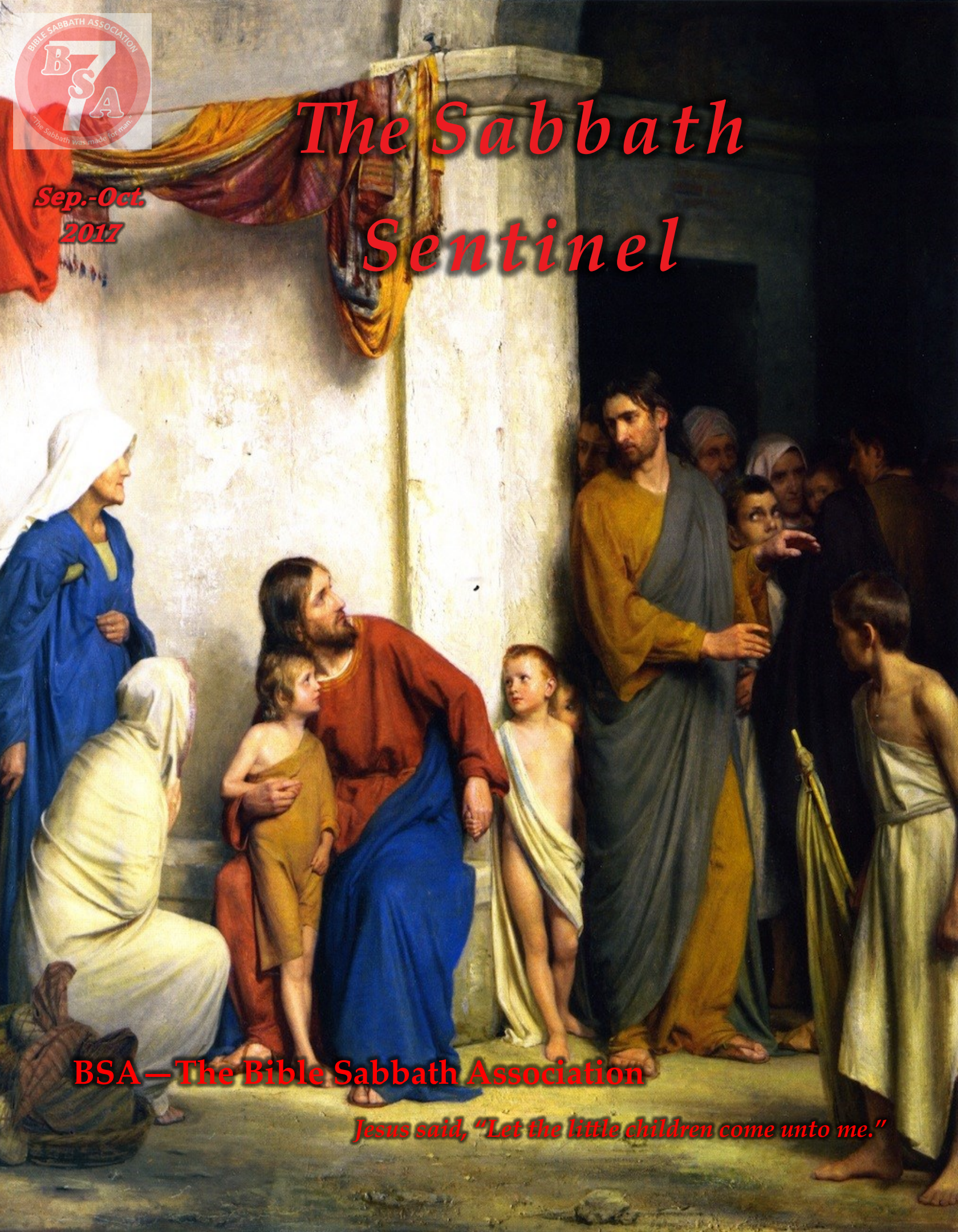




**Sep.-Oct.
2017**

The Sabbath Sentinel



BSA – The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me."

The Sabbath Sentinel July-August 2017

Volume 71, No. 5, Issue 586

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A Path to Unity in the Spirit

In Galatians, Chapter 5, verses 22-23 (*Standard notations from this point on*), we read that among the elements of the fruit of the Holy Spirit is the attribute of long-suffering. We know that as we grow in our walk with the Lord that these elements will continue to increase in our lives.

Experiencing the trait of long-suffering does not mean that unless we are suffering a long time that we can't be experiencing God's Spirit in us. Indeed, translations using that odd word does everyone a disservice. Some bible versions translate the Greek into "patience," while others use "a quiet mind." While technically accurate, the terms don't convey the meaning that the underlying Greek appears to intend. That word actually goes further than merely being peaceful or having a quiet mind, but all the way to having a "disposition to endure long under offenses."

We all recognize that we have been called to become more like God each day. Moreover, we are told by God through His Word that long-suffering is an element of the nature of God. We see that in Num 14:18.

Paul also made us aware of that characteristic of God in Rom 9:22-23 where he asks whether it was longsuffering that God demonstrated in putting up with the abuses of those bound for destruction to "make known the riches of His glory" on us.

It is also written to us in Eph 4:1-3 "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the calling with which you are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, *forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*"

Paul's admonition goes directly to the heart of the mission of the Bible Sabbath Association! Notice what else Paul wrote to us in Col 3:12-13:

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender feelings of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, *forbearing one another and forgiving yourselves*, if anyone has a complaint against any. As Christ forgave you, so also you do."

What if God is using each of us as an example of His long-suffering toward us as a "pattern," demonstrating to all the depth of His patient endurance of our abuses toward Him so that others might see that and come to believe God? Paul indicates that this might well be so in 1 Tim 1:16 (It helps to read the context to see the offenses to which Paul refers.).

How does this insight help us with our mission? Consider this: there are among us brethren who believe that they have already been led into all truth by the Holy Spirit. They are unabashedly sure of themselves, and so much so that they display an attitude of superiority when dealing with differences of understanding. At times they will even accuse others of "not worshipping the same God as they do." This is a hurtful statement without a doubt and does not lead to harmony in the Church.

However, the example we have from God is that of enduring a continuous train of abuses for a higher purpose. We have already come to know that we are to become more like God. Therefore, we need to demonstrate long-suffering toward our younger brothers in the Spirit who do not yet understand that the Spirit leads us to truth, but not all at the same rate or even the same understanding.

We who keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus need to grow in long-suffering toward each other so that we too can be an example of walking in God's Way to those who don't yet understand the principle—thus restoring the unity of the Spirit in God's Church.



Divine Healing

Part 1

I believe that the church needs to return to praying for others to receive healing. There are many people within the church suffering from depression, exhaustion, and other infirmities (physical, mental, and emotional). And while the church needs healing, so does the world. There are so many in the world struggling with wounds and pain. Healing is a tremendous proof of the existence of God and demonstrates the love of God. It is a tremendous example to the world who NEEDS God! There is only one God who heals – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We will find that promise of healing begins in Genesis and continues through the entire Bible.

The first person to pray for others to be healed was Abraham. “Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again...” The father of our faith, Abraham, prayed for people to be healed.

The first promise of healing is found in Exodus 15:26. “If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.” In this precious verse we discover one of the names of God – the Lord who heals.

Did you know that healing is also found at the end of the Bible as well? “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:1-2). While healing is found at

the beginning of the Bible and at the end, it is also found many places in between.

When we think of Jesus’ death, our main focus is the punishment for sin that He bore on His body. His sacrifice paid the price for our sins. He was then raised to life three days and three nights later. Through Him alone we can have eternal life.

As we remember that sacrifice, let us not forget that He also suffered for our healing. “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Just as Christ took upon his body our iniquities and sins, he also took upon Himself our illnesses! This is repeated in the New Testament: “16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases” (Matthew 8:16-17).

The blood of Jesus was shed for our forgiveness. We should never forget this. In fact, there are many songs about the power of Jesus blood (the hymn “Power in the Blood” is one that comes to mind). At the same time, let us also recognize that the stripes or wounds of Jesus bring our healing. This is a major key to understand divine healing.

Some believers will say that healing is no longer for today. This statement is problematic. The same people will gladly accept the promise of salvation, but then reject the promise of healing. Did the blood of Jesus stop saving people? Did that sacrifice become null and void? Absolutely not! If this is true, then the stripes He bore FOR our healing did not become

null and void!

Never forget that Jesus is our example. He is the standard. Our goal should be a Christ-like life! Did He pray for others to be healed? Did He share this wonderful blessing? The gospels share this part of the good news!

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people” (Matthew 4:23). Jesus prayed for the centurion’s servant to be healed just by speaking a word (Matthew 8:7-13). Peter’s mother-in-law was healed (Matthew 8:14-15). The blind were healed (Mark 8:22-26, 10:46-52). These are just a few of the many examples provided for us in the gospels.

While it is clear that Jesus prayed for others to be healed, did the disciples follow in this same example? The book of Acts will bear witness to this truth. “Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed” (Acts 5:16). “When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:6-8).

The early Apostles and disciples of the Lord continued to pray for others to be healed. They did not part with Jesus’ example. These miraculous healings caused people to pay close attention to the message being preached; it even brought joy to an entire city! It was one aspect of their evangelistic outreach. They demonstrated the Kingdom message through the power of divine healing.

Jesus promised the disciples that the coming of the Holy Spirit would endue them with power from on high (Acts 1:4-8). One manifestation of this power is healing. “For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power” (I Corinthians 4:20). When we pray for others to receive healing, we must always realize that it is God who does the healing. We are simply the vessels through which His power mani-



ests.

When the early Apostles preached, they recalled Jesus healing ministry (Acts 10:38). Even the Apostle Peter reminded believers of the divine healing available through Jesus! “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by his wounds you have been healed’ ” (I Peter 2:24). Healing was a major part of the early ministry of the disciples.

In this article, there is one specific detail from Jesus’ ministry I would like to share. In Matthew 4:23 (quoted above), it says that every disease and sickness was healed through Him. This is a reminder that there are no limits to the diseases and illnesses that can be healed. Cancer, heart problems, Parkinson’s, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s, broken bones, wounded spirits, kidney failure, broken hearts, exhaustion of mind, weariness, depression, bipolar, and every other kind of medical condition that will ever or has ever existed can be healed by God Almighty through Jesus.

This is a powerful promise from God for you and I. Your illness was already borne by Christ on His body. This means you do not have to bear it. I encourage you today, whoever you are and where ever you are, to claim this promise. Ask God Almighty to apply the precious stripes of Christ to your body, mind, spirit, and soul. Ask Him to heal you.

We will continue this discussion about healing in the next edition of the magazine. Until next time, God Bless you.

7 PILLARS OF WISDOM, *PART 1*

Michael Suned

Life is a “mind game.” People strive to win; often they lose. Some people try to increase their level of wisdom through learning, following successful people, playing mind-enhancing games and challenging their limitations by participating in extreme sports. However, too often almost every level of their achievement comes with some degree of compromising their beliefs or standards. This compromising sooner or later brings some form of disaster to them.

Many generous, successful people try to share their many concepts of their ideas as wisdom, i.e., “learn from your mistakes,” “think outside the box” and “work hard.” Scholars and teachers attempt to explain by using conclusive suggestions through the process of analyzing events of failure and success. However, it is more than mere optimism for those who are striving for wisdom to be able to maintain their core values which they have learned in life without losing them somewhere in the process of gaining wisdom. What is unfortunate, and sad, is that those who are defining what wisdom is can’t provide a literal, detailed explanation, much less an understanding, of it. They defend their “argument” with their philosophies many of which go beyond human comprehension, such as UFOs, their “concept” of God, or many mystical concepts, historical events and legends. Yet, based mostly on concepts which are unprovable or unknown, they strive to continue claiming that they have wisdom.

Can we obtain wisdom? Yes! Can we have the level of wisdom apparently exhibited by someone who is more successful than we are? Again, the answer is yes! How can we achieve that level of wisdom? Is it by believing God? Reading some self-help books? Going to college? Is it by following in the foot prints of successful individuals? It has been an ongoing search for humans, a thirst and a desire, for thou-

sands of years. Nobody embarking on that path ever gives up on it and because of the unanswered question, “What is Wisdom?” the seeker always returns to the point of origin, the point where wisdom should have started to begin with.

Human ovum fertilization is considered one of the most miraculous and amazing processes ever observed by a human being; it is the very starting point of a human life. Only one sperm cell out of 40-150 million has the privilege of joining with the egg and thereby transforming them into another human form. The very first sperm cell that reaches the egg has overcome many challenges and obstacles while traveling through a life threatening environment for the limited time it has in order to be the life generating factor. I find myself still wondering whether it is proper for me to consider the sperm as “pre-form” of a human being, rather like the concept that water has many forms. The question arises, “What is that mysterious power that moves the sperm cells? Is it God? Some unknown form of Energy? Is it a result of evolution? Or, is it wisdom that we don’t yet understand?”

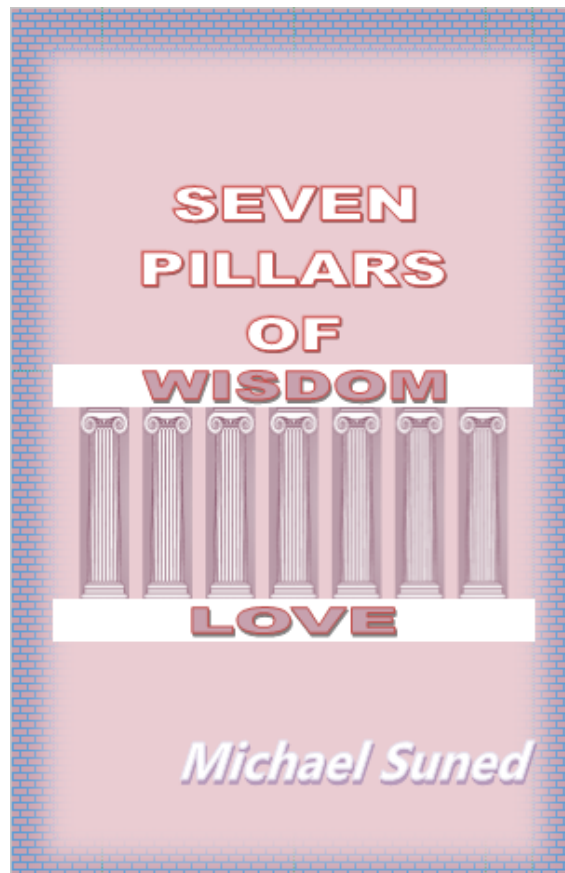
People have exhibited an uncompromising attitude towards this seemingly endless, argumentative topic and have mostly ended up profoundly wondrous about this extremely relevant yet vague element of our life—just like a child who tries to devise a way to get rid of their own shadow and resigns himself quickly to be ignorant of his shadow’s origin. How can we understand this unknown, inaccessible capability known as “wisdom” correctly? Where is it from? No matter what other people say about it, we still sense there’s a better answer eluding us.

Looking at the result of the fertilization process, and our entry into life, and reflecting on what happened at the beginning might be the best way to understand the power which dictates our “pre-form” and could possibly help us to avoid confusion. We all

know—and should agree—that each of our approximately forty thousand days of life on earth is directed and processed by our brain, the place where our inconstant characteristic form, i.e., wisdom, lives. The fact that ancient scientific research and study seeking a connection between wisdom and fertilization has not produced positive laboratorial reproducible results doesn't mean that one can eliminate the possibility of the existence of wisdom during the fertilization process. Unfortunately, we need an answer for our sakes as well as for those curious children who can't comprehend the process via the way their parents explained to them their origin—Love—besides which they don't really care if the answer is scientifically correct or not. From the perspective of the limited understanding of human beings, it is challenging, if not impossible, for us to admit that wisdom alone directed and dictated the whole process of fertilization from the beginning until the end of our next form. Should we label the force behind this process as pre-existing wisdom? If so, from where does this wisdom come? Does the wisdom just accidentally appear at that moment it is needed? Or does the God really exist who can and does create that wisdom?

There is a reason why people are tirelessly attempting to understand the “where and how” our life has begun—our purpose in life. Our level of understanding is at the stage where we can't grasp our present without knowing our origin. Because of this, our origin becomes the key to unlocking our brain leading to a better understanding of how to better serve the purpose of our life every day. Many individuals interpret this partially unknown element to be “Energy.” It is not wrong to name this element in order to meet their understanding and the direction of study in which they are involved. However, said naming must meet the basic requirement of truth. The fact is we all, like King Solomon, strive for a higher level of wisdom endlessly—whether actively or passively. Everyone, like Solomon, cries out in their language: “Give me now wisdom and knowledge” (2 *Chronicles* 1:10 KJV) wherever they are.

We can easily see, through reading the biblical book



of *Chronicles* or other historical books, that Solomon was granted the wisdom he requested from God by his accurately judging of controversial cases, his designing and building the incredible human wonder of the temple of God, and his developing his country to the highest level of accomplishment in its time. We can understand from those records that the neighboring Queen of Sheba went to see Solomon's legendary wisdom and testified thereafter that he possessed more wisdom than she had heard (1 *King* 10 KJV), and that afterward the news spread out to far countries including the Golden Empire, Babylon, and eventually to its king, Nebuchadnezzar. Solomon's work shows the highest levels of wisdom he possessed and, most importantly, that he had shared his knowledge or wisdom with us today in the book of *Proverbs*, intended to benefit the people who would at some point read it. It's our choice as to whether to embrace or bypass his testimony related to understanding the whole structure of wisdom.

“Wisdom hath built her house; she hath hewn out her seven pillars:” Proverbs 9:1 KJV.

Which Law?

D.J. Wellington

A lawyer inquired of Yahshua, Teacher, “which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, ‘You shall love YAHWEH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets,” Matthew 22:36-40.

These were not new words. They were straight from words previously spoken. “You shall love YAHWEH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might,” Deuteronomy 6:5; and “...but you shall love your neighbor as yourself, I am YAHWEH,” Leviticus 19:18. But Yahshua added something to them; do you see it? It is a very, very important phrase that most ministers seem to bypass: “ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS DEPEND [HANG] THE WHOLE LAW AND THE PROPHETS! What does that mean?”

The diagram which follows this article should give you a clue. These two essentially summarize the ten commandments that most everyone is familiar with. The first four of the ten have to do directly with our relationship with YAHWEH and the last six have to do directly with our relationship to our fellow man.

Let me ask a question here: How do we know what it means to “remember the Sabbath,” except that Exodus 16:23 says we should not bake or boil? Or, we should not kindle a fire (Exodus 16:26)? How would we know the depth to which He refers when He says to “honor your mother and your father,” except it says He who strikes his mother or father shall be put to death, in Exodus 21:15?

On treating your neighbor, how do we know that we shall do no injustice in judgment (Leviticus 19:15) or we should not hate our fellow countryman in our hearts, but we may surely reprove our neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him, Leviticus 19:17; except that it tells us, but not in the Ten.

How about Exodus 34:14-15 where it tells us that YAHWEH said we shall not worship any other mighty one, for YAHWEH, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous Elohim—otherwise, you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land... Wouldn't that expound on the first commandment?

What about bringing YAHWEH'S name to naught or nothing? One example is Leviticus 19:12, You shall not swear falsely by My Name so as to profane the name of your Elohim, I am YAHWEH.

That being said, the ten commandments are very, very basic but when you read the books of the Old Covenant, you realize that there is much more contained in there that could be summarized in the ten words as Moses gave them to us from YAHWEH.

How do we know that we are to observe YAHWEH'S appointed High Days, except that He tells us through the laws and the words of the prophets, just as Yahshua said. There are other issues that are very important but not covered in the Ten. Such as, the Sixth Commandment is to not murder.

What happens if you “accidentally” murder someone? Perhaps you are chopping wood and the axe handle flies off? Are you guilty of murder? The Ten would indicate yes; however, Numbers 35:6 covers that type of situation with cities of refuge.

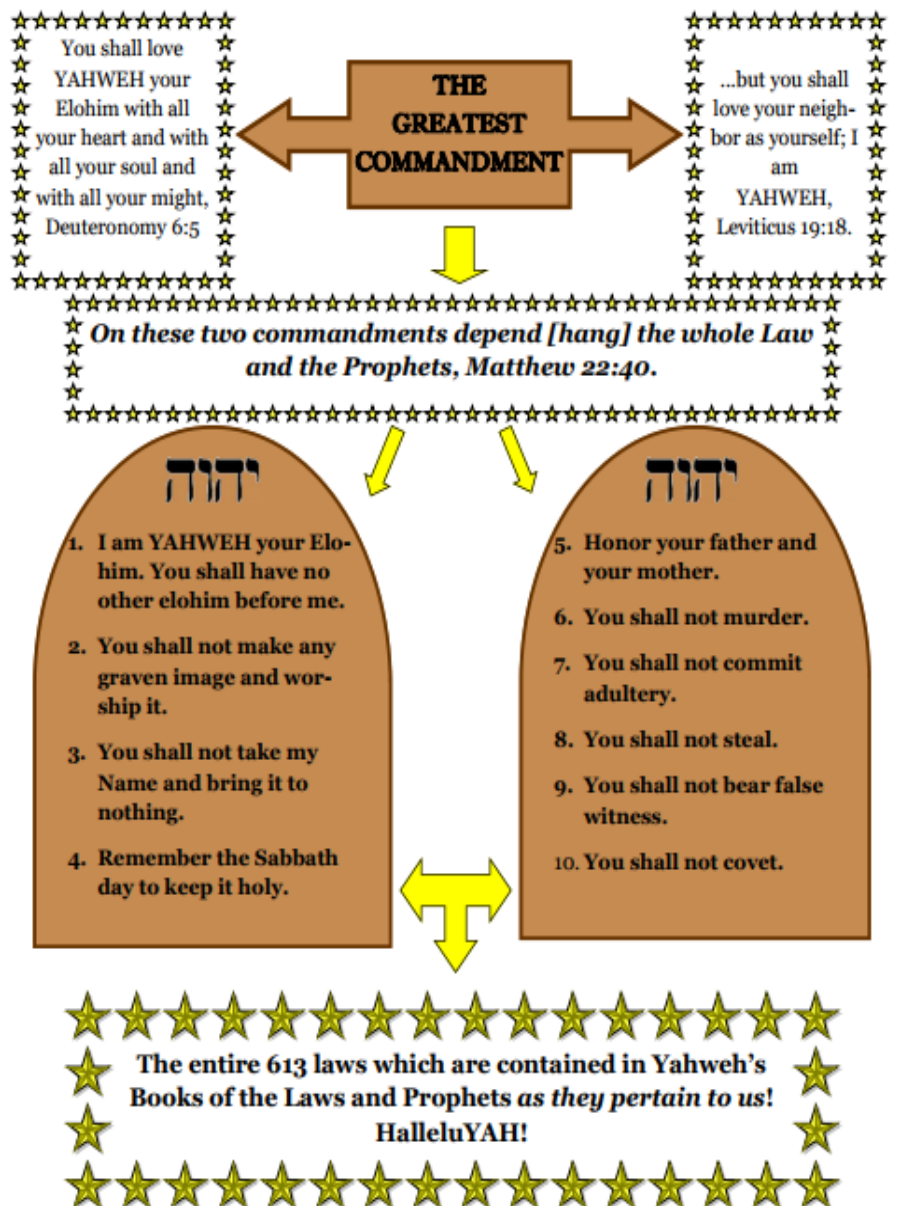
It's been called “legalism” to follow these laws, but I

think “lovism” would be better. We’ve been saved by the grace of YAHWEH through the blood of Yahshua. If it wasn’t for that precious, saving blood, we COULD NOT receive salvation. It is through His precious Spirit living in us that gives us the power TO keep His laws and His laws are not burdensome (1 John 5:13).

There are 613 laws stated in the Old Covenant. There are thousands of laws in many SMALL jurisdictions (not even speaking of the big cities or the Federal government). So, tell me again how it is impossible to keep a mere 613? There aren’t even 613 for any one individual because some are for the Levites; some are for men only; some are for women only; some require a Temple and so forth. I challenge anybody to show one of YAHWEH’s laws that is impossible to keep.

I pray that no one takes this to mean that you receive salvation BY keeping the law—that is absolutely wrong. When you have sincerely repented of past sins and accept Yahshua’s blood as a covering for those sins and have been baptized, you are covered by that blood. You stand to LOSE that gracious gift if you do not stay “sinless” and sin is “transgression of the law.” What law? The whole law. [Do NOT take this to mean the author believes you cannot receive forgiveness for “slipping” or “back-sliding.” David sinned and was forgiven for it (Psalm 32:1-5) and there are many examples proving likewise. If there was no hope for us when we slip, why would we be given directions on showing our brother he is sinning (Matthew 18:15; Luke 17:3), or the example of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-

Which Law?



32)?]. You keep the law out of love for Almighty YAHWEH and what He has done for YOU, the SINNER. As a side benefit, you will receive the blessings from keeping it AND make it to YAHWEH’S Kingdom to live forever with Our Heavenly Father and His Son, our King, Yahshua!

Remember, YAHWEH hates sin and sinners will not enter the Kingdom of YAHWEH (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

HalleluYAH!

WWTT?

Daniel Botkin

“Christianity is so entangled with the world that millions never guess how radically they have missed the New Testament pattern. Compromise is everywhere. The world is whitewashed just enough to pass inspection by blind men posing as believers” (A.W. Tozer in The Divine Conquest).

Every time I think of the above quote, I feel concerned. And when I consider the fact that Tozer wrote those words in 1950 (!), I feel even more concerned, because the Church was far less worldly in 1950 than it is today.

WWTT? What Would Tozer Think? What would he think if he could see the compromise and corruption and moral filth and rot that festers in many American churches today? More importantly, WDYT? What Does Yeshua Think? What does Yeshua think of the worldliness that has spread and continues to spread among so many people who claim to follow Him?

If you are a Sabbath-keeping Messianic, do not make the mistake of thinking that worldliness exists only in Sunday churches. I have seen worldliness among Messianic believers too. The Devil uses this fallen world system to pressure all believers, including Sabbath keepers, to conform to the world. That pressure must be steadfastly and continually resisted, because the pressure never stops.

For as long as we live in these mortal bodies, we will be pressured by the world to conform to the world. We are like fish swimming upstream. As long as we keep moving forward in the right direction, toward the Lord and against the flow of this world’s stream, we will be okay. But if we quit re-

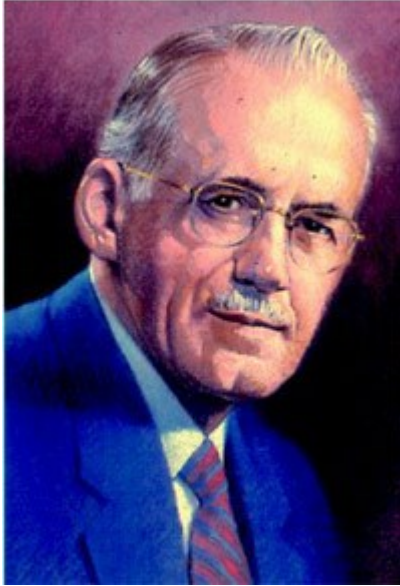
sisting the flow, we will be carried downstream and away from the Lord’s blessings. Any dead fish can float downstream. It takes a determined, faith-filled fish to swim upstream.

“Be not conformed to this world,” Paul wrote, and then he told us the alternative to world conformity: “but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2).

The way to resist the world’s pressure to conform is to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. The transformation has to start inside, not outside. We are not transformed by the external changes we make. As Messianic disciples, we do undergo some significant external changes. We start following the Biblical calendar. We keep the Sabbath and appointed times of the LORD. We follow the Biblical dietary laws. We dress modestly and in conformity to Biblical standards of dress and appearance. All these external changes are very important and not to be minimized, but these external changes do not transform us inwardly and renew our minds.

Renewing the mind involves changing the way we think - the way we think about God, about the world around us, about other people, about ourselves. In a word, it is learning (slowly and gradually, by degrees) to think the way God thinks. It involves getting our mind in agreement with the Word of God and in tune with the Spirit of God, so that we will see things the way God sees things.

Our minds get renewed by a process similar to the process that people utilized to renew old leather wineskins in Biblical times. Dried-up, brittle wineskins were renewed by first soaking them in water and then rubbing them with oil. This is a wonderful



A.W. TOZER
1897-1963

picture of how our minds get renewed. When we first come to the Lord, our mind is rigid and opinionated, like an old dried-up wineskin. If the Lord were to pour in the new wine of the revelation of His thoughts and ways into such a mind, it would burst. New wine must be poured into renewed wineskins. Just as wineskins were soaked in water, we soak our minds in “the washing of water by the word” (Eph. 5:26). We immerse our mind in the

Scriptures. We saturate our mind with Scripture to begin getting our thinking in agreement with the Word of God. And just as wineskins were rubbed with oil, we ask the Lord to rub in the anointing of the oil of His Spirit as we spend time with Him in prayer, to begin getting our mind in tune with the Spirit of God.

Through Scripture and prayer our mind is renewed. Our mind becomes pliable and flexible, and can conform to the shape of whatever revelations the Lord wants to pour in like new wine. Instead of conforming to the world, we are transformed to become the person God intends us to become.

These two things - immersing your mind in the Scriptures and spending time alone in prayer to get the anointing - these are the two things that will transform you by the renewing of your mind. These are the two things that will bring your mind into agreement with the Word of God and in tune with the Spirit of God. It's not rocket science. It's not hard to figure out, but it has a high cost: your time. I opened this article with a quote from Tozer. Now let me close with another Tozer quote from 1950 from the same book:

“God has not bowed to our nervous haste nor embraced the methods of our machine age. The man who would know God must give time to Him.”

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ARE MEN FULFILLING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES?

Part 3

Darl Arbogast

Jesus referred to His church as a woman and the woman needs a leader; that is the way it was designed by God. God has commissioned married men to be the head of their household, the command is to lead and rule in love not to be a dictator and not be slack in their responsibilities.

Ephesians 5:23, 33 NKJ - 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Church in Corinth wrote the following concerning the Church. 2 Corinthians 11:2 NKJ - 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (These are important factors that really matter!)

TITHING

Regarding the parable of the tax collector Jesus spoke of tithing in Luke 18:12 NKJ - (the Pharisee said), 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' Hebrews 7:5 NKJ - 5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham.

Some churches today believe that Jesus had no authority to demand that Chris-

tians tithed because tithes in the old covenant were collected by the Levites. Many people today do not realize that Jesus actually had Levitical blood in His veins.

These same churches believe Jesus only taught alms giving which was a part of the beneficence of the church as written in Job 29:13 NKJ - 13 The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy (an example of Old Testament alms giving). We see by this that Job gave alms to the widows and orphans which was done in addition to tithing in the old covenant. The amount that Job gave was voluntary and personal.

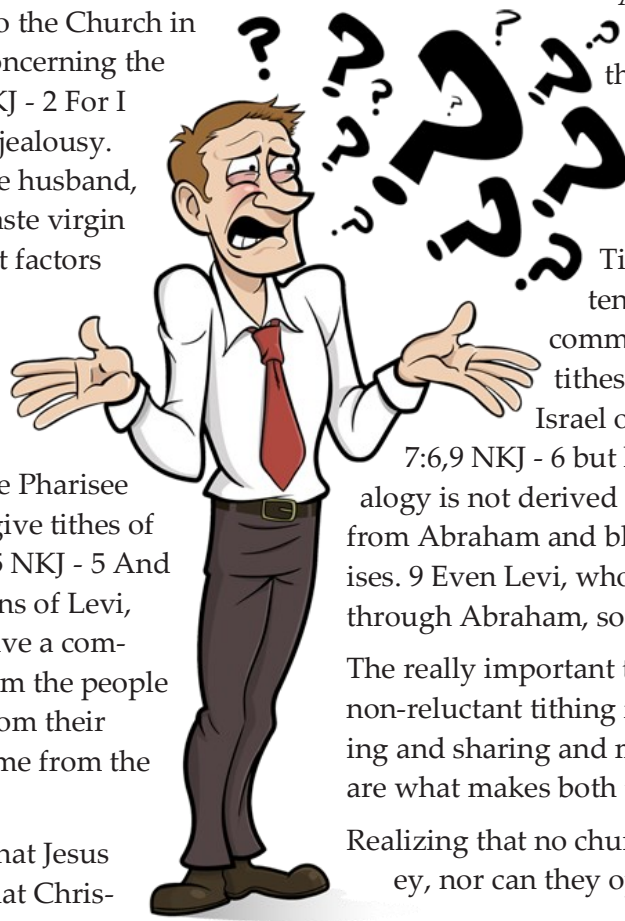
A New Testament example of alms giving is in Matthew 6:1 thru 4.

Like so many other things in ancient Jewish society tithing is a fore-gone conclusion.

Tithe is an old English word for tenth, this was a certain amount commanded by God. Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedek back before Israel or Levi ever existed. Hebrews 7:6,9 NKJ - 6 but he (Melchisedek) whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak.

The really important thing to remember here is that non-reluctant tithing from an attitude of love, giving and sharing and most of all obedience to God are what makes both tithing and alms successful.

Realizing that no church can operate without money, nor can they operate an orphan's and wid-



ow's program, nor can they feed the poor and the destitute without the generosity of others.

Approximately 425 B.C. God was telling the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Persia the following message in Malachi 3:6 thru 10 NKJ - 6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. 7 Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?' 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

In short the message was "give from the heart and your gift will be multiplied" Luke 6:38 NKJ - (Jesus said), 38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Any church where the Pastor has to badger, beg or plead with the congregation for sufficient funds to operate on should close the doors, lock it up and go home.

It's so obvious that people who do not support their church in an affluent society are not seeking God, they are attending for their own personal reasons and all the preaching you could do will probably not change their attitude.

Usually people who assemble with others to really worship God and support the congregation in its outreach programs who voluntarily tithe and give offerings are people who get the breaks in life.

When some families first begin to attend Church

they are driving an old clunker and they are not well dressed but in a couple of years that all changes for the better when they are faithful givers. God is not sleeping, He rewards those who are diligent in obeying Him. Obedience is proof to Him as we are showing our love for Him. 2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJ - 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (The husband sets the example for the family.)

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

The great minds of the world will take a different view of what really matters to the average person. For example: The average person does not care who, or how they discovered $E=mc^2$.

The big question is are all things really relative? Take into consideration things of science, chemistry, biology, mathematics, medicine, philosophy and religion.

Then consider the subterranean, the topography of the landscape, the immeasurable air mass enveloping the earth, the solar system, sun, moon, stars, high tide and low tide all of which are predictable.

Also consider how the planets follow a non-collision course laid out mathematically and they travel in their orbit at a certain speed. Halley's Comet for centuries was thought to be an omen but now it is regarded to be proof of a deep harmony among the planets.

Halley's Comet is a mass of rock and ice a few miles wide caught in a kind of vortex making an endless revolution around our sun. This comet is far enough from the sun to keep it from melting and its orbit brings it close enough to the earth for us to see it move across the sky. It then travels 3 billion miles away from earth only to return again exactly 75 years later. This comet is always right on time as it displays its light for all the people on the earth to see.

If by chance we witnessed its flight in 1986 we may not live long enough to see it again in 2061.

Mark Twain was rather proud in saying he came in with Halley's Comet and would go out with it.

Another question to consider regarding the discussion of laws is that God has fixed in place certain irrefutable laws that run on automatic, they continue to do what they were designed to do when the Lord God set these things in motion. God created many things many centuries ago, long before the first man and woman walked upon the earth and they will continue in their assigned duties on into the future even if mankind were to eliminate all physical life from planet earth; their existence is not predicated on our existence.

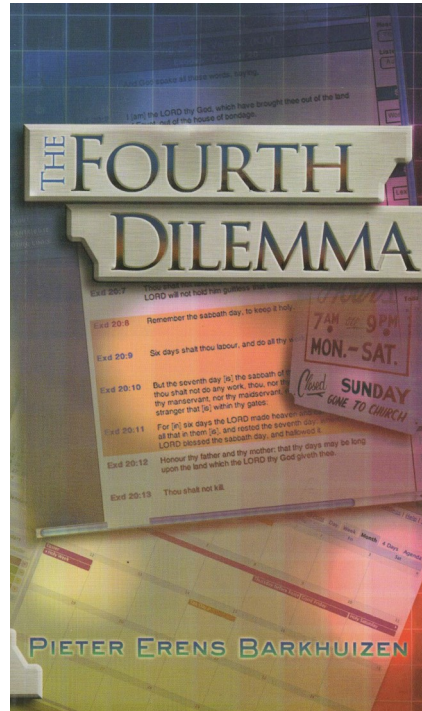
In the face of all these things what should take top priority? Perhaps such things as: "Law and order, justice, mercy, faith, and love", these are the important things that really matter!

The upper level of law is of course divine law. We cannot have divine law without first having a Divine Being. Neither can you have order without law. Laws are spoken and written and established, this is why the universe runs like a clock, as it is the order established by divine law.

It is divine law which affects mathematical law and chemistry law and all phases of physical law. The laws that govern our society were taken from the divine law as written down by Moses and spoken by God.

If mankind were to wipe the earth clean of human existence the sun would still come up every morning and go down in the evening, time would pass unnoticed but it would still pass. The Halley's Comet would still visit every 75 years, right on time, unnoticed and unappreciated, spring would turn to summer, summer to autumn and autumn to winter with no one to note it, paint it, appreciate it or make a photograph.

Certain laws of nature are just that, they are certain and they react to a built in design so they need nothing from mankind to continue on to infinity.



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by Pieter Erens Barkhuizen

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EARTH'S LAST PENTECOST

Daryl Prindle

As a background to my sermon, for the past couple of months I've been preaching through the book of the Revelation. I do not have any claim to being a prophet, and in fact I try to steer clear of making any predictions, but it doesn't take a prophet or even a rocket scientist to understand that the remainder of 2017 promises to be an extremely significant year! It will not be, "business as usual." In fact, this year may perhaps be one of the most important years in the earth's history. Fifty years ago in the country of Israel on June 7, 1967 the Israeli army reclaimed the temple mount. And, 50 years before that on November 2, 1917 the Balfour Declaration was signed that established a home for the Jewish people. These fifty years intervals are not accidental nor coincidental. From what I have been able to discern, this year 2017 appears to be a Biblical Jubilee year that Yahweh established in the Torah. Every 50 years in Yahweh's calendar is the year of Jubilee, the year of release. The blood moons of 2014-2015 foreshadowed events of great importance.

We know that because Yahweh established the stars and planets for signs.

"And Elohim said, 'Let lights come to be in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and appointed times, and for days and years,'" (Gen 1:14).

According to NASA, this year there will be other signs in the heavens. One of those is a total solar eclipse scheduled to cross the USA from Washington state to Georgia on August 21.

It is most interesting that August 21 is also the first day of the Hebrew month of Elul. It was on that exact date about 2700 years ago that Jonah warned the people of Nineveh that judgment was coming in 40 days. The month of Elul is the sixth month of the

Hebrew calendar and Tishri is the seventh. The first day of Tishri is the Feast of Trumpets and the tenth day is the Day of Atonement. That will be the day that Yahshua establishes His throne to judge all of mankind after He returns. So, 40 days after the Elul 1 is the Day of Atonement. August 21 is that day this year.

Also, perhaps you have become aware of the prophecy of the woman with child in Revelation 12 that will apparently happen in the star constellations on September 23.

"And a great sign was seen in the heaven: a woman clad with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. And being pregnant, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth." (Rev 12:1-2).

Undoubtedly, there is a deeper spiritual meaning to these physical manifestations, and it is my opinion that Yahweh may be signaling that the Tribulation will begin at that point. As with almost all prophecies, we will see if that timing is correct.

But regardless of whether that is actually the case or not, we are definitely in the end times, and I believe a good question for us is, "What is really in store for Yahweh's church in these End Times?" There are a couple of things that are overlooked many times regarding prophecy, and that is the fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32 and Revelation chapters 7 & 14.

As we know, the very first Pentecost at Mount Sinai was when Yahweh gave the Ten Commandments to His people Israel. Then, on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in the book of Acts, Peter directly quoted from the prophecy of Joel chapter 2. That was the time when Yahweh's Spirit was poured out on the 120 members of the Jerusalem church. Those believers were empowered by the Spirit to witness in various languages. The tribes of Israel who were in Jeru-

salem for that holy day heard them speaking.

"...we hear them declaring the great works of Yahweh in our own languages." (Acts 2:11).

The people heard their words but because of some naysayers, Peter took that opportunity that Yahweh gave to explain what was happening by quoting Joel's prophecy.

"But this is that which has been spoken by the prophet Joel, 'And it shall be in the last days, Yahweh says, I will pour from My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; And also I will pour out My Spirit on My servants and hand maids in those days, and they shall prophesy. And I will give wonders in the heaven above, and miraculous signs on the earth below, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the Coming of the great and glorious day of Yahweh. And it shall be that everyone who shall call on the name of Yahweh will be saved.' " (Acts 2:16-21).

Notice that Peter never used the word "fulfilled" in referring to this prophecy. What happened on that day of Pentecost was a partial fulfilling of Joel's words. Wonders in the heaven above, and miraculous signs on the earth below, blood and fire and vapor of smoke did not happen then. It was not a complete, nor even the main, fulfillment of the prophecy. Joel stated that those events would be "in the last days." The main fulfillment of this will be the latter rain that has been so long promised by Yahweh.

"Then be glad, sons of Zion, and rejoice in Yahweh your Elohim. For He has given to you the early rain according to righteousness, and He will cause the rain to come down for you, the early rain and the latter rain as before." (Joel 2:23).

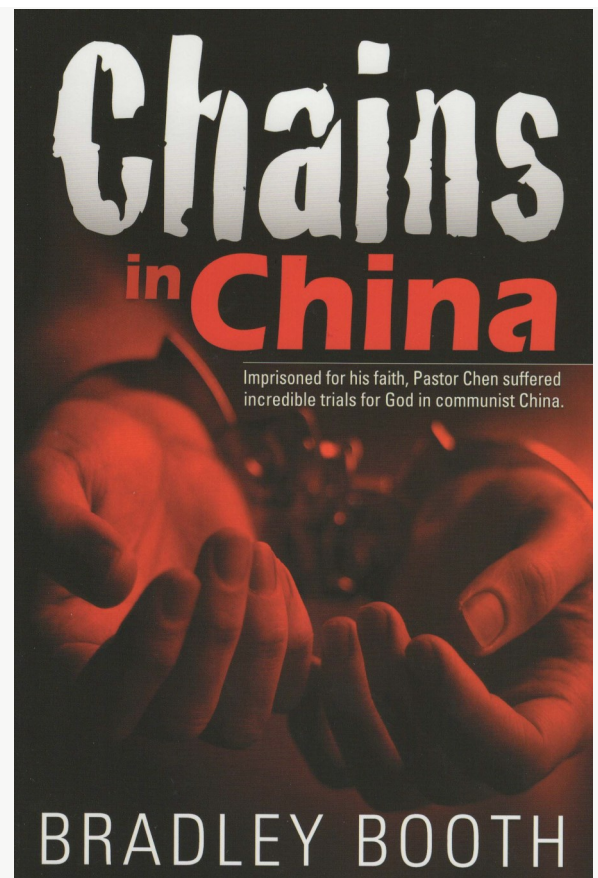
Israel was predominately an agricultural country and rains were required for planting and for harvesting. Yahweh had promised Moses that if the people walked in the ways of Yahweh then He would send rain for planting time, or early rain, and harvesting-time rain, the latter rain.

CHAINS in CHINA

by *Bradley Booth*

In 1960, Chen, a faithful young Seventh-day Adventist, was imprisoned and thrown into "the cage" for refusing to work on the Sabbath. In spite of living in the worst kind of filth and subsisting on a starvation diet, Chen looked for every opportunity to tell his fellow prisoners and prison officials about the loving God he served.

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So, Yahweh tells us to be glad and to rejoice in Him. Even though we are facing some very troublesome times, we have cause for rejoicing because the greatest part of Yahweh's harvest will come during our lifetimes, if we tarry in these bodies.

The partial downpour of the Holy Ghost came back in Peter's time, but there is still much more to come. We are on the verge of the second and more tremendous upheaval of the Holy Ghost. Paul speaks of it in Romans.

"And so all Israel will be saved, just as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn ungodliness away from Jacob;" (Rom 11:26).

The work of Yahweh's Spirit will continue on through all of the Millennial Kingdom, until the knowledge of Yahweh covers the earth just like the ocean covers the ocean-bed. (Isa. 11: 9).

Well, no sooner had Peter quoted that prophecy from Joel, and the Spirit had already fallen, than three thousand men were 'pricked to the heart,' they called on Yahweh and were baptized and received the Holy Spirit. That was a forerunner of the last revival in this eon of time before Yahshua's Kingdom comes.

But, you know that Yahshua had commanded His disciples to pray for it. Notice what He says in Acts 1.

"And while He ate bread with them, He charged

them not to leave Jerusalem, but to await the promise of the Father, 'Which you heard of Me'..."These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. " (Acts 1:4,14).

We too, are commanded to pray for these things to happen. Let's review Yahshua's command for us:

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as in heaven." (Matt 6:9-10).

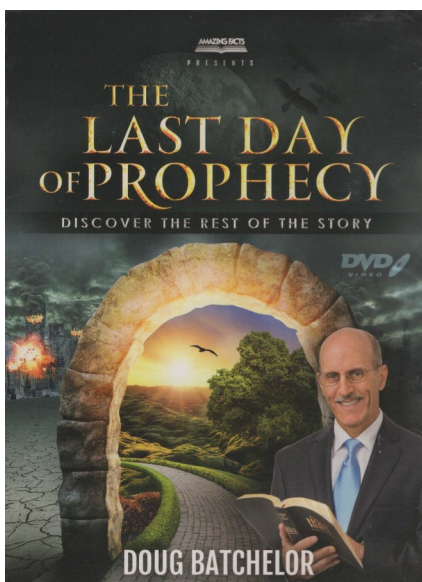
Right now, Yahweh is touching people's hearts around this entire world to pray for this soon coming stupendous event. We're praying for what we may have part in; and we're praying for the biggest blessing that the world will ever have on this side of the great White Throne.

Yahweh loves to fore shadow His grace through nature's events, and He has designed a parallel between the natural downpour of rain like some of us experienced today and in the last few days, and the gushing forth of the Spirit. He promises through Isaiah:

"I will pour water on him that is thirsty; I will pour my SPIRIT on thy seed." (Isa. 44: 3).

He also said:

"He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But



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this spake He of the Spirit..." (John 7:38-39).

So in Joel we read:

"He causeth to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the latter rain" ... "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." (Joel 2: 23, 28)

This is going to happen during the very soon occurring Tribulation.

Of course this begs the question: Who exactly will be doing the reaping of these souls? We understand that the 120 people mentioned in the in the book of Acts were the reapers of the 3,000 people that were converted that day of Pentecost. During the upcoming Tribulation the number of 120 multiplied by 1,200 times is the required amount of people needed for the reaping. Notice in Revelation 7:

"After this, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. I saw another angel ascend from the sunrise, having the seal of the living Yahweh.

"He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Don't harm the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, until we have sealed the bondservants of

our Yahweh on their foreheads!' When the sealing was finished, I heard how many were sealed out of the tribes of the descendants of Israel. They were 144,000." Rev 7:1-4

Then, the Bible identifies each of twelve tribes of Israel from which the 144k are chosen. Of special interest here, just who are the "lost tribes of Israel," those Hebrews who were dispersed after captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel? For the sake of time, suffice it to say, the lost tribes migrated from the Middle East where their captivity began, and established themselves in and among every nation and tribe, and sadly, and they forgot their spiritual and physical heritage in the process. They have become assimilated into all of the nations. But, they are not lost to Yahweh. Yahweh knows who belongs to which tribe, and He states that 12,000 will come from each one.

I believe that you and I are a part of those lost tribes that have become blended into every nation on the earth. And, we have the opportunity to become a part of the group of reapers mentioned in Revelation 7. Notice who they reap:

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before

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the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.' And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [about] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, 'What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?' And I said unto him, 'Sir, thou knowest.' And he said to me, 'These are they which came out of THE GREAT TRIBULATION, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Rev 7:9-17)

There are several things to notice. First, the 144k are sealed. Why? In order to do the job that Yahweh has set up for them to do, which is to witness and reap the tremendous harvest of souls.

Presently, we all know that the Everlasting Gospel as spoken of in Revelation 14 mostly falls on deaf and stubborn ears. How many times have you and I attempted to witness to our family and friends who are entrapped in the Babylonian system. We have entreated them about the importance of obeying Yahweh's commandments only to be met by indifference or antagonism. But after those in Babylonian mainstream Christianity realize that their rapture did not occur and that they are suffering in the Great Tribulation, the stubbornness of most will disappear. When the Two Witnesses of Revelation 11 preach repentance from Sun-worship and obedience to Yahweh's commandments, this huge group will realize that they have been in defiance to Yahweh's commandments. They will dream the dreams and

have the visions as stated in back in Joel 2 that they must become converted.

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are the ones keeping the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yahshua." (Rev 14:12).

Yahweh extends His plea to them:

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, 'Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.' " (Rev 18:4).

Then, they will have the same response as those Hebrews on that Pentecost back in Peter's day, "Brethren, what must we do?" And the answer will be, "...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38).

Yahshua counsels them in Revelation 3:

"Buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see." (Rev 3:18).

Also, "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." (Isa 55:1).

This immense group of people will make up the Great Multitude spoken of in Revelation 7:9-17. While Yahweh will preserve His Witnesses, the 144k and the Two Witnesses, until their job is done, those of this Great Multitude must go through testing, like all of Yahweh's people must. After one makes the decision to obey Yahweh's commandments he must "count the cost" and he will be tested.

And then, at the end of the Great Tribulation, in the seventh month, on Tishri 1, the Last Trumpet will sound and the resurrection and gathering to Yahshua will happen. This great multitude will also be gathered to Yahshua because of our witness, if we remain faithful.

"... in a split second, in an eye twinkle, at the last trumpet—the trumpet will blast and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed." (1Cor 15:52).

Praise Yahweh! (Six prior trumpets will potentially have sounded on the first day of each of the preceding new moons. What year will that be? Well, the Tribulation lasts 7 years and it has not begun, obviously. If the sign in the heavens of the woman with child (from Revelation 12) occurs this September 23 as predicted, then that may very well signal the beginning this Fall.

What must we do beforehand? We must pray for purity and unity among our commandment keeping churches. We must pray that Yahweh will prepare and send workers for that great harvest. I desperately want to be a part of this, and I pray that I will be.

In Luke 10 Yahshua commands: "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly [is] great, but the laborers [are] few: pray ye therefore Yahweh of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into HIS harvest." (Luke 10:2).

EVERY major prophetic event that has occurred or will occur is on one of Yahweh's holy days. Passover, Wave Offering, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost (partially) have been fulfilled. The remainder of Pentecost, then Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles remain to be fulfilled.

Yahweh yearns for His people to be wise.

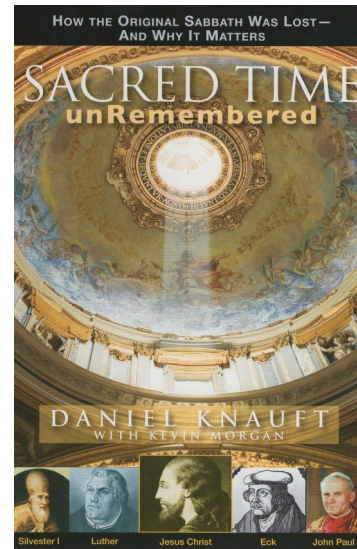
He states in 2 Chronicles 16:9: "For the eyes of Yahweh run to and fro in all the earth in order to be strong for those with their heart perfect toward Him."

If we are allowed to tarry in our bodies, Yahweh is going to permit us to join with His Spirit in reaping this tremendous harvest of souls, if we remain faithful to Him. In closing, look at this very humbling and breath-taking verse in Daniel.

"And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." (Dan 12:3).

So, don't you want to be a part of those spoken of here? I do!

Blessed be Your name, YAHWEH!



Sacred Time unRemembered

By Daniel Knauff with Kevin
Morgan

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Traces in history the circumstances of ecclesiastical compromise, anti-Jewish sentiment, and political expediency that cost the world its magnificent treasure—sacred time.

Suffer the little children

Terrell Perkins

I just watched the Ron Clark story on TV. It's a movie based on the life of an elementary school teacher from North Carolina who moved to Harlem, New York to teach sixth grade students. He chose the remedial class because everyone else had given up on them. The students tried everything they could to get him to quit and give up on them... but that would only have reinforced their view of themselves. Mr. Clark stayed. He showed them that he believed in them and that helped them begin to believe in themselves. They went from being the lowest testing class in the school to the highest in the district. Mr. Clark's students caught his love of learning and it began to burn in them. He uplifted them by setting them an example of someone who not only loved learning but who was able to show them something of value in themselves.

To let a child see something of value in themselves through the eyes of an adult...I think that is the greatest thing an adult can give a child. Kids need more than just three squares a day and a roof over their head, they need to know someone believes in them. When a child learns to value him or herself they can easily learn the value of others...when they don't value themselves they won't value anything or anyone else.

I'm reminded of the story of a king in a small country who wanted to adopt a child raised by a village. He told the village about his plan but he wouldn't tell them whom the child was. So the village raised every child there with love and affection. They were all praised and encouraged. They were instructed with patience and nurtured because of who they might become. As a result the whole generation was uplifted. They prospered as a peaceful people and raised a wise leader for the next generation.

Children need food, clothing, a safe and peaceful home, an education and the example of honest, upright adults, especially their parents. Every child needs a mother and a father who love each other living in their home. Little boys need the example of a man to learn to become a man. Little girls need a father to teach them how a man should treat a woman. Every child needs a mother to learn how to love.

Children don't belong to their parents. They only come through them. They belong to God. Children are only entrusted to their parents for their parents to teach them to become decent human beings. That's more important than being rich or famous. Our character is what we take with us after we draw our last breath. Everything else is just for training purposes...

People often wonder what's going on here on earth. Why are we here? The answer is that God is creating His family here. We are raising the Children of God in every generation. We should take that to heart because it's THE most important thing happening in the universe! What we do in our homes will echo for an eternity...

Love your children.



Letters to the Editor



In reading Brother Calvin Burrell's article "Holy Days - a Different View," I found your response to be very professional, loving and Scripturally accurate. I heartily agree with what you wrote. The only thing I would have added is: concerning the "Creation account of Genesis," the word "seasons" in Genesis 1:14 is the same Hebrew word as Leviticus 23:2, which begins with the weekly Sabbath. Therefore, I conclude that the "root" of the Holy Days are from the fourth day of creation, the "middle" of the week, and the Sabbath did not exist until after two more days. Also, Daniel 9:27 says the sacrifice and oblation ceased in the midst (4th day) of the week. Just a thought.

Paul Woods

Thank you for your kinds words, Mr. Woods. The point you make is the one which I omitted since it did not enhance the point I was really trying to make which was that we, as brethren in Christ, can understand some things differently and yet still view one another as brothers. That was not an effort to change any minds!

I'm particularly encouraged by your letter after reading a few others that came in since that edition came out. There were several troubling letters that were received that I won't publish due to the tenor of the remarks. Each of them calls into question the faith of either Brother Calvin or myself. This really should not be.

God leaves us in the dark enough on some things that we can have serious disagreements on the will of God. I believe God does this so that we can practice the love that Jesus indicated would be emblematic of those who are His disciples. We practice that love when we give our brethren room for God to work while recognizing that we also need some work—and yet still treat one another with the same respect and love with which we want to be treated, and with which God desires we treat each other.

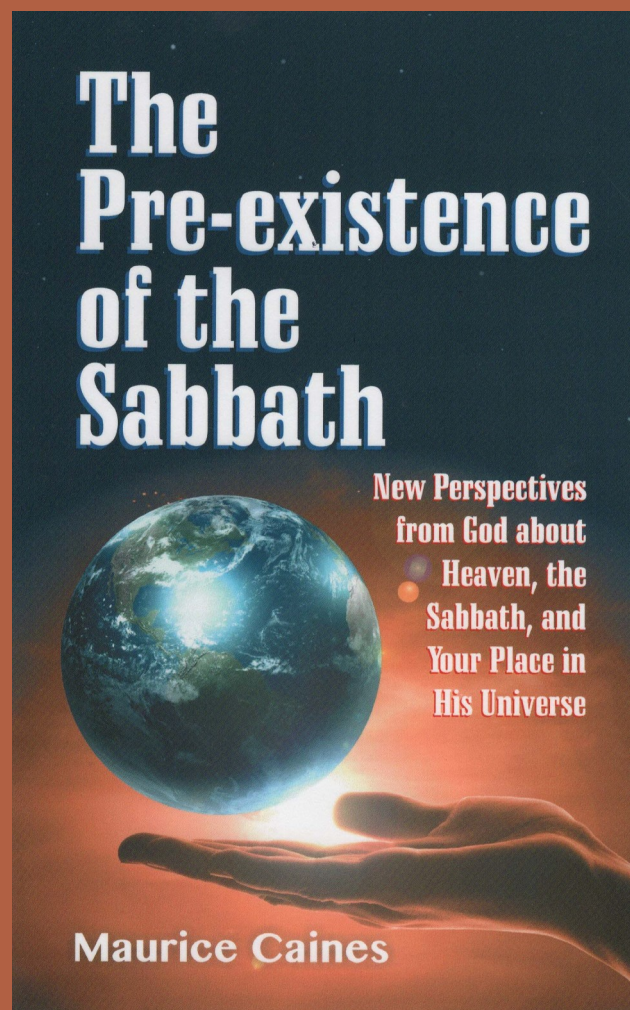
—Ed.

The Pre-existence of the Sabbath

By Maurice Caines

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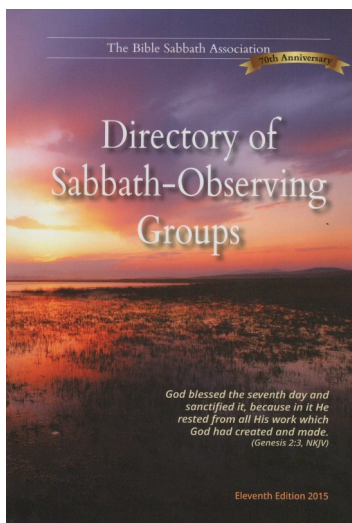
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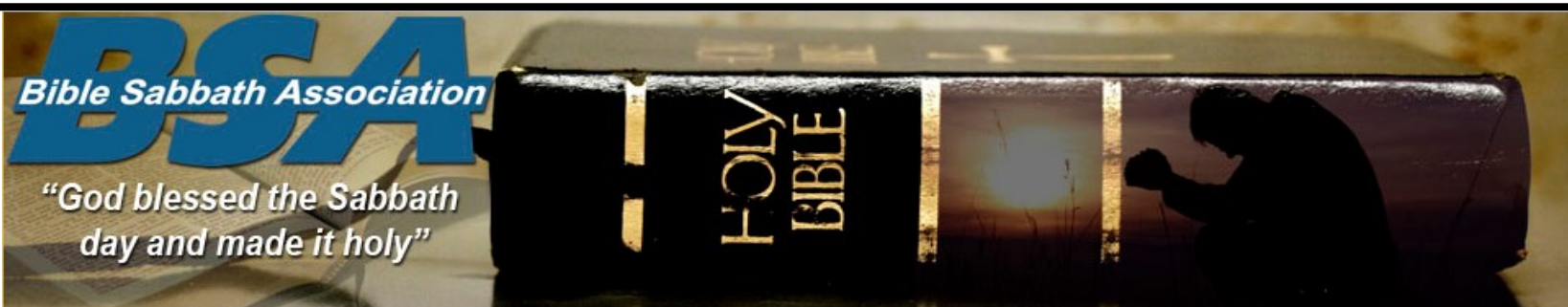
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