



The Sabbath Sentinel

Jan-Feb

2022

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BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

The Sabbath Sentinel January-February, 2022

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A Nation under God—or a Nation Gone Under?

What Will We Choose?

As we begin 2022, it seems wise to stop and take stock of where we are as a nation. Of course, individual introspection is always a good thing, and this time of the year might be a practical time to do that as well. For now, we will focus on our national condition.

A year ago, our nation was self sufficient as an energy producer. We were seeing real progress toward stopping our great national sin—the killing of our children, our modern day “passing the children through the fire.”

We were in the midst of a *still*-unresolved national angst over the alleged theft of a presidential election. But for the introduction of a virus released by a laboratory in Wuhan, China, we had an economy that was the envy of the world. Unemployment was at a level in many categories that was unheard of in decades, and perhaps in the history of our country.

Our nation thought we were moving toward a great America. It was suffering from the largest case of self deception in history. The installation of a new president ripped the scab off our self-deception, exposing ourselves to the reality of the state of our country. We have begun to realize that we have slipped dramatically from the ideals left to us by the founding fathers. However, the realization of our national condition has not yet been driven completely home.

When our country was founded, the idea was to create a place where people could worship their Creator as the understood that they should. The people came together to create states after liberating their land from a despot disguised as the King of England. After coming together as states, through those states they created a national government. The idea was to create a national servant government as they had created a servant state government. The national government was to be one of severely restricted powers. It had jurisdiction over 19 specific things—and nothing else. It certainly had no jurisdiction over the individual citizenry except as that citizen came into contact with those specific granted powers.

The founding fathers well understood the abuses of power from which they escaped. They also understood something powerful about scripture. Jesus explained it simply and the founding fathers took it to heart. That explanation is found in Matthew 17:25-26. He said, “*Then, the children are free.*”

Almost from the drying of the ink on the U.S. Constitution Satan has worked to rip apart the bastion of free-

dom that was created. A national bank, although deceptively named, was created to control money. Direct taxes on Whiskey in violation of the prohibition against direct taxation of the citizenry, brought a real insurrection, the Whiskey Rebellion. George Washington, who you would think would understand about the hard-won victory against England, was president during this imposed tax.

Native Americans were subjected quickly through the lies of a “treaty.”

Despite the lofty belief that “all men were created equal,” the founders made a political decision to allow slavery to continue, albeit weakened in power over time. The idea was to allow slavery to die under the weight of its inefficiency. It wasn’t happening fast enough for some, so Satan was able to stoke the fires of hatred of one’s brother to bring a costly war to prevent an Israel-like division of the nation. The hatred continued through the Reconstruction.

Satan devised an evil plan to bring the Citizens under the jurisdiction of the federal government, a complete reversal of the intent of the founding fathers. They created the 14th Amendment which created a new citizen subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. On its face, it was stated to assure the freed slaves of citizenship and the commensurate “rights” of that status. The reality was that it was used to make subjects of all of the Citizens, and to solidify a base for expanded federal power.

From there several attempts to directly tax the people were tried before the evil people in the federal government made one stick in the form of the income tax in 1913. Federal “servants” went around the prohibition against direct taxing of the people by defining a wage as “income,” a thing, and taxing that. Of course, the people were tasked to pay that tax, opening the door to the massive abuses we now see at the federal level.

It wasn’t long before the self-important federal government was stealing the gold from the Citizens, engaging in wars far from our homes, and eventually creating judicial positions that led to our national sin of child murder under the cover of “rights.”

Now, as we have seen over the past year, we have all become subjects. We only have the illusion of liberty. Our “servants” can command us to stay in our homes, shutter our businesses, kill projects causing prices to rise dramatically, demand that we accept injections of dubi-

ous quality or effectiveness, and feeding us babbling pretzel logic to cause us to be compliant. We truly have lost our way from the liberty God inspired the founding fathers to leave to us.

Please don't be mistaken. The founding fathers were not perfect people. But, they understood the concept of liberty, even expressing the caveat that our constitution was designed for the government of a moral people. It is no wonder that Franklin said that the Convention had created "a Republic, if you can keep it." We now have only the illusion of a Republic, its splendid remnants largely ignored and untaught so that we may be continued in our subjection.

So, one might ask, "How do we get back to that glorious place where liberty is the law and government is composed of servants and not petty tyrants?" The answer is easily stated, but not so easily done! The reason it isn't easily done is because we are still steeped in our national deception that if we just elect the right man everything will get fixed. We have not yet realized that we can't send servants into power to do those things which we are not empowered to do.

The scriptures contain admonitions as to how to return to God, both individually and as a nation. 2Ch 7:14 states, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* There is a wealth to "unpack" in that one statement, but in it is the prescription for saving this country from the destruction that is decreed for our sins.

The verse starts with "IF," meaning that we have a choice to make. Our nation can choose what God wants or not. Today, we are infested with progressive ideology which is nothing more than communism, socialism and Marxism repackaged. IF we choose to continue to allow those people to infect the minds of our children with an ideology that looks to GOV instead of GOD, our path will continue unabated, leading to our destruction. We can choose revival, but will we?

Next, "my people, which are called by my name," identifies a group of people who generally call themselves Christian, or children of God. We place on our money "IN GOD WE TRUST," identifying ourselves as those children. Yet, many people deny the Christ whose salvation they claim. They do this through their disobedience and outright denial of the Word of God as commanded.

Instead of acting like people of God, we *"worship God with our lips, but our hearts are far from Him."* Because of that, we are not inclined to humble ourselves, pray and seek His face.

We have become as the prophet Amos said we would in Amos 8:4-6 *"Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, Saying, When*

will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?"

Our religious leaders loudly proclaim that God's law is done away with, nailed to the cross, every Sunday morning. They deny the one Day in which God placed His name. They could care less about the new moons and the demarcation of the days God wants observed so that they can annually celebrate Saturnalia, celebrate the Queen of Heaven, Easter, and engage in the "frivolity" of witch and demon emulation.

We send people to government service who create laws allegedly designed to help the poor. But, we have more poor than ever. Those servants make laws to criminalize even the most minor of actions, thus further inflicting suffering on the poorest amongst us.

The idea that we would "turn from our wicked ways" is laughable to us as a nation. We say "we have not sinned" when our sins are black as deep space, denying the words of John who said that *"if we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."*

However, let us assume for a moment that we developed a "Nineveh moment," in which we realized our great sins against God, and cried out in repentance, changed our direction. Suppose we sought God and stopped ignoring Him to have our own evil ways. What would happen?

God is faithful and just to *"hear from heaven and forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

We have slipped as a country from liberty to being enslaved by our servants who have given us great evil, which we as a nation accepted, and even celebrated. We need a revival, one that starts with realizing how we have trampled the blood of Jesus underfoot, how we have turned our backs on the God who has provided us with the blessings He stated would be given to Abraham's children.

God has placed us in a country where His word is easily found and read, with multitudes of translations, commentaries, encyclopedias and dictionaries to help us understand what is written. Yet we persist in our evil disguised as good. When the reckoning comes, we are not going to be able to say to God, "That preacher you gave me told me thus, and I believed it." That excuse did not work on the Garden, and it won't work then.

But, we can repent. It is not too late. The question is whether or not we will recognize how far we have fallen as a nation and then DO something about it.





The President's Corner

Sabbatarian Anabaptists in 16th Century Germany

(Part 2 of 2)

Kelly McDonald

In the last edition of *The Sabbath Sentinel*, we reviewed the background events which led to a spontaneous, grass-roots revival of Sabbatarianism in sixteenth century. Revolutionary movements of the time shook the existing religious and political landscape. Amid these developments, the Anabaptists emerged in Germany as an alternative to those who did not want to join Catholicism or Lutheranism. Among them were Oswald Glaidt and Andreas Fischer, who led a revival of Sabbath observance.

Andreas Fischer accepted Sabbatarian Anabaptist beliefs from Oswald Glaidt in late 1527 or early 1528 in Nikolsburg, Moravia. As discussed in part one of this series, Moravia was an area which was favorable to the Anabaptist movement. It also became a major center of Sabbatarianism for a time.

In 1528, Glaidt and Fischer worked together in Silesia, just east of Moravia, where Anabaptist beliefs were already prevalent. Their message emphasized Sabbath observance; they won many people in the city of Liegnitz to this practice. A German noble in the area named Caspar Schwenckfeld and his confidant Valentine Crautwald expressed concern over their success. They engaged Glaidt in a friendly debate concerning the Sabbath.

About 1529/1530, Glaidt wrote a book called *Buchlenn vom Sabbath*, which defended Sabbath observance. This is likely the first work in modern times devoted to defending the Sabbath. This work must have had an impact beyond the region of Silesia because even Count Leonhard von Liechtenstein in Nikolsburg read it. He was concerned about the book's implications and implored Wolfgang Capito, a theologian of the reformation, to refute it. Capito turned the job over to Caspar, who was already familiar with the situation. Eventually both Capito and Caspar composed works to refute Glaidt's Sabbatarian teaching. Duke Friedrich II of Liegnitz also got involved in this debate and invited Valentine Crautwald to author a refutation of Glaidt. In total, three books were written to try and disprove the Sabbath.

While we do not have Glaidt's original work, his arguments for Sabbath keeping are extracted from Caspar's work against it. In brief, he argued as follows: The Sabbath was established at Creation by God and was observed by Adam, Abraham, and the Israelites (before Si-

nai). Christ and the early disciples also observed the Sabbath. Moreover, he said that God gave all Ten Commandments at the same time and if one was revoked then they all were. Caspar remarked that this was his strongest argument. In all, there appears to be 34 reasons that he employed to defend the Sabbath; we may look at these in a future edition of *The Sabbath Sentinel*. Several of them involve prophecy. This allows us to see the old influence of Hut's eschatology.

Glaidt's book was well composed and followed excellent Scriptural reasoning. It was obviously problematic for opposing views, as it took three contra works to develop cohesive arguments against it. Of course, we know that no one can disprove God's eternal Sabbath. In 1530, Glaidt wrote his work explaining the death penalty for violators of the Ten Commandments titled *How, When and Where the Law of Blood or the Judgment of God Should be Implemented, Executed and Practiced*.

To combat the contra works against him, Glaidt asked Fischer to intervene in the debate. Fischer wrote *Scepastes Decalogi*, which defended his belief in the literal application of the Ten Commandments. While we do not have an original copy of Fischer's work, it can be reconstructed from an attempted refutation, which was authored by Crautwald.

Unlike Glaidt, Fischer did not emphasize prophetic implications with the Sabbath. This could have been due to Hans Hut's failed prophecy about Jesus' return. He listed approximately 26 reasons for keeping the Sabbath. In a future edition of *The Sabbath Sentinel*, we will review them. This back-and-forth writing between pro-Sabbath and contra-Sabbath views went on as long as three years (approximately 1529-1532).

Glaidt and Fischer's Evangelistic Work

Glaidt and Fischer divided their evangelistic efforts in 1529. Fischer and his wife left for a brief campaign in Slovakia (we will return to Fischer later). Glaidt stayed a little longer in Silesia until the duke of that region ordered him out in 1532. He likely went to Bohemia to minister there and founded a Sabbatarian Anabaptist congregation which continued until at least 1538.

It is not clear whether Glaidt kept and taught the Sabbath commandment in his later years. He eventually joined the Hutterites in Jamnitz, Moravia; the Chronicles of the Hut-

terite Brethren record his presence there. In 1545/1546, he was arrested and drowned in the Danube as a martyr for the faith.

As aforementioned, Fischer and his wife went to Slovakia to preach the Word about 1529. His short time there was interesting to say the least. He was expelled from the town of Leutschau after a few days of preaching, then went to Neudorff, and lastly to Schwedler. In the latter town, many people received his message. Unexpectedly, people from Leutschau invited him back to their city to minister. The local authorities soon found out about his activity. He and his wife, who was also known to preach the Bible, were arrested.

After a few months in prison, they were both condemned to death. His wife was drowned. Andreas was hung from a castle tower and left to die. It seemed as if his work was finished, but something miraculous occurred. After several hours of hanging, the rope broke! It is not known if it was cut down or just snapped on its own. After this escape, Fischer was viewed by people in a new light. Some thought this miracle was a sign of God's approval of his message. Others thought he had come back from the dead!

He immediately went back to preaching in Slovakia where he found much success. As many as 80 people were baptized in one day! Not long after this revival started, soldiers came to arrest any Anabaptists they could find. Some people were captured, but many fled. The feudal rulers only allowed people to return to Slovakia if they took an oath of allegiance to follow both religious and secular authorities. Fischer and some of his followers fled into the mountains. While there, one of his disciples, Johann Balbus, was put to death. He testified at his trial that the Sabbath should be observed literally because Sunday observance was not found in the Scriptures.

Fischer then traveled to Zeben, Poland for refuge. While there, he publicly debated Anton Philadelphus, who was a local Pastor. Fischer easily bested him. Anton was defeated so badly that he left the town! The town rulers made the city a safe place for harassed Anabaptists.

Scholars place Andreas whereabouts next in Moravia (1530). It was about this time that the Sabbath books described earlier were composed. He seemed to travel between this area and Slovakia. In about 1532/1533, he had success in the latter until his old foe Anton Philadelphus publicly charged him with heresy. He then fled back to a city near Nikolsburg under the protection of von Lichtenstien. Unfortunately, this place of refuge did not last long.

In 1535, King Ferdinand I of Austria commanded all feudal lords in his domain, which included Moravia, to formally end their religious toleration. Some Sabbatarians submitted a formal request to move to Prussia, along

with a written statement of their beliefs. Their request was denied. They fled with only what they could carry; some of them later returned to Moravia.

Fischer likely spent his last few years traveling between Moravia, Bohemia, and Slovakia. Desiderius Erasmus complained about Sabbatarians in the 1530s. Multiple times Martin Luther complained about the number of Sabbatarians in Moravia and Bohemia (in the years 1532, 1535, and 1538). In 1538, he composed an entire letter repudiating them entitled "Against the Sabbatarians: Letter to a Good Friend." We discussed Luther and the Sabbath in the Nov-Dec 2020 and Jan-Feb 2021 editions of *The Sabbath Sentinel*. This group of Sabbath keepers challenged the highest authorities with their message and obedience.

In 1536, Fischer was invited to pastor a congregation in a small town in Slovakia, but he still traveled to other areas. Upon one sojourn to the area, he was captured by a robber knight and put to death for the faith in 1540/1541.

One question which remains is this: did this Sabbatarian movement continue after Fischer's death? There is a school of thought that says the group ended after his execution. However, recent research has shown that to not be the case. We will briefly review the evidence for continued Sabbatarian activity in the area.

In 1554, Ferdinand I issued multiple decrees expelling Sabbatarians from the city of Auspitz, Moravia. In 1555, Johannes Weisenkircher discussed the Sabbatarians as a numerous body that existed in his day. In the 1560s, Marcantonio Varotto was a traveler who visited parts of Southern and Eastern Europe. While in Moravia, he observed many different sects of believers. He mentioned that seven of them were Anabaptists and Sabbatarians were listed as one of them. Two primary sources from 1571 discuss Sabbatarians in Moravia and Bohemia (*The Chronicles of Joachim Cureus* and the testimony of Jan Okurka).

In 1575, the region of Moravia was sold to Adam Von Dietrichstein, who was devoted to the Roman Catholic cause. He employed Jesuits to help bring Catholicism back into the area; all other groups were expelled. Despite these efforts, traces of Sabbatarians are found in Moravia and Bohemia as late as 1600. Around this date, the original Sabbath movement started by Glaidt and Fischer faded from the historical record.

How are we to view these brave Anabaptist Sabbatarians and their roughly seventy-year movement? These men and women took Luther's concept of *Sola Scriptura* to its logical conclusion in their obedience to the Sabbath. They used such reasoning to their advantage to win people to their cause. While their efforts may have seemed small at the time, this group made a mighty impact. Their work caught the attention of major theologians of the day, such as Luther and Erasmus, and temporal rulers, such as

Count von Liechtenstein, Duke Friedrich II, and King Ferdinand I.

Thus concluded a fascinating chapter in Sabbath history. Let us always remember the lives of these brave men and women of God. In the future, we will honor the life of Andreas Fischer and review his 26 reasons for keeping the Sabbath. In their story, we are reminded that it is not the size of the group that matters because God can use small or large groups. However, our obedience and the quality with which we articulate the Sabbath message will make the difference.

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JESUS AND CHANUKAH

Wade Nanney

In John 10:22 we find that Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem in the wintry season during something called the “Feast of Dedication.” During His visit there on the Solomon’s Porch, his pronouncements very nearly caused Him to be stoned. What was this occasion, and what is its implication for us?

This festival’s identity quickly becomes obvious when you see that the Hebrew term for dedication is Chanukah, also known as “The Festival of Lights”, the 8-day festival which Jews and some others all over the world celebrate each year beginning on the 25th day of the 9th month [Kislev] on the Biblical calendar. The ninth month roughly corresponds to December on the pagan calendar, so it is basically a miserably cold and rainy season. The attendees were no doubt gathered under Solomon’s Porch to escape the rain. (Ezra 10:9 records how a group of very miserable Jews were caught in “great rain” at the temple in that same month many years earlier.) And Solomon himself wrote:

Son 2:11 *For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;*

Also, Jeremiah recorded:

Jer 36:22 *Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him.*

ORIGIN OF THE FESTIVAL

The Chanukah celebration originated as a result of the revolt around 167 B.C. by a group called Maccabees against the Grecian king situated in Syria, Antiochus Epiphanes. His very name meant “risen god”—or perhaps “manifestation of god”—and he imagined himself the reincarnation of a Greek god and sought to be worshiped as such. Antiochus was determined to eradicate all worship of the true God of Israel. He attempted to force the assimilation of Hellenistic culture to replace the Hebraic. He erected an idolatrous image right in the temple in Jerusalem.

Thus, a rebellion sprang up in the hill country of Judea and succeeded in expelling the Syrian king. The leader, Judas Maccabeus, chose faithful priests who dismantled the defiled altar and constructed a new one. As required by the Torah (Lev. 29:30,35), they then went through the seven days of consecration so that on the 8th day an offering could be made. The festival of Chanukah com-

memorates this 8-day period which began on the 25th of Kislev. The menorah was lit on this day, but a legend has it that the priests could find only one day’s supply of the consecrated lamp oil. However, the oil lasted for the whole eight days. Whatever the case, the overriding miracle was that a rag-tag bunch of hillbillies defeated the Syrian army!

These events occurred during the “400 Silent Years” between Malachi’s ministry and the rise of John the Baptist; thus, it is not recorded in most Bibles. Nevertheless, it is recounted in the historical books of the Apocrypha, and also in the works of the great Jewish historian Josephus. Too—although the historical record is nowhere in the traditional Scriptures—people immediately recognized that it had been foretold in the book of Daniel! In this longest prophecy in the Bible, chapter 11, verses 21-39 are a foretelling of the Antiochus episode. He was the “King of the North” at that point in history, but this title is like an office which has been occupied many times and will be again shortly.

“VILE PERSON” WAS FORETOLD

It is commonly understood that Alexander’s Greco-Macedonian empire fulfilled the 3rd “beast” prophecy of Daniel 7:

Dan 7:6 *After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.*

When Alexander died his conquered territory was divided among his four generals. Shortly, the two portions that included Egypt and Ethiopia joined to form the “King of the South”. The northern two, which included Syria, consolidated into the “King of the North”. (Later, when the 4th beast arose, Rome took over that territory and thus assumed the role of King of the North.) The prophecy in Daniel 11 introduces a ruler in the office of King of the North which precisely fits the Hellenistic Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes:

Dan 11:21 *And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.*

At one point, this king develops a hatred toward the covenant God gave His chosen people and begins to collaborate with those Jews who also despised it and wanted to

assimilate the Greek-based Hellenistic culture.

Antiochus Epiphanes, the so-called “risen god”, exalted himself above all other gods and forms of religion, but as with all such tyrants, his days were numbered:

Dan 11:36 *And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.*

Dan 11:37 *Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.*

Thus, we see the prophesied historical background for Chanukah, the Feast of Dedication.

JESUS AND THE STONES ON SOLOMON’S PORCH

Nearly 200 years after the Chanukah celebration was established, Jesus surfaced at the temple during the festival. It was the winter before His crucifixion, and He had a point to be made loud and clear: Joh 10:30 *I and my Father are one.*

In this manner the Messiah identified Himself as a part of the Godhead described as echad [“one”] in the most powerful and profound statement in the Bible. It is found in Deuteronomy 6:4 and is known as the shema.

When Jesus was hit with the question, “Which is the first commandment?”, the response was to quote the shema:

Mar 12:29 *Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

The Greek word translated “one” is eis. This is the same word used in Deuteronomy 6:4 in the Septuagint, the ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament made in Alexandria, Egypt c. 280 BC. But of course Jesus spoke the declaration in the original Hebrew. When the crowd understood He was equating Himself with YHWH, the hearers became enraged at what they considered blasphemy and grabbed up stones to kill Him.

BUT WAIT A MINUTE!!! How and why would rocks be lying around up there in part of the temple? It was a very special public place no doubt kept fastidiously clean and neat. If you went up onto the Lincoln Memorial in Washington with a grudge against the memory of old Abe, would you expect to be able to reach down and pick up rocks to throw at his statue? Not likely. So just what were these available stones up there on the only surviving portion to the original temple? The answer is found in one of those historical books of the Apocrypha:

Book of I Maccabees, chapter 4:

4:41 Then Judas [Maccabeus] appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary.

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4:42 So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law:

4:43 Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place.

4:44 And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned;

4:45 They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down,

4:46 And laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them.

4:47 Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former;

The “convenient place” was Solomon’s Porch, which survived to become joined to Herod’s temple. The “prophet” turned out to be the Prophet foretold by Moses [Deu. 18:18]—the Messiah Himself. So, instead of prostrating themselves and asking, “LORD, what should we do with these stones?”, they instead picked up the hefty altar stones to try to bash His brains out!

Now, thinking Hebraically as spiritual Jews, maybe we should ask, “Is there some sort of sign here?” [ref. 1Cor. 1:22; Gal. 3:29). Consider that one of the Hebrew words for stone is even, a natural stone “formed without hands”. Jacob erected a stone [even] for a pillar where he had his fantastic dream and anointed it (Gen. 28:18). Moses was commanded to build the altar of YHWH with whole, uncut stones [pl. evenim] (Deu. 27:5-6). “Even” is a composite word blending the two little words av and ben-- Father and Son. [The “v” and the “b” are the same letter; in some words it is pronounced “b”, and others as “v”.] When the two words are slid together overlapping the two identical characters, they form the word “even!” THE VERY WORD STONE IS A COMBINATION OF FATHER & SON! This upholds and visually illustrates the truth of “I and my Father are echad [one]!” Stone and Rock are words used multiple times in the Bible to symbolize the God of Israel. He is that Stone [even] cut without hands that will come down from heaven and smash the latter end of the 4th Beast. This Stone then fills the whole earth with the Kingdom of God (Dan. 2:34-45). Jesus is the Stone [even] that the builders rejected, yet has become the Head of the corner (Psa. 118:22; Mat. 21:42). To the errant, He is the Stone [even] of stumbling to both houses of Israel (Isa. 8:12; 1Pet. 2:8).

Our Savior chose to declare His exact identity during the Chanukah season. During this time a selection of scriptures known as the Hallel was sung in the temple. The final part was Psalm 118. Look at this section near the end—these words may still have been ringing in the air when our Messiah entered the temple to reveal just who He is:

Psa 118:22 *The stone [even] which the builders rejected*

has become the head of the corner.

Psa 118:23 *This is the LORD's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes.*

Psa 118:24 *This is the day that the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!*

Psa 118:25 *Save us now, we beg you, LORD! LORD, we beg you, send prosperity now.*

Psa 118:26 *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD [YHWH]!....*

[JPS translation]

Jesus our Messiah chose this Festival of Dedication to make the public declaration of exactly who He is--a full-fledged member of the Godhead! The stones He stood beside were the connecting link between Him, the celebration of that time, and the events centuries before that initiated it.



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CHANGING TIMES

Daniel Shabbatnik aka Daniel Botkin

Daniel 7:25 is an important verse that is overlooked by a lot of Christians. In the KJV it says this:

“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

“Daniel, why is this verse important for Christians? Who is it in this verse that is speaking against the most High, and wearing out the saints of the most High, and changing times and laws? Which ‘times and laws’ is he changing, and why?”

I’m so glad you asked! To answer the above questions, we need to look at the background of this verse in the Book of Daniel.

In Daniel chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great image made of four different metals. The Prophet Daniel interpreted this dream and explained that the four metals represented four great kingdoms. Babylon, the kingdom which Nebuchadnezzar was then ruling, would be followed by three more kingdoms. We know from history that the three kingdoms which followed Babylon were Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

Years later, Daniel had a dream. He saw four great beasts come up from the sea. The first was like a lion with eagle’s wings; the second was like a bear; the third was like a leopard with four wings; the fourth was unlike the others, and described by Daniel as *“dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth ... and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it”* (Dan. 7:7). Daniel asked for an interpretation of this vision, and he learned that these four beasts corresponded to the four metals in Nebuchadnezzar’s image.

The fourth beast, Rome, especially intrigued Daniel: “Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast,” Daniel said to the one who was explaining the vision. Among other things, Daniel was told that this fourth beast, Rome, would *“speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws”* (Dan. 7:25).

This answers the question of who was prophesied to speak against the most High and wear out the saints of

the most High. It was Rome.

Now ask yourself: Whose “times and laws” would Rome, the enemy of the most High, want to change?

If Rome spoke against the most High, wore out the saints of the most High, then it follows that the “times and laws” Rome would try to change would be the times and laws of the most High.

What are the “times and laws” of the most High? The laws of the most High are written in the Torah. The times of the most High are likewise written in the Torah, in Leviticus chapter 23.

Leviticus 23 lists God’s appointed times, the days He designated as holy days for His people. God’s appointed times in Leviticus 23 are the weekly Sabbath (the seventh day of the week), followed by the seven annual appointed times: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Does Rome celebrate these appointed times of the LORD? Except for Pentecost, no. The Roman Catholic Church (and most Protestant churches) substitute Sunday for the Sabbath and the Eucharist and Easter for Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits. Thus Rome thinks to change the appointed times and laws of the most High.

“Daniel, what makes you so sure that the ‘times’ Rome thinks to change are the sacred times on God’s calendar?”

Let me answer that question with a question. What other times of the most High would the enemy of the most High want to change, other than the sacred times of the



He will speak words against the Most High. He will harass the holy ones of the Most High continually. His intention will be to change times established by law. They will be delivered into his hand For a time, times, and half a time.
Daniel 7:25 NET

most High?

But you do not need to just take my word for it. Here are several English translations of Daniel 7:25. Notice that five of them specifically say “sacred feasts/seasons/festivals.”

“He will defy the Most High and wear down the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws.” New Living Translation (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1996).

“He shall speak words against the Most High, shall wear out the holy ones of the Most High, and shall attempt to change the sacred seasons and the law.” The New Revised Standard Version (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989).

“He shall vaunt himself against the Most High, and harass the saints of the Most High: he shall plan to alter the sacred seasons and the law...” Moffat Bible

“He will speak against the supreme God and oppress God’s people. He will try to change their religious laws and festivals.” Good News Bible (New York: American Bible Society, 1976).

“And he shall speak against the Most High, thinking to change the feast days and the law.” New American Bible.

The 1968 Jerusalem Bible (New York: Doubleday & Co.) says in its footnote that Daniel 7:25 refers to “the observance of the Sabbath and the feast days.”

Yes, Christian friend, Daniel Shabbatnik is harping about Shabbat again, reminding readers that the Sabbath is the seventh day, Saturday, and not Sunday, the first day of the week.

“So what?” some people respond. “So Christians keep the Sabbath a day late. Does God care? Does it really matter which day of the week is used for the Sabbath?”

Let me answer that question with a question. If it does not matter, then why would Rome, the enemy of God and the enemy of the saints, want to change it? Why would Rome want to “change times and laws” if it does not matter? What would Rome have to gain from this change if it does not matter?

John Shirm, in his book A Search For Truth, tells about his discovery of the Sabbath:

“While going to the Methodist church as a child, one lesson I learned was about creation in Genesis 1 and 2. The thing I remembered most was that it said God created the seventh day and sanctified it and called it His Sabbath Day. One day early in the 1930s, I looked at the calendar and put my finger on Sunday and said ‘One.’ Then I put my finger on Monday and said, ‘Two.’ And I

continued across the page until I came to Saturday and it was seven. Well, there’s something wrong here, I thought. I better ask Mom about this. So I did.

“‘Mom,’ I asked, ‘Why is it we go to church on Sunday and call it the Sabbath and the Lord’s Day, and it’s the first day of the week, and the Bible says that the Sabbath is the seventh day, and that is Saturday on the calendar?’”

“Sadly enough, as many other parents answer their kids’ important questions, my mother answered with something like, ‘John, don’t ask such silly questions. Sunday is the day we go to church and you’re going and don’t try to wiggle out of it.’ Period. I went. But I also said to myself that I believed Saturday was the Sabbath and if I ever found anyone who attends church on Saturday when I grew up and was my own boss, that was where I’d go.”

As a child, John Shirm discovered which day of the week is the Sabbath by simply looking at a calendar. Unfortunately, nowadays some calendars are printed with Monday as the first day of the week.

Every year I buy a pocket-sized calendar to record appointments, mileage, etc. Last December I went to the local office supply store to get a calendar for the new year. They had an assortment of colorful covers. As I looked inside each calendar, I discovered that they all had Monday printed as the first day of the week.

I kept looking, hoping to find a calendar with Sunday as the first day of the week. Finally I found one. It had cute little unicorns and hearts and flowers on the cover.

“Oh, no,” I said to myself. “Am I gonna have to buy this girly-looking calendar?”

I kept looking, and finally found a different calendar with Sunday as the first day of the week. This one even had a Bible verse from Psalm 118 on the cover. “Let us rejoice today and be glad.”

I rejoiced that day and was glad that I did not have to buy a girly calendar with unicorns, hearts, and flowers on the cover. And it included a calendar for 2022 as well as for 2021, so I’m covered for this coming year. We’ll see if I can find a proper calendar for 2023 next year. If I can’t, I guess I’ll have to make one.

For information about Daniel Botkin, see his website, www.gatesofeden.online.



FANTASY RELIGION VS. FACTUAL TRUTH

Darl Arbogast

Keeping this article on a level that can be understood by all age groups is a little tricky but let's give it a try.

Let's assume that our reference to fantasy religion is looking at traditions and practices of various church groups claiming of course to be Christian establishments. Many elderly people grew up in such a church and spent a portion of their adult lives there as well.

Many in the elderly senior citizen group have learned early on as we have matured that Santa Claus and Christmas was a fable, a fake built around a Christian theme—as false as fried snowballs. Reindeer tracks in the snow on the roof Christmas morning plus a lot of other untruths are connected with this holiday. Christmas is used by Satan as a tool to lead our children down the path of accepting make-believe.

For many years children matured in Church accepting an erroneous salvation, eucharist, colored Easter eggs, chicks and bunnies instead of Passover. The adults saw this as exciting to the children but it was legitimizing something they should not do.

These holidays, Christmas and Easter mixed into the birth of Christ and His crucifixion and resurrection, implants a distorted view of the plan of God early in the minds of children. We are born with a sinful nature anyway. These man-made holidays throw a stumbling block in their path growing up. That makes it difficult for them to ever face reality and accept a different point of view, through it be practical and true.

Another group of secular people see the fantasy and go to the extreme and do not believe in God. As it is written in Revelation 12:9 NKJ and 2 Corinthians 11:14 NKJ - 9 “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

14 “And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

These traditions such as Christmas and Easter are accept-

ed without question and their origins are seldom if ever considered. In the general scheme of things parents do not lie to their children but in these cases parents themselves were deceived and passed along pagan beliefs and traditions to their children. A deceived person does not know they are deceived unless or until the truth of a matter is revealed to them.

If some had ventured to read Jeremiah 10:1 thru 5 - KJV our customs and traditions may have taken on a different view. *Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the LORD, learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree (an idol) out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.*

Apparently not many were curious enough regarding the time of the birth of Jesus to check the encyclopedia to see when Quirinius was governing Syria or when Caesar Augustus decreed the sentence of the census. Luke 2:1,2 and Acts 5:37 NKJ “And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.”

Good researchers may have found out the birth of Jesus the Christ occurred, by our calendar, September 29 4 B.C.; apparently this was the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles. Because of the Feast and paying of taxes explains why such a huge crowd of people were there.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

I have often asked professing Christians if they believe in the Ten Commandments and do they keep them? Most often they reply saying “yes.” Then I ask them if they keep the fourth commandment, then some respond with “which one is that?”

It is ironic in a way that so many professing Christians will perhaps obey nine of the Ten Commandments and give excuses why they don't keep the fourth!

As it is written in Exodus 20:8-11 NKJ *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."*

Deuteronomy 5:12: NKJ *"Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you."*

Jesus said in John 14:15 NKJ *"If you love Me, keep My commandments..."*

As written in 1 John 5:3 KJV *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."*

1 John 2:3,4 NKJ *"Now by this we know that we know Him (Jesus), if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."*

Revelation 22:14 NKJ *"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."*

THE PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD

Also some have the same mindset toward the Passover—more excuses. Why don't so many professing Christians keep the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread or any of God's Holy Days declared holy by Him? 1 Corinthians 5:7,8 NKJ *"Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."*

Sadly many prefer pagan holidays, they need our prayers.

Let it be known that what is written above is not the whole story regarding these subjects but maybe this article will break the ice and help promote God's prescribed way of life. The Ten Commandments are not grievous as written in 1 John 5:3 because of God's love toward us.



Enjoying the articles...?



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Sabbath Keeper Elected President!

Hakainde Sammy Hichilema, commonly known as HH, a Seventh-day Adventist church member, is the duly elected seventh president-elect of the Republic of Zambia, after being declared him the winner of the August 12, 2021, general election.

He ran on a platform centered on uniting the country, which has 73 tribes, and revamping the nation's ailing economy.

At the church level, Hichilema and his wife, Mutinta Shepande Hichilema, are baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Both were certified as Master Guides in the youth ministry of the Adventist Church in December 2020 after undergoing lessons for one year. The uniforms you see depicted in the photo, are for the youth group, and are similar to the Boy and Girl Scout type of uniforms in the United States.

Hichilema, 59, was born in southern Zambia in a low-income family. He attended the University of Zambia on a government scholarship and later studied business and finance at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. He is now a well-known businessman whose portfolio includes property management, cattle ranching, and financial consultancy with major international companies.

His journey to the presidency has not been an easy one and has been wrought with much persecution and attack. After losing in 6 previous elections, he was arrested in 2017, when police broke into his home under the orders of the political opposition incumbent president. He was charged with treason after a minor traffic offense.



Zambian President Hichilema and Wife, in Sabbath Youth Leader uniforms.

wear, shoes, speakers, blankets, carpets and food from the kitchen and defecated on Hichilema's bed. Teargas was thrown inside Hichilema's home gassing Hichilema, his asthmatic wife, and his children, who collapsed several times due to inhaling the gas.

During his time in prison he was held in solitary confinement for many days, without food, water, light or visitation, and was tortured by having his penis pepper sprayed. This under the auspices of the former President. This episode was strongly condemned by the international community, including the United States and the European Union. Under international pressure Hichilema was finally released and continued his pursuit of political change in Zambia.

Seventh Day Adventist members and leaders around the world have congratulated Hichilema on his new position. "This is monumental and historical," Adventist Church associate youth director Pako Mokgwane wrote. "Continue to live by the ideals of your Master Guide pin."

Sabbatarian Joyce Motsoeneng wrote, "Congratulations! May the Lord be your leader all the way. May He bestow upon your life favor, wisdom like He did to King Solomon. May you lead with integrity in Jesus Christ's name. May the nation of Zambia know God the creator of heaven and earth through you."

"Let God lead through you," Zambian church member Thucha Emeldah added. "It will not be an easy road, but God is still God, and He will guide you and protect you. We will also keep you in our prayers."

During his campaigns, Hichilema promised to promote religious liberties for all faiths in the nation, adding that he wouldn't coerce anyone into joining his church, as alleged by his political opponents.

May all our prayers be with you as you face the challenges of leadership as a Sabbath Keeper Who Is Making A Difference!

Author Bill Lussenheide and his wife have been Sabbath Keepers for decades. They reside in Florence Montana.

Sabbatarian/Waldensian

Apostolic Succession List?

Could there be a list of successive Sabbath-keepers from the time of the original apostles to present?

Yes.

After seeing several published claims in the 19th and 20th centuries of apostolic succession related to a group known as the Waldensians [1-6], I contacted historians and librarians associated with the American Waldensian Society to see if they had a list to back up such claims—I also contacted leaders in several Sabbatarian churches.

Those I was in communication with were unaware of any such list, even though several documents claimed that early Waldensians (also known as Vaudois) had true succession and/or some type of list prior to the time of the 16th century Protestant Reformation [1-7].

However, to assist, the Waldensians referred me to Moravian scholar Dr. Craig Atwood as well as the Archivio Della Tavola Valdese—the historical archives of the Waldensian Church in Italy—for more information.

Dr. Atwood provided information that the succession of Moravian prelates was accepted by the British Parliament in 1749 (*Acta Fratrum Unitatis in Anglia*), because they claimed succession via the Waldensians [2, 7].

The Waldensians, or at least a Moravian portion, claimed to have originally descended from “a branch of the Greek church” from the 9th century [3]. Moravia is a historical region in the east of the Czech Republic and one of three historical Czech lands, with Bohemia and Czech Silesia. In the 18th century, the Episcopal Church seemed to accept the Moravians as having valid Greek church succession [3].

Some indicate that the Waldensians came from a branch of the 4th century Greek church [7], which would point to Asia Minor and Antioch. Another source seems to point to the Waldensians being a branch of the 3rd or 4th century Antioch church [8]. Even Roman Catholic sources acknowledge that there were Sabbath-keeping leaders in Antioch in the 3rd or 4th centuries [9].

While there were different groups called Waldensians by the Roman Catholics, some did keep the Sabbath as well as hold to other doctrines not held by the Roman Catholics or the bulk of the Protestants [10].

Although modern Waldenesians observe Sunday, notice the following:

Sabbathkeeping among Waldensians was most widespread in Bohemia and Moravia, places to which they fled during papal persecution. A fifteenth-century manuscript, published



Lux Lucent in Tenebris

by church historian Johann Döllinger in *History of the Sects*, reports that Waldensians in Bohemia “do not celebrate the feasts of the blessed virgin Mary and the Apostles, except the Lord’s day. Not a few celebrate the Sabbath with the Jews.” [11]

Here is what Johann Döllinger published in Latin in the above source, with my translation below it:

festa divae virginis Mariae et Apostolorum non celebrant, solam diem Dominicam aliqui. Nonnulli vero cum Judaeis sabbatum celebrant, [12]

the festival of the blessed virgin Mary and the Apostles not celebrated, only some the Lord’s day. Not a few of the people celebrate the Sabbath with the Jews,

There were differences among the Waldenesians. Some kept the Sabbath. The succession list in this article only includes leaders, starting with the apostles, who seemingly kept the seventh-day Sabbath.

In the 14th century, the assertion of Waldensian apostolic succession was reported by a Dominican monk:

Waldenses ... push back their beginnings to the age of primitive Christianity. Thus they deny that they first appeared as a set of heretics breaking off from the historical Church, and claim to have preserved the purity of the faith through the ages, while all the rest of the Church was degenerating and

accumulating the corruptions against which they protested from the first.

Claim to apostolic origin. -- This claim is first met with in a Dominican monk at Passau in the year 1316, who states that the Waldenses are the most ancient of all the sects, some even saying that this sect 'duravit a tempore patrum.' It was but a step to add that the Waldensian church was founded by St. Paul when on his way to Spain. [4]

The Latin *duravit a tempore patrum* translated to English means they "lasted from the time of the fathers." While there could be groups with ties to Spain, since the Waldenses elsewhere indicated that they came from part of the Greek church originally (apparently Asia Minor/Antioch) [3,8], that would seemingly rule out Spain (though there were different groups called Waldensians).

The Catholic Encyclopedia says that earlier succession claims were made by other groups, such as those known as Paulicians and Cathari [13-14]. The 12th century abbot Bernard of Clairvaux, a declared doctor of the Roman Church, called, "The Cathari, a sect of the Waldenses" [15].

Reportedly, Waldensians "Being scattered abroad in various countries, ... they supported amongst them the true apostolic succession of ministers and bishops, after the aforesaid manner of appointment, without break, down to the year 1450, about which time the separation of the Bohemian Brethren from the then prevailing religion of Bohemia took place for sufficient causes" [6].

A branch of the Greek Orthodox Church essentially approved Waldensian succession in 1451 through the acceptance of the ordinations of some Waldensian presbyters who accepted their church [5].

Interestingly in the early 1700s, John Potter, Anglican Bishop of Oxford/Canterbury, said the Moravian bishops (who claimed descent from the Waldenses) had "true succession" and made a point that "only those ignorant of church history could cast any doubt about it" [2].

But in this century, no Waldensian list dating back to the apostles has been found in modern Waldensian sources.

Marco Fratini, who works at the Waldensian Library in Italy, said that the archives there did not have such a list [16]. He also stated that such a list would be difficult to compile as there are a variety of doctrinal inconsistencies related to modern Waldensians. He is correct about that, but also there is the historical problem that people of various beliefs were termed Waldensians, not because they were all part of the same group, but because they were not in communion with, or were considered to be in opposition to, the Roman Catholic Church.

Notice also the following:

Roman Church they refused to give it the name of Catholic, and showed in what it had departed from true catholicity. The Vaudois, therefore, are not schismatics, but the continued inheritors of the church founded by the apostles. This church

then bore the name of Catholic, [17].

That being said, Marco Fratini of Archivio Della Tavola Valdese also emailed me on September 3, 2020 to encourage me to send him such a list if I came up with one. In June 2021, I sent him a list with through 1525 that follows:

- c. 31 - c. 64-68 Apostles Peter and Paul c. 67
- c. 98 - 102 Apostle John
- c. 100 - c. 157 Polycarp of Smyrna
- c. 157 - c. 160 Thraseas of Smyrna
- c. 160 - c. 167 Sagaris of Laodicea
- c. 167 - c. 170 Papirius of Smyrna
- c. 170 - c. 180 Melito of Sardis
- c. 180 - c. 200 Polycrates of Ephesus
- c. 200 - c. 220 Camerius of Smyrna
- c. 220 - c. 254 Nepos of Arsinoe
- c. 254 - c. 275 Unnamed Antiochian(s) or possibly Dorotheus
- c. 275 - 312 Lucian of Antioch
- c. 313 - 380 Unnamed Antiochian(s)
- c. 380 - c. 470 Unnamed Antiochians or Unnamed Nazarenes
- c. 470 - c. 500 Constantine of Antioch and Aushin
- c. 500 - c. 645 Unnamed 'Paulicians'
- c. 645 - c. 650 Unnamed leader with New Testament from Syria
- c. 650 - c. 684 Constantine of Mananali (Silvanus)
- c. 684 - c. 696 Simeon
- c. 697 - c. 702 Sergius
- c. 702 - c. 717 Paul the Armenian
- c. 717 - c. 746 Gegnesius
- c. 746 - c. 782 Joseph (Epaphroditus)
- c. 783 - c. 800 Unnamed Paulician(s)
- c. 801 - c. 835 Sergius (Tychicus)
- c. 836 - c. 919 Unnamed Paulicians
- c. 920 - c. 950 Basil
- c. 951 - c. 980 Jeremiah
- 1000s Sergius (27 years)
- c. 1110 - 1140 Peter DeBruy (Pierre De Bruy)
- 1140 - 1155 Arnold of Brescia
- 1156 - 1181 Nicetas
- 1181 - 1205 Peter Waldo
- 1205 - 1224 Arnold Hot

1224- 1300 Unnamed Waldensians

c. 1310 - 1322 Walter the Lollard

1322 - c. 1335 Raymond the Lollard

c. 1335 - c. 1460 Unnamed Waldensians

c. 1460 -1492 Anthony Ferrar

1492 - 1525 Stefano Carlino or Unnamed Waldensians

He responded to that list by stating:

Dear Dr. Thiel,

Thank you for the exhaustive list.

I don't know all of them, but it's interesting. So I'm not able to suggest modification.

Best regards

Marco Fratini [18]

However, since we know that Anabaptists in Moravia were known for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath [19], and the Moravians claimed ties through the Waldensians, the following Moravian Sabbath-keepers could be added next of the list:

1526 - 1528 Moravian Sabbatarian Anabaptist 'traveling minister'

1529 - 1540 Andreas Fischer

So, yes, there now is a list going back to the original apostles through the Waldensians and Moravian Anabaptist Sabbath-keepers. But, it is not as complete as preferred.

There are, of course, other possible lists and I expect to make modifications for other purposes, but for now this list looks plausible--even considering that several of the leaders on it were denounced by other churches based on real and fabricated teachings [cf. 20].

I invite others who have insight and could possibly help improve the list (and fill in gaps, if possible) to contact me.

My email address is COGwriter@aol.com.

Bob Thiel

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My Reasons for My Not Getting the Covid-19 Vaccine

DJ Wellington

People all have different reasons for not getting the Covid-19 vaccines that are being pushed around the world today. Most all are important. It seems odd to me that “if” this vaccine was so good, why would there be so much emphasis on blocking information on both sides so people can make their own, educated determination?

That being said my personal reason is that it violates the very same Scriptures that I strive to live by. Below are the areas that I feel it violates and why I will not get it and pray Yahuweh keeps me strong and courageous to stand up against all odds.

Food

Our Heavenly Father made things for food. As early as Genesis 1:29, 9:3, He tells us what was provided as food for us. He also made things which people eat today which were NOT meant as food. He gives us a rather comprehensive listing of them in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, although they are referenced throughout the Scriptures. These are the items which were given to us to ingest, fuel for our bodies.

One prominent example during Messiah’s timeframe (or soon after He was killed) was in Acts 10 when Peter had a vision involving unclean animals and he contended he never put any unclean animal in his mouth.

Of course, Peter recognized that vision was referring to humans, not animals (Acts 10:28).

He also provides directives for His people to NOT consume/ingest blood (Genesis 9:4; Acts 15:29, and several others). As most everyone knows, He has commands against murder as well. So, should this or any other vaccine or pharmaceutical, contain blood, genes/DNA, etc. from humans or animals, we should not put it in our bodies.

Right at the outset, no one (to my knowledge) has provided a comprehensive list of ingredients and their origin of this vaccine (or other vaccinations). That makes me sus-

picious as to the contents.

No where in Scriptures are we told to put any chemicals whatsoever in our bodies. In fact, He explains how you should not sow your field with mixed seeds and even the seeds could become contaminated if an unclean substance falls on them (Leviticus 11). Our Heavenly Father is serious about what goes into our bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:9 states how our body is the temple of our Heavenly Father and it should be treated as such. We know what the Messiah did to the moneychangers who were desecrating the Temple of His (and our) Father.

Clean/Unclean/Ingest

Merely touching the unclean thing, whether dead animals, people, etc., makes you unclean which can lead to sin (if you do not wash by evening) and/or being cut off from His people. These instructions were recognized by the Messiah and His apostles and should be recognized and adhered to by His people today. (See Leviticus 5:2, 7:19, 7:21; Numbers 19:11-12; Acts 10:14, 28; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Ephesians 5:5 and many, many more.)

His people MUST know the difference between the *ko-desh* (“holy”) and the “unholy.” and between the clean and the unclean (Leviticus 10:10). There are many ways you can become “unclean” and different scenarios for men and women. Adherence to these instructions have, throughout history, kept the commonly-referred to as “Jews” healthy despite plagues in the world. That could well be the same scenario for today if they were adhered to. Sadly, even those living in Israel no longer abide by these instructions to the degree they once did (considering our food chain, pharmaceutical industry and medical practices).

These instructions are for our good and do not just include what we touch but, perhaps even more importantly, what we put in our bodies. There are many, many places throughout the Scriptures to learn of these instructions, most particularly the first five books of Scriptures, confirmed throughout including the so-called “New Testa-

ment.”

Healings

There is nothing in the Scriptures that say His people will not get sick. Likewise, His people do not live forever no more than anyone else in this human world we live in.

However, our Heavenly Father has a lot to say about who is our Healer and what is to be used for healing. Deuteronomy 32:39 is one of many, many verses that say our Heavenly Father kills and makes alive, He wounds and He heals; He IS OUR HEALER. Most know that when the Messiah walked the earth, He healed through the power of His Father.

There is an interesting incident in 2 Chronicles 16:12 where Asa did not seek the Father, “but the physicians” instead. Granted, Luke was a physician and our Father gave to some to be physicians, but THOSE physicians will not violate His instructions/guidelines (which “most” all do today).

We were given plants and such also for healing. In fact, Revelation states how the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations. He MADE all the herbs, fruits, vegetables, trees, etc. for food and for healing! Again,

there is no mention of pharmacology for healing...man devising chemicals to ingest for what they believe is healing (many times creating other issues).

Promises/Rewards

We are told time and time and time again that if we heed the voice of our Heavenly Father, giving ear to His commandments and keeping His instructions, He will NOT put the diseases of Egypt (i.e., the world we live in today) upon us (Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 7:15; and elsewhere). He will also take away all sickness (healing us when we get sick).

BUT, if His people do not listen He will “bring back” all those diseases “of which you were afraid”...sound familiar? (Deuteronomy 7:15).

Conclusion

The purpose of this article is to explain why I will not get the Covid-19 (or any other) vaccine and, hopefully, it accomplished that purpose because my focus and concern is to walk as our Messiah walked and keep my eye on the goal, as Paul said, which is eternal salvation, living with our Messiah and Father forever.



COVID-19 VACCINE EXEMPTION CARD



NKJV
New King James Version

Please keep this record card, which includes the reason for your exemption.

Last Name

First Name

MI

Date of Birth

Pertinent Record #

Due to freedom of religion being a Constitutional right and vaccines violate the tenants of the Scriptures that I live by, it is my right to refuse same and no man or business has authority to discriminate against me for exercising this right.

EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA

The following information comes from a number of sources. For those that would like to have an overview of what I am writing, they can look up a book written by J.N. Andrews, and L.R. Conrad. Titled: "Early Christianity in Africa."

Consider this quote from their writing. "Africa received the light of the Gospel in the first century of the Christian Church." Other sources show that this "light" came as a result of the Levite Barnabas and his nephew Mark taking the Gospel message to Ethiopia. This happened just after Paul and Barnabas had parted company for awhile.

We have an Old Testament witness of a close relationship between the Ethiopians and the Jewish religion. This was evidenced when the "Ethiopian" helped Jeremiah, when the latter had been thrown into an empty water pit. As well, we have a New Testament witness which shows Philip going with the Gospel message to an "Ethiopian Eunuch" who was on his way home after attending Jewish services in Jerusalem. Notice the influence this Ethiopian Eunuch had in Ethiopia. *"A man of Ethiopia. An eunuch of great authority under Candace...Who had charge of her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship"* Acts 8:26+.

Another report states that at the end of the first century AD, the Ethiopians (now Christians) received the new Canon directly from the hands of "Mark," known also as John. It would have been this John Mark that wrote the book of John, and the three letters of John. This Canon was exactly the same as the New Testament books that we have today. With

the exception of the book of Revelation, which was not a part of said Canon.

But back to the story line, Christianity in Africa. It seems that the Ethiopian Church carried the Gospel message to the rest of Africa, which ran all the way through central Africa. Not only were they Christians *per se*, but they were Sabbath observing Christians. And, like the early Pilgrims in America, they were "deists." Please keep this "deist" comment in mind for later in this report.

The above was the way Africa was until the 1100's AD. This was the time when the militant minded Islamists came from Arabia. When we read "militant minded Islamists," think Amalekites, or today's terrorists and their forced converted allies. These Islamists began to force the Christians to either choose Islam, or choose death. It seems that most of the Christians chose death, though some changed to Islam, and today are the terrorists of Africa.

However, there came a time that the Islamists needed money to continue to function. They began to set aside the most likely black Christians, and "sold them as slaves" to eastern countries, Arabia, India, and further east. There is some evidence that pockets of these "Sabbath" observers still exist in some areas of south Asia.

The warfare against black Christians continued westward. There came the time when European interests began to settle in the islands of the Caribbean. Their purpose was to grow food for their European peoples. But, they needed labor. So they

began to buy black servants from the Islamist forces that needed the money. In a sense, by purchasing said blacks from Africa, many blacks were saved alive. Had they not been sold, they would likely have been killed, or forced to become terrorists themselves.

Actually, those Christians likely would have been much better off, if there wasn't a major problem, one of which is likely how the "servant blacks" became known as "slaves." The major problem manifested as follows.

These particular Africans were, as mentioned earlier, "Sabbath observing Christians, and deists." However, their owners from Europe were "Sunday observing Christians, and triists".

In conclusion, it would seem obvious that most of the slavery problems that came about in the United States were not so much one of differing colors, but rather of differing "days of worship," the Sabbath or Sunday, and the number associated with the God of those that worshipped, two or three.

Ray E. Daly <rayedaly@bis.midco.net>

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Letters to the Editor

The article entitled "Two Trees and the Sabbath Singularity versus Duality" was quite interesting and contained things worth further investigation. After reading it several times and reading the scriptures, something came to mind worth sharing.

Adam and Eve were told they could eat of every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17); however, didn't they ALREADY know good? They knew the Father and did everything they were told—so it seems they knew good but did NOT know "evil." Is it possible that the tree of knowledge of good "and" evil would actually denote primarily "evil?"

If I recall correctly, Gnosticism is a sect consisting of various groups which emphasize personal spiritual knowledge

above the orthodox teachings, traditions, and authority of traditional religious institutions. "Gnosis" means "knowledge."

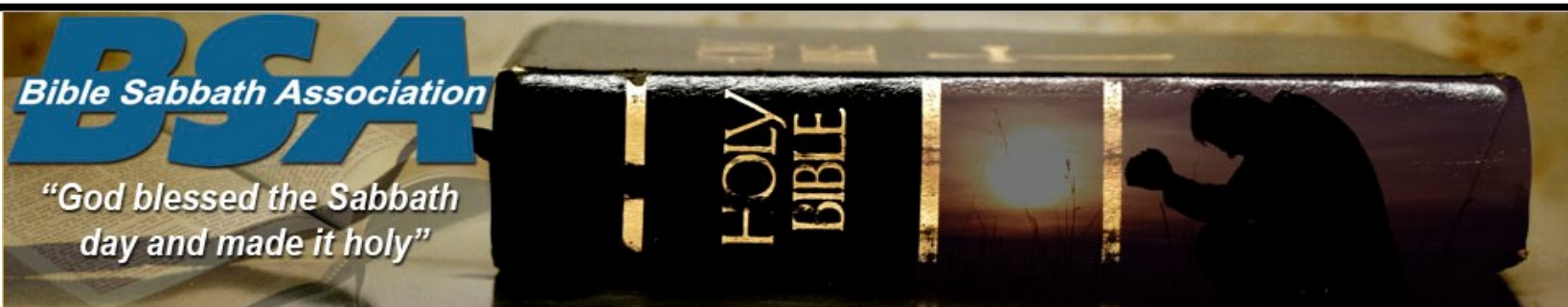
Could it be that this "tree of knowledge" was prophetically referring to Gnosticism (from which many of the christian doctrines come from). There are two excellent books entitled "Primitive Christianity in Crisis" and "Spirit of Antichrist" written by Alan Knight which are easy to read and understand and covers the history of this.

DJ Wellington

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