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2022

# The Sabbath Sentinel



**BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association**

**“... the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name!”**



# The Sabbath Sentinel May-June, 2022

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# *Pentecost—True Liberty and Justice For All!*

Pentecost is one of God's Holy Days (Lev 23) and a day that symbolizes Liberty for us, the Church. Some call it the Church's birthday. It is certainly the Church's Independence Day!

Virtually from the moment one man has sought to have dominion over another, man has longed for freedom, for liberty. These words were inscribed on the Liberty Bell, "proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." The Words inscribed on the Liberty Bell reflect that our nation's Founding Fathers likewise longed for liberty.

But, God's Liberty surpasses any liberty man can conjure up. In fact, there is a biblical context for the Liberty Bell inscription:

*Lev\_25:10 And you shall make the fiftieth year holy, one year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee to you, and you shall return each man to his possession, and you shall return each man to his family.*

To get a firm grasp on Liberty as God wants us to do, we need to try to understand the scriptures which are related to the Liberty of God.

Satan has made captives of the whole world through deception. We read that in Rev 12:9. God's liberty extends to all, each in their own time, because all of mankind has become captive to Satan. Jesus said in Joh 12:32 *And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself.* The word "All" has a specific meaning.

Liberty for all was prophesied by Isaiah. In a verse cited by Jesus (Luk 4:18 citing Isa 61:1), it states that He came to "proclaim liberty," to "preach deliverance to the captives." Jesus came to deliver true liberty. We who love God's way look forward to that happening soon!

James explained what the Law of Liberty is in Jas

2:8-12. He shows clearly that God's Commandments ARE the Royal Law of Liberty. Many in this world believe that the Law of God was nailed to the Cross. They think that the Law restricts them. But, it doesn't. It provides Liberty, Freedom.

All of creation wants to be liberated from corruption! Creation is waiting on us so it can be freed also. We read that in Rom 8:19-23. We read, in part, that *"creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."*

Our liberty comes from what Jesus did for us. Some organizations want to enslave the brethren through dogma, rules designed to control and divide, not heal. There's nothing new about that as we can see from Gal 2:3-5. But, God wants us liberated, not enslaved to the doctrines and dogma of men.

We have liberty because Jesus made us free. Liberty is our destiny, and we are to stand fast in that liberty (Gal 5:1-2, 13-15).

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit gives us liberty (2Co 3:13-18). It unlocks the scriptures to us by opening our minds, removing the veil of a hardened heart that remains on the rest of the world.

It was on Pentecost day that the Church received the earnest of the promised Liberty (Act 2:1-4)! It was then that the Holy Spirit was delivered *en masse* to the faithful followers of Christ as He had promised. And with that deliverance our Liberty was assured.

However, we have to not only look into the Law of Liberty as James told us, we have to walk in it.

*Jas 1:22-25 But become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man studying his natural face in a mirror. For he studied himself and went his way, and immediately*

*he forgot what he was like. But whoever looks into the perfect Law of liberty and continues in it, he is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work. This one shall be blessed in his doing.*

This is the important point of which the world is ignorant because it lacks understanding of the true liberty that Pentecost and God's Law represents.

However, we have to be careful that our liberty does not become a stumbling block. Paul writes in 1Co 8: 7-13 that our liberty should be tempered by concern for the well being of others. Too many want to use their liberty like a club. God's liberty restrains us from what we have a "right" to do out of love for other children of God.

Likewise, we can't use our liberty to cover or conduct evil. We read this in 1Pe 2:15-16. This makes sense if we truly understand that we use God's liberty tempered with His love. In fact, there is a curse for demanding liberty and then denying it for others (Jer 34:12-17). Israel saw that curse by refusing to free Hebrew servants and instead scheming to continue their enslavement. It is not right to demand liberty for ourselves and yet seek to deny others that liberty that only Jesus brings.

The Republican Party proclaims themselves to be the party of liberty (*They are not alone in their abuses*). But, they put into their party planks that nobody could be able to choose what substance to put into their body, and that they knew better than others what substances were best for treating medical problems. While proclaiming liberty, they caused others to be enslaved to them and to medicines approved by them. There is a curse for applying that kind of liberty.

Peter tells us that there are those who are twice dead, who presume to promise liberty to the brethren and instead only offer more slavery (2Pe 2:9-22). For instance, some self-appointed apostles of God sent to preach the gospel to all nations. Who sent them on that mission? Some demand that we take God's tithe and send it to them. God calls that robbery.

Some claim to have authority to appoint people

over the brethren to rule a congregation despite the biblical example of the brethren choosing their leaders. Their only purpose would be to come between the brethren and God for their own personal gain—seeking Balaam's wages of unrighteousness. God's Liberty does not mean subjection to the error of men. God's liberty informs us that we should live by HIS every Word.

Pentecost was the day when the Holy Spirit was given generally to the Church. That gift brings what humanity has longed for: liberty, sought virtually since the fall in the Garden. It has been promised to all of mankind that Liberty is coming. Liberty is coming through Jesus.

We can access that Liberty through the keeping of God's commandments and the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. Although we have accessed Liberty in that way, we can't allow our Liberty to become a stumbling block for others.

We can't use our liberty to give cover for the doing of evil. We certainly can't proclaim that liberty to others and then seek to make captives of them, whether or not in the name of God and Jesus. In fact, that brings a curse.

There are those who are proclaiming liberty in Jesus to the world but who seek to enslave our brethren to doctrines of death, to dogmatic speculation. We need to watch for those so that we are not deceived but also so that if asked about them we have the answer that the Liberty that is of God is not slavery to men. These are unholy people who creep in to destroy. This has been happening since the Church began.

The Liberty that is of God is promised to all men—each in their own time. Pentecost is God's declaration of Liberty to us, setting us free from the death sentence of our sins through Christ and guaranteeing us life through the indwelling of His Spirit. Let us prepare for the day when it will happen, and pray that God will soon spare all men the enslavement that is the deception of Satan.







## The Passagini: Italian Sabbath Keepers of the Middle Ages (Part 1 of 2)

*Kelly McDonald*

In the eleventh century, the beginning of religious change sprang up in parts of Europe. From this general unrest emerged several well-known groups such as the Cathari, Albigenses, and Waldenses. Among the lesser known groups from this period were the Passagini (also spelled Passagii, Passagenes, Passaginos, etc.). They were a Sabbath-keeping group which formed in Italy sometime in the mid to late twelfth century. They are the earliest example of a group which held to the concept of *sola scriptura*. In this two-part series, we will review some of the events leading up to their appearance as well as their beliefs.

Between 1022 and 1056, a few Roman Church councils condemned some newly formed non-conformist groups in France and Italy. These groups were condemned as heretics. At that time in history, this label was given to anyone who did not fully adhere to the teachings of the Roman Church. Roman law, which experienced a revival in the Middle Ages, prescribed specific penalties and loss of civil rights to all those labeled heretics.

Sometimes these 'heretics' were not given a name while at other times they were mislabeled. Some of them were burned at the stake. We have a summary of the most significant councils from 1022-1056.

1022 – A national council was held at Orleans, France. Several people labeled as Manichaeans were condemned to be burned (Landon, 2:9).

1025 – A council held at Arris condemned heretics who had come from Italy (Landon, 1:60).

1028 – A council at Charroux condemned people labeled as Manichaeans (Landon, 1:150-151).

1049 – The Council of Rheims excommunicated new heretics who sprung up in Gaul (France). No name is specifically ascribed to them. "...et quia novi haeretici in Gallacianis partibus emergant; eos excommunicavit, illis additis..." (Mansi, 19:742; Landon, 2:71-72).

1056 – The Council of Toulouse excommunicated those who participate with heretics and excommunicated people who talked to them unless their goal was to correct and admonish those peoples (Canon 13, Mansi, 19:849 and Landon, 2:170-171).

It appeared that the Roman Church was going to take serious action against these groups, but suddenly their pursuit was put on pause. Councils addressing 'heretics' are quiet for many years after 1056. For the next one-hundred years or so, the Roman Church was mired with internal corruption and conflict with the revived Western Roman Empire. This prevented unified action against these non-conformist groups. They grew and developed their own belief system.

As groups coalesced in certain cities and regions, variations of beliefs developed (likely due to local influences). Some beliefs were held among all these groups. First, they recognized the corruption and moral decay in the Roman Church. Secondly, the average person was disconnected from or disillusioned with the institution of the Roman Church; they thought it was not fulfilling its purpose. Third, they wanted a simplified belief system where they could connect to God without the complicated traditions of Rome. This included translations of the Scriptures in their own language.

The Roman Church and Western Roman Empire mended their feud in about 1179. In 1184, the Council of Verona was held. During it, Pope Lucius III presented a letter to Emperor Frederick I (called Barbarossa). The title of the Epistle was "Against the Heretics" and the subtitle was 'Ad Abolendam', which in Latin means to abolish. The Pope called upon 'his dear son' Frederick and other secular rulers to suppress the spread of groups deemed heretical. An excerpt of the letter is found below:

"We, therefore, supported by the power, and presence, of our most dear son Frederic, the illustrious Emperor of the Romans, semper Augustus, with the common consent of our brethren, and of other Patriarchs, Archbishops, and many Princes, who have assembled from various parts of the world, have, with the general sanction of this present decree, risen up against those heretics, to whom divers names have ascribed the profession of various errors, and, by the tenor of this constitution, with apostolical authority, we condemn all heresy, howsoever it may be named... In the first place, therefore we lay under a perpetual anathema, the Cathari, Patarini, and those who falsely call themselves Humiliati, or poor men of Lyons, Passagini, Josepini, and Arnaldistae; and since some, having a form of godliness, but, as the apostle has said, 'denying-the power of it', have assumed to themselves the office of

preaching—though the same Apostle says, ‘how shall they preach, except they be sent?’—we include, in the same perpetual anathema, all who shall have presumed to preach, either publicly, or privately, either being forbidden, or not sent, or not having the authority of the Apostolic See (IE the Roman Church), or of the Bishop of the diocese...” (English translation from Maitland, pp 176-180; Latin found in Labbe, vol 10, pp 1737-1742).

To read the entire contents of Pope Lucius’ letter, go to [www.sabbath.blog](http://www.sabbath.blog). On the Free Resources page, under the “Links” section, we have a link to an article titled “Pope Lucius III’s Letter Against Heresy (1183/1184 AD).”

The pope accused these peoples of ‘having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it’ (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Moreover, the Roman Church did not recognize people who preached the gospel message unless they had been sent by their representatives!

As the letter progresses, the pope declared that those who denied the charges and then were later found to be guilty were immediately turned over to secular judges for punishment. Their goods were confiscated and given to a local congregation which was loyal to Rome.

Lucius also laid the foundation for what would be called the inquisition. Those suspected to be part of these groups would be turned over to Roman Church authorities, such as Bishops, for examination. We have an excerpt from this portion below:

“Moreover, we decree that the aforesaid excommunication, under which we desire that all heretics should lie, shall be renewed by all Patriarchs, Archbishops, and Bishops, on the principal festivals, and as often as public solemnities, or any other occasion, shall offer, for the Glory of God, and the rebuke of heresy; ordaining, by apostolical authority, that, if any member of the episcopal order shall be found negligent, or slothful, in this matter, he shall be considered as suspended from his episcopal dignity, and ministry, for the space of three years.

To these things we add, with the concurrence of the Bishops, and by the suggestion of the Emperor and his Princes, that every Archbishop or Bishop, by himself, or his Archdeacon, or by other trustworthy and fit persons, shall twice, or once, in the year, go round any parish in which it shall have been reported that heretics reside; and there call upon three or more persons of good credit, or, if it seem expedient, on the whole neighbourhood, to take an oath, that if any one shall know that there are heretics in the place, or any persons holding secret conventicles, or differing in life and manners from the common conversation of the faithful, he will make it his business to point them out to the Bishop or Archdeacon.”

The decree goes on to call upon all secular rulers to help the cause by seeking out the aforesaid heretics and turning them over to Roman Church authorities. If a ruler did not, then their titles were stripped, their people excommunicated, and lands were taken away from them.

Lucius’ letter shows the absolute control the Roman Church desired to have over every individual. Moreover, it illustrates the lengths to which this institution would go to impose their will on other people. It became repeated by later popes as justification for the awful acts of the inquisition, which would be formally introduced in the thirteenth century.

This decree set a terrible precedent that would influence Europe for centuries to come. Many thousands of innocent people would die just for being different.

In the decree, the following groups were condemned: Cathars, Patarinos, Humiliati, the poor of Lyons (this was another name for the Waldenses), Passaginos, Josephinos, and Arnoldists. Most of these groups started in northern Italy. We have a brief description of each group below:

**Cathari** – This group first appeared in France in the early eleventh century and by the mid-eleventh century in northern Italy. Sometimes this term was a generic term used for all heretical groups.

**Patarenes** – This group first appeared in the mid-eleventh century. They rejected the dominance of the clergy over the common people. They were based out of Milan. By the thirteenth century, the word was used in primary sources as a generic term for heretics.

**Humiliati** – This group dates to at least the first half of the twelfth century. They were based out of Lombardy; their strongest following was in Milan. They were formed as a group who performed acts of charity and withdrew from worldly wealth. Some of them lived in monasteries.

**Poor of Lyons** – This group started in the early 1170s in Lyons, France and was led by a man named Peter Waldo in the sources. He took a vow of poverty and most of his followers did the same. Some of them migrated to northern Italy.

**Passagini** – Started in Lombardy at an unknown date.

**Arnaldists** – Started in the 1130s with Arnold of Brescia; Brescia was a city in Lombardy. Arnold preached that the clergy should not own property or hold wealth. He asserted that this was a major source of corruption for them. Though he was arrested and put to death in the 1150s, his followers continued for a time.

**Josephini** – Not much is known about this group, but they could have been an offshoot of the others or like them in some ways.

One word of caution. While it is convenient, we do not want to lump all these groups together. This was a mistake of past some researchers on this subject. Some of these groups held to some beliefs that contradicted each other.

Most of the groups mentioned in “Ad Abolendum” did not have many or any known Sabbath keepers at that time. However, there was one group which was known to exclusively keep the Sabbath and other aspects of God’s law. They were called the Passagini (also called the Passagii and Passagenes, Passaginos, etc).

In part two of this series, we will look at their beliefs and what happened to them!

To read more about the Middle Ages and the Passagini, download our free book: The Passagini: Sabbatarians of the Middle Ages from [www.biblesabbath.org](http://www.biblesabbath.org) or [www.sabbath.blog](http://www.sabbath.blog). Look under the Free Resources page.

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## Sabbath Keepers Who Made A Difference...

# Oakwood Adventist Academy Mustangs

The Oakwood Adventist Academy, a Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) school in Huntsville Alabama, recently enjoyed their best basketball season ever. The team was able to advance to the regional semi-finals game, where they were informed that their playoff game was placed on the schedule for the Sabbath Day, February 19th, at 4:30 PM. The teams athletic director tried desperately for some type of work around.

Being an observant Christian team, whose players keep the Sabbath from sundown Friday through sundown Saturday, Director Morton requested a time adjustment of just two or three hours—certainly a reasonable accommodation. The other teams in the tournament agreed to the switch of game time, however the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) unfairly denied the request!

The game had special interest for the school, as the team had never made it this far in postseason play. Only a few years prior, the team had posted a winless season. So, there was great hope and anticipation on the line.

Faced with the choice of keeping their faith and honoring God, or forfeiting, the players chose to forfeit. The team did not exhibit a bad attitude in this heartbreaking decision. Rather they traveled to the playoffs and cheered on the other schools, including one that had been willing to switch game times.

Quoting Senior captain Raynon Andrews -“It’s more than just basketball,” he says. “People all around the world are texting parents, saying how proud they are of us. That means a lot.” None of the Oakwood players expressed regret, in this public proclamation of the Sabbath Day.

Their act of faith has allowed for an exposure for the Seventh Day Sabbath. Andrews was asked to appear on a Christian radio station. Andrews confessed that the situation “sucked” as it’s his senior year, and his last chance to make a state run. But he rightly added, “I knew God was working in a way I couldn’t see. So, I just had to put my trust and faith in him that it was the right decision.”

### The Injustice Gives Witness and Reaches Alabama Governor Kay Ivey...

After learning about the team and it’s trial, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey wrote two letters: one to the school and one to the Athletic Association. To the Academy principal, Ivey expressed “solidarity” with the basketball players, saying

## Oakwood Basketball Team

### Cheering Other Teams...





## Governor Kay Ivey...



she was “deeply concerned” that the team was “denied a chance to compete based on its faith—without even the most modest of accommodations.”

The governor praised the team members as “worthy ambassadors for their schools and their communities,” saying they exhibited a “selfless display of sportsmanship” by cheering on competitors. Ivey also invited the team to meet with her at the capitol building to celebrate its season and to discuss the tournament experience. The team responded with an enthusiastic response saying that they were delighted with the invitation.

*Author Bill Lussenheide resides with his wife Terri, in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana and serves as Vice President of the BSA.*



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# THE FEAST OF SEVEN SABBATHS

*Paul Syltie*

No, I am not adding to the word of God ... just attempting to make a point. Each year in the late spring we keep a second major annual festival, a solemn feast arriving between Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles on which all males are to appear (Deut. 16:16). The names given to this day are as follows:

1. Hag Hashavuot (Hebrew), meaning “the Feast of Weeks” (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10; II Chronicles 8:13).

2. Yom Habikkurim (Hebrew), meaning “the Day of Firstfruits” (Numbers 28:26).

3. Hag Hakatzir (Hebrew), meaning “the Feast of Harvest” (Exodus 23:16), showing this day as the official beginning of the summer harvest season.

4. Pentecost (English translation from the Greek pentekoste), meaning “fiftieth”, the New Testament term for the Feast of Weeks (Acts 2:1; 20:16; I Corinthians 16:18)

When are God’s people to keep the day? Seven weeks are counted from the Wave Sheaf Offering day during the Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:15-16). Why count from the Wave Sheaf Offering day? We understand that the sheaf was waved on the day after the weekly Sabbath day (Leviticus 23:11), and seven Sabbaths shall be complete (8549 = tamiym, “entire”), implying complete weekly cycles with the final (seventh) Sabbath ending the period, after which the fiftieth day is the first day of the

week (Leviticus 23:15). This is the way that the Sadducees, the priestly party in Israel, counted the days, whereas the Pharisees counted from the day after the first day of Unleavened Bread. Some few count starting the day after the Wave Sheaf Offering, but there seems to be little support for such a method of counting.

So, we see that the feast of Pentecost has everything to do with the weekly Sabbath. One might say it is abbreviated by seven weekly cycles, and the number seven [Hebrew shevah] means “to be full or satisfied, have enough of.” As E.W. Bullinger points out in Number in Scripture (Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, 1894), “It is seven, therefore, that stamps with perfection and completeness that in connection with which it is used. Of time, it tells of the Sabbath, and marks off the week of seven days, which, artificial as it may seem to be, is universal and immemorial in its observance amongst all nations and in all times.” The number seven is inherent in the creation, with seven colors of the spec-





trum and seven notes of the musical scale. We see the number seven in Abraham's seven-fold blessing (Genesis 12:2-3), the seven-fold covenant with Israel (Exodus 6:6-8), the seven-fold sprinkling on the Day of Atonement ((Leviticus 16:14), and on and on the list goes.

Thus we see that the seven complete weeks leading to the day of Pentecost create a magnification of sevens by seven times, implying super-satisfaction and completeness, so on the day after those 49 days we have the Feast itself (Leviticus 23:16). That magnification has to indicate incredible importance and richness for this day. Let us take a closer look at the Scriptures to discover what this richness might be.

### **The Sacrifices and Symbols of the Day**

Several offerings were commanded for ancient Israel on the Feast of Weeks, and I will only briefly re-view them here: a meat [meal] offering; two loaves of bread made with fine flour (0.2 deal each) baked with leaven, representing the firstfruits to Yahweh; seven unblemished yearling lambs; one young bull-ock; two rams, offered along with their meat [meal] offering and drink offerings, which were burned; one goat kid as an offering; two yearling lambs as a peace offering. These offerings are covered in Leviticus 23.

The day was to be a holy convocation (Leviticus 23:21), during which no servile work was to be done throughout Israel's generations (Leviticus 23:21; Numbers 28:26). The day the Wave Sheaf was offered signaled the beginning of the barley harvest (Leviticus 23:11), just as the Feast of Weeks earlier in the year marked the beginning of the wheat harvest (Deuteronomy 16:10). Both of these grains

symbolize the saints. I believe that the barley harvest in the spring symbolizes the raising of the firstfruits in the first resurrection, while the wheat harvest in the summer — the Feast of Pentecost — symbolizes the greater harvest of the masses who had not been called to be firstfruits. These will be raised at the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11-15.

### **Meanings Behind The Feast of Weeks and Pentecost**

The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) has as its central focus the message of Joel 2:28-32:

*“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams; your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My spirit. And [much later] I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered,*



*for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call” (NKJV).*

Acts 2:17 says these things (speaking in tongues, and the pouring out of God’s spirit in Jerusalem: Acts 2:14-15) occurred in “... the last days ...,” which was at the first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection, around 30 A.D. The “last days” are interpreted as the last half of the 7,000-year “week” of this aeon, and 30 A.D. is well within this time period. It is at this Pentecost and after that the Gentiles began to be “grafted in” (Romans 11:17), so this point in time is a remarkable pivotal point in the plan of God. Now all of mankind whom God had foreordained would be called and chosen to receive the spirit of God, to become a part of the “ecclesia.” Before this time there is no record of anyone outside of the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who received God’s spirit. The two groups of individuals in the ecclesia — Israelites and Gentiles — may thus be represented by the two “wave loaves” offered before the Lord at the Feast of Weeks, for they are the “... firstfruits unto the Lord...,” the firstfruits being those called into the ecclesia as brothers of Jesus Christ, kings and priests to reign on the earth for 1,000 years!

### **We Are to Become Kings and Priests!**

What does it mean to be a king and a priest? After Israel left Egypt during the Days of Unleavened Bread they arrived at Mt. Sinai in the third month. This time corresponds to the Feast of Weeks. Moses climbed up the mountain and met the Lord (Yahweh), and was told to tell Israel, “*You have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle’s wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My cove-*

*nant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure to Me above all people, for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:3-6).*

Peculiar treasure = cegullah, “to shut up; wealth (as closely shut up)”; translated “jewel, peculiar treasure, proper good, special.”

kingdom = mamlakah, “dominion, i.e. the estate or country;” from malak, “to reign to ascend the throne, to induct into royalty.”

priests = kohen, “one officiating, a priest.”

Peter reiterated this promise to the New Testament ecclesia, “spiritual Israel,” as it were:

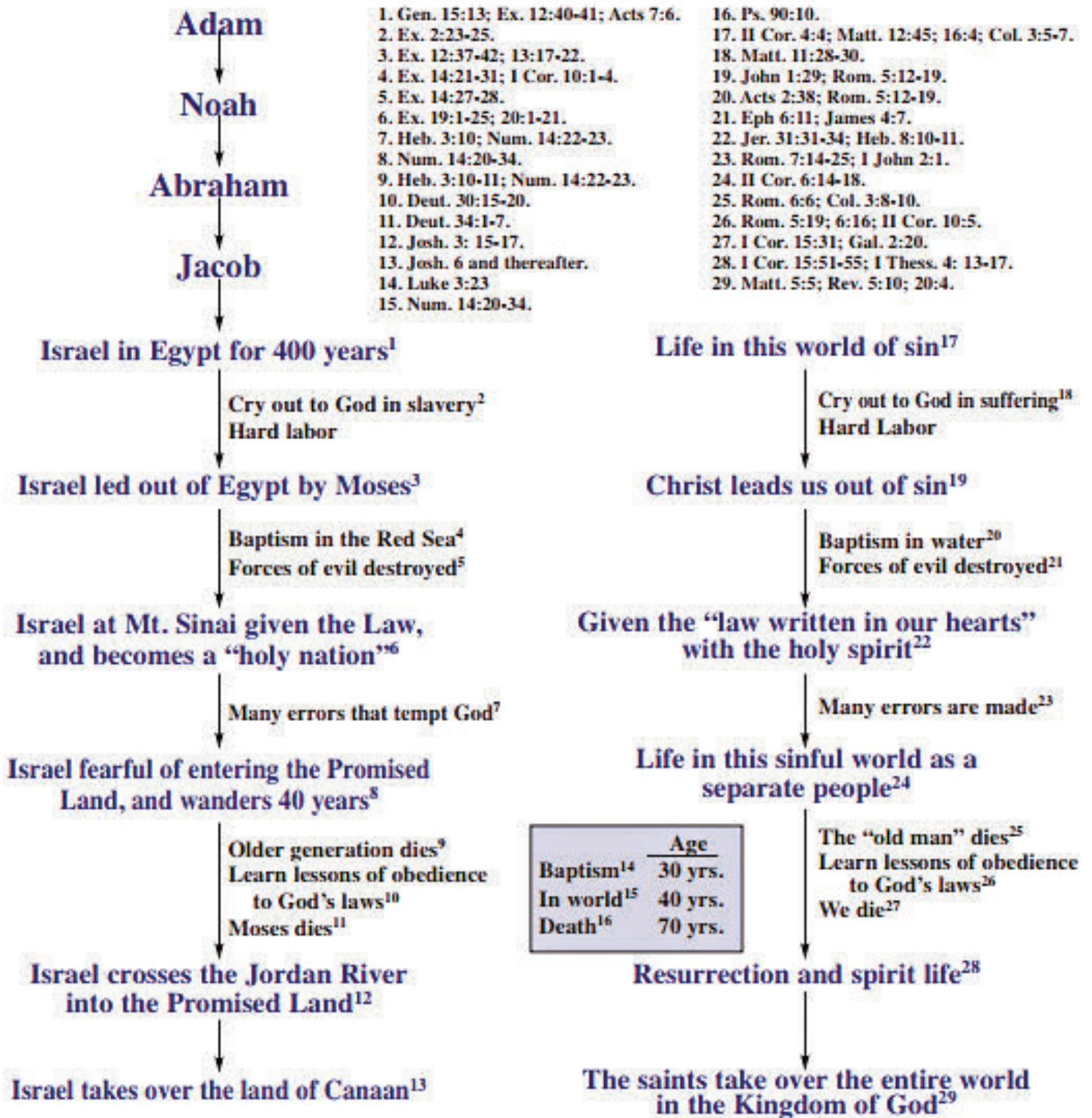
*“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into marvelous light, which in times past was not a people but are now the people of God ...” (I Peter 2:9-10).*

We also know that “... all Israel shall be saved ...” ultimately, and given eternal life and priestly status in the next age (Romans 11:26). Thus, the New Covenant promise of Son-ship in the Kingdom is identical to the one given by the Lord on Mt. Sinai over 1,500 years earlier. The symbolism of the Israelites’ encounter with Yahweh at Mt. Sinai foreshadowed the very events experienced on the day of Pentecost over 2,000 years later!

Jesus Christ clearly stated that it is the role of the saints to be a kings and priests in the coming age, and that rulership, though based in the spirit realm (heaven), will be focused amongst mankind living physically on the earth; see Matthew 20:20-23; Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6.



# The Parallels of Ancient Israel and the Saints



## A Marriage Feast

The encounter of Israel with Yahweh at Mt. Sinai was in every way a marriage of Him with His bride, a contract for life [i.e., for eternity] ... if only the bride would be faithful to Him. The Israelites had left Egypt [sin] behind seven weeks earlier, and trekked towards the promised land [heaven, the spirit world] for the purpose of meeting with the Eternal at Mt. Sinai to confirm the contract. Each day of that trek brought them closer and closer to the marriage setting, the encounter that ought to have been joyous and beautiful, but ended up a disaster for Israel.

*“And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak you with us, and we will hear, but let not God speak with us, lest we die”* (Exodus 20:18-19).

These people not possessing God’s spirit allowed fear to overpower them, and refused to listen to their “Husband” directly, which typified their failure to obey Him later on as they journeyed into the wilderness [Satan’s world]. What a far cry this was to the marriage supper in heaven that will occur immediately after the first resurrection, when the saints will meet the Lamb in person.

*“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. And He said unto me, ‘Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said unto me, ‘These are the true sayings of God’”* (Revelation 19:7-9).

These saints at the marriage supper expressed the

same attitude of joy and peace toward their Husband as did the disciples at Pentecost in 30 A. D. Peter boldly recited Joel 2:28-30, and he and the other disciples proclaimed the message of Jesus Christ risen, and His blood atoning for the sins of all the elect ... as well as the message of the coming Kingdom of God to reign on the earth (Acts 3:19-21), in which the saints are to reign for a thousand years. The entire prophetic timescale revolves around this very marriage of Jesus Christ and the saints, and the renewal of Eden upon the earth, an Eden which was lost when Adam and Eve first sinned.

These facts explain why the Book of Ruth is so firmly attached to Pentecost, and is so often read during this feast. Boaz, a type of Christ, married the young Moabitess (actually of Israelite descent) who had journeyed with her mother-in-law from the wilderness of Moab. The son of Boaz and Ruth—Obed—gave rise to Jesse, and Jesse to David, leading to Christ Himself, the One who is now residing in spirit within the saints, and is their head (I Corinthians 11:3), and their future Husband.

To give you a more visual reference to the parallels behind ancient Israel’s walk with God, and our own walk, I have included a figure (page 13), “The Parallels of Ancient Israel and the Saints.” This figure traces the close parallels between both that ancient nation as well as our own lives as we trek out of Egypt (sin), through the waters of baptism, and to the Mount itself on the Day of Pentecost. Let us recognize the extreme importance of this day and what it portends for today and the future. The weekly Sabbath cycle multiplied by seven ought to get our attention!





# END TIME

*Tommy Willis*

Distractions are worse than ever in this modern society. I heard a report that accidents continue to go up with people texting while driving, increasing the death toll. Distractions can be dangerous, and we need to be careful to not be distracted from our walk with God.

Concerning distractions and His return, Jesus said: *“Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware,”* (Luke 21:34) NLT.

Many years ago, when I first came into the Church, I asked myself, how could that day come on Christians unaware with all that the Bible says will happen? Right after I asked myself this question, I had allowed a lot of distractions to come in my mind that week, and it had been a week of chaos. Then God helped me realize—have a week like I just had, and you could easily be caught unaware! With enough distractions you won’t know a lot of what is going on around you. Many are distracted from the more important matters today, with all the bickering back and forth. We get distracted from the big picture.

The Plague has been on our minds. It has changed our lives. The Coronavirus pandemic has killed more Americans than the deadly Spanish Flu of 1918, making it America’s deadliest plague. And what caught my attention is some military experts are warning us about nuclear war. Admiral Charles Richard said that there is a “real possibility of nu-

clear war with Russia and China.” I was surprised it didn’t get more attention in the news. But it seems that with the endless bickering and distraction in the nation, these matters are often overlooked. Nuclear war is almost an undiscussed subject. Perhaps it’s too horrible to contemplate.

Because of nuclear weapons, President John Kennedy said: *“Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident, or miscalculation, or by madness. The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us.”* But we have heard this said for so long that it doesn’t shock us anymore.

Some Bible students believe that Jesus was talking about nuclear war when he said: *“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”* (Mt 24:21-22) KJV.

Many are uneasy about the future. As we talk about getting “back to normal,” other events seem to come along to rock the boat. People are looking at the news more nervously each evening, for it seems like a stack of dominoes are falling and we don’t know what’s next, while some military experts are basically trying to warn us, because it seems that some of the leaders are sitting on barrels of gasoline as they play with matches.

## Like the Days of Noah

Jesus said: *“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.”* (Matt 24:37-39) NLT.

So more than once Jesus warns us to be aware of the times. We need to be careful not to let distractions take us away from God. That’s why simple living can aid our prayer life. Henry Thoreau watched the society in his day, and saw the unhappy lot that most were in by their endless pursuit of materialism. He said, *“men labor under an illusion.”* And that illusion has grown worse since Thoreau’s day. The endless pursuit of wealth—to get the better car, the newest gadget or the bigger house. The list is endless. And it forever keeps most in the rat race, so busy obtaining possessions they are not free to experience the beauty of the present moment.

Daily life has sped up since our forefather’s day; we fail to see how much the pulse of society pressures us to go at the speed of its wake. The accelerated pace leaves most with little time for reflection. Even with all the sins and problems that I’ve had, I have been blessed with the ability to live a simple life; therefore, I have had the time to reflect, because I dropped out of the rat race as a young man, lived a simple life, and never looked back.

Possessions can distract us from what is most important. In His *“parable of the sower,”* Jesus declares: *“The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful”* (Mat. 13:22).

As Americans, we think we are free because we have more freedoms than other nations. But the leash we are on is often made of dollars. Jesus said *“You cannot serve both God and money.”* (Mt 6:24) NIV.

We can, and need to, get out of the rat race to spend time with God. With the technological explosion many suffer from information overload. We often feel that the Internet is making us wise; but sheer data does not give us wisdom. God does not rush the growth process. Each believer will have to be taken through the same process that Christians were taken through thousands of years ago. The information revolution cannot be a short cut to the long slow growth process that we all must be taken through if we are going to grow to maturity in Christ.

Those that try to cling to the world and its ways will be ill prepared for the days ahead because of all the distractions. We need to get out of the rat race and learn as simple a life as possible. This will aid us and will be necessary to survive for the days ahead. Otherwise the world can swallow us up.

Many Christians get caught up in chasing the dollar. They cannot see past the idea of what they feel *“success”* is. They get caught up in the work and spend cycle, and get captivated by erroneous expectations of what they feel will give them peace. But in the long run the result is turmoil and frustration, a life that may be filled with material possessions but can be bankrupt spiritually. The very warning Jesus gave us in the above two scriptures.

Be patient. Growth takes time. In our growth process we need to come to see that we are failures in ourselves and our own ability. We must come to acknowledge that we are the great failures. All the disciples had to learn this lesson. At first, they all



said that would stand by Jesus: *“Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.”* Mt 26:33-35) NIV.

Yes, they all said they would stay by Him. And all failed. They all forsook Him and fled when times got difficult. But just 50 days later, men who had acted like cowards, would go on and astound the world with courage, because then, the One who was crucified for us was in them to produce! They got the message it had to be Christ in them doing the work.

It is when we see how much we are failures with our own ability, that we will seek God as needed, because it is only then that we will see our need for God as we should. We don't know ourselves and the dangerous Adamic nature with which we were born. And coming to know ourselves is part of the education God gives us to get to know Him. When God showed me my lack of love for people, I realized I didn't know God.

*“He who does not love does not know God: for God is love.”* (1 Jn 4:8 RSV).

We often justify who we want to love. But Jesus says to us: *“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them....But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.”* (Luke 6:32, 35) NIV. It's easy to read past those two above scriptures; but, we should go over them carefully. It's the way to stay in focus with all the hatred growing in the nation; it's the way to peace.

War may happen in our lifetime; but as Christians we need to be aware of the danger of our human

nature, and the war we have going on inside. The same nature that could wind up destroying billions in nuclear war, we all have that corrupt nature in us. James 4:1 tells us: *“What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members?”* (RSV). It's the same nature Paul tried to warn us about in Romans chapter 7, when he said he kept doing the evil he didn't want to do.

The problems with the conflicts we see in the world, and the problems with the infighting in the Church organizations, are because of the same human nature. But there's a tendency to skip over that part—we feel that if we will just get all the doctrines right, and get everyone to agree with us, then we think we will have unity and peace. But we often fail to see that if doctrine is all we have, then we can become like the Pharisees preaching the Ten Commandments. They often kept the right doctrine, but failed to build up a relationship with God. Jesus said: *“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”* (John 5:39-40) NIV. Here we see one can study the scriptures diligently, yet fail to meet the Lord Jesus in our studies. They lacked the mercy and compassion of God. We should seek to get the correct doctrine, but also not let the other go undone; because law without love is Pharisaical.

We should not hide our heads in the sand, because we have to be aware of the chaotic events that are coming upon mankind, because Jesus said to watch. And He also told us not to be distracted with the cares of this life. And one of the biggest distractions is when we let fear come into our minds. Over and over again the Bible tells us to: *“Fear not.”* It was fear that caused the disciples to forsake Jesus when they said they would not. They did not see the dan-

ger of their human nature.

We need to learn to take all our fears and worries to God in prayer and leave them there: *"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."* (1 Pet 5:7) NLT. We need to learn to apply these scriptures as well as Phil 4:6-7, *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."* NLT.

Read those two scriptures a hundred times if you need to. I read them for years, and could even quote them. I understood them intellectually; but it took me many years before I learned to apply them. And once I did, it made a big difference in my life.

We started off this article with Luke 21:34, lets read the next two verses: *"like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man."* (35-36) NLT.

The words "Like a trap" should get our attention.

Don't let the busy rushing schedule of the world take you away from God. The cares of this life can destroy us if we let it. Slow down; and make sure you are not neglecting your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Sit and talk with Him. Spend time getting to know Him personally. Pray always as Jesus said to do. As we seek Him diligently, He will settle us and give us His peace to handle the distractions of the world. This is true success; because we are on the planet to get to know God (John 17:3).



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# BIBLE TRUTHS HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Part 1

*Darl Arbogast*

As we read the Bible how many times are we reading over words that are very important and we are not giving our mind time to digest the deep, clear and sometimes gems of truth contained in the verse(s) we are reading? This is indeed a tragedy because we should all realize that God has a plan, an overall plan, and we fit into it. Therefore there is a specific purpose for our existence.

If someone asked you 'Why were you born' what would be your answer? The truth is most people would not have an answer and others would venture a guess but not many would know the actual truth. Let it be known that God is raising a family, the flesh first then the spirit, spirit beings in His image that look like Him. God gives us a standard of behavior and intends for us to be perfected, conquering the pulls of the flesh, and then being changed to spirit like He is, being judged worthy of immortality. God's project of growing a family seems to us a long drawn out process. Romans 8:4,5 NKJ - *4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

Let's consider that though the earth appears to be very old it is probably very new in the whole scheme of God's plan. In Genesis 1:26 thru 28 NKJ – it is apparent that God wants to raise a family, that is why we were born. *26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

God's standard for righteousness begins with the Ten Commandments called the Decalogue in Greek. God gave these Commandments to Moses as he was leading the nation of Israel out of Egypt. God's purpose for Israel was to be a nation of Priests and that they would teach all the other nations, being pagan and heathens of the world, about Him. Israel means 'overcomer with God'. Moses was in harmony with God but very few of the Israelites felt the same way; they failed miserably.

## HEAVEN GOD'S DOMAIN

God created the heavens and the earth and He also created the Cherubim, one in particular was Lucifer, the one who became Satan the Devil as written in Isaiah 14:12 thru 14. Lucifer was the most beautiful of all created beings, the seal of perfection. His covering was full of precious stones and he was talented in making music. But then lawlessness described as iniquity was found in him. He transgressed the high standard set by God, defying the Holy Spirit of God—an unforgivable offense for humans to commit as written in Matthew 12:32 NKJ – *Jesus said, 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.* (The unforgivable sin for Satan, his minions and for mankind, is contempt for Divine Law, the Ten Commandments as this causes them to blaspheme against God's Holy Spirit).

Sin such as pride and arrogance became a characteristic of Lucifer while envy and jealousy crept into him until he actually convinced himself he could become like the most High God. Then he put an insurrection together to overthrow God and replace Him with himself. As written in Revelation 12: 7 thru 9 NKJ - *7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any*

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longer. 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.

Satan the prince of the powers of the air has been killing and destroying people and their possessions with tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanoes, typhoons, hurricanes and floods ever since men and women were on the earth.

Sometimes God speaks of things that are yet to be as though they are current events; such as Satan's fate as described in Ezekiel 28:18,19 in this manner NKJ - 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. 19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever." '

Some of the worst of the demons who rebelled with Satan are imprisoned in the abyss (the bottomless pit) 1 Peter 3:19 NKJ - 19 by whom also He (Jesus) went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

Jude verse 6 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He (Jesus) has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

2 Peter 2:4,5 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, the eighth preacher of righteousness (from Seth, Adam's third son), bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly. (Noah was the only man who found grace from God in the pre-flood era during his life.) The Godly line of Seth: Enosh, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah.

1 Peter 3:18 NKJ - 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit. (Mankind is born subject to sin and death since the fall of Adam and Eve. Jesus did not come to save the fallen angels who sinned but to save mankind.)



Jesus came to save the world, salvation is offered at this time, as written in Matthew 9:12,13 NKJ - 12 ... *He (Jesus) said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 but go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

Matthew 6:24 NKJ – Jesus said, 24 *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*

More is written about Lucifer in Revelation 20:1 thru 3 NKJ - 1 *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

It is not written anywhere what Jesus said to the demons while the ark was being prepared, apparently it is not for us to know. However what we do know is that Satan must endure a 1,000 years' imprisonment in the place called Tartarus, the pits of darkness with his demons beginning just before the Millennium starts.

God is not finished completing His master plan for mankind, God is not asleep, God will do what He says He will do, do not be deceived by Satan.

## **JESUS THE CHRIST**

When Jesus was ready to begin his ministry he fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness; 40 is God's number for trial. Satan came to Jesus when his fast was over and gave Him an option on how to become King of Kings and side step all the agony ahead of Him as written in Isaiah 53, read Isaiah 53 for more understanding. Satan and Jesus both knew what was ahead, His 'visage' was marred more than any man and His form more than sons of men; this is what was required and what he had to endure to make His life an offering for sin. Satan is god of this world, it was his option to give Jesus this proposition; all Jesus had to do was to fall down and worship Satan and all the kingdoms of the world and all their glo-

ry would be his with no pain and no agony. What was Jesus response? *"Away with you, Satan! For it is written 'you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only you shall serve!'"*

Why didn't Jesus take the easy way out? If He did as Satan offered mankind would be lost forever; this is what Satan wants.



## **SATAN DECEIVES**

The people of today are being deceived by Satan as he offers an alluring benefit they can not resist so they are drawn into following him in false pagan religious practices such as: Christmas, Easter, Halloween and Sunday worship. Satan is very clever. Easter has taken the place of God's Passover. Christmas has nothing to do with the birth of Christ. Halloween celebrates death. Sunday worship was never sanctified by God.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:13 NKJ - 13 *... false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*

1 John 3:4 NKJ - 4 *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*

Another truth that needs to be exposed is written in Matthew 5:34,35 and Acts 7:49; that heaven is God's domain and the earth is His footstool. Most Church people today have grown up with the erroneous teaching that heaven is the reward of the saved which is in defiance of John 3:13

NKJ - 13 *No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.*

What happens with deceased people if they don't go to heaven, hell or purgatory? Their remains stay in the ground until the resurrection; the saints will be resurrected first 1,000 years ahead of the deceased sinners. This is God's program, God's plan.

Revelation 20:4,5 NKJ - 4 *And I saw thrones, and they (the twelve Apostles) sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

When the Millennium begins Christ will become King of Kings on the earth, David will be resurrected and be the King of a new Israel and the 12 Apostles will sit as judges over the new Israel which will be physical human beings descended from ancient Israel. Matthew 19:28 NKJ - 28 *So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."*

When people are judged worthy of immortality during the millennium they will be changed to spirit, they will experience a metamorphosis. There will be no more death as written in 1 Corinthians 15:26,55 and Revelation 21:4 and no more need of graves after physical death has been abolished 2 Timothy 1:8,9,10 NKJ - 26 *The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." - 8... according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

End of part 1.



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## Do you like this magazine?

Would you like to help the BSA continue its work of proclaiming Jesus and all that He taught?

The BSA needs more partners like you to help continue and expand this ministry. Recently we had a group of 50 pastors in Africa request to be added to our TSS mailing list. To do this, we need more partners to help with the expense!

Please donate today so that we can expand and expose more brethren, and future brethren, to the teachings of the Bible and the idea that brotherhood is better than dogma!

# Letters to the Editor

After reading your editorial (*July 2020*), I felt compelled to write and say, Excellent.

You know, I was extremely perplexed and saddened by the position that many assemblies took in this worldly scenario. For years since I started fellowshiping in some fashion with different assemblies, I’ve listened to comments such as, “When the government tells us to do or not do something we are commanded by our Father, we will and must obey Yahuweh!”

Well, that seemingly went by the wayside with justification being that meeting on Zoom or Skype or even gathering cars in a parking lot kept compliance with the scriptures. Maybe they’re right but, as for me, there is a world of difference between meeting in person and ALL these other means—psychologically and physically. The main time I’m focusing on was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a COMMANDED festival to OUR FATHER! Thankfully, I’m not the judge!

Since I assist with caring for a very dear friend who is in an as-

sisted living facility, I see the dire consequences of isolation and it is very sad indeed. What a way for the adversarial powers to gain control! May our Father’s Messiah come soon!

DJW

*Thank you for your kind words. I generally agree that meeting in person is preferable. However, we need to remember that the Sabbath is a Holy Convocation. That term is derived from two Hebrew words that mean a Godly public meeting. We are nowhere told exactly the form that meeting must take. God leaves that decision to us. Can one meet “online” and still be keeping the commandment found in Lev. 23:3? As you said, ours is not to judge. I believe it is far preferable to meet online then to be totally deprived of fellowship with the brethren. It is up to us individually to determine if we are truly convening as God wants via an online assembly. That said, isolation is not preferred and not what God wants, either.*

Ed.

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