



The Sabbath Sentinel

Nov-Dec
2022

**WHAT ARE WE
OFFERING OUR
FAMILIES?**

BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association

“The Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named...”

The Sabbath Sentinel November/December, 2022

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The Kingdom of God—Peace Immediately?

The research that was undertaken for a recent presentation on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:26-32) presented some startling biblical insight. The research showed that when Jesus (or Yeshua, if you prefer) returns, the peace envisioned by many does not come to pass immediately. We all have a Kingdom vision of a lion laying down with a lamb, and a little child not being harmed by putting his or her hand into a snake's den. We have a vision of a time when there will be no more sorrow, no sickness and no death—and for those changed at the Second Coming that will be true. But, we know that there will be many flesh and blood people who live past His return. In this article we will bring forward some startling truths found in scripture that may awaken us to some stark realities.

We all know one thing that happens early on is that Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit, shut off to prevent his influencing human beings with his attitudes of hatred, violence and rebellion (Rev. 14:1-2, 20:1-3).

We also see that Babylon, wherever that place is today, falls. We can probably spot that nation if we pay attention to the clues: she is a fornicator and has caused all nations to drink from the same cup of fornication. Instead, she and those like her end up drinking of the wine of the wrath of God.

Something very interesting jumps out at us from Rev 14:13, *And I heard a voice from Heaven saying to me, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they shall rest from their labors, and their works follow them.*

Does the reader pick up the shocking truth there? Note that the context is AFTER Satan is put away, and after the harlot Babylon falls. These occur after Jesus returns! Read closely for the shocking truth there: *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.*

The simple truth from the scripture is that of mankind who live over past the return of Jesus to establish the Kingdom of God, there will be some who DIE in the Lord! Nowhere in scripture does your author find out when those are raised up and given their body of Spirit like those who are changed in a moment, in a twinkling

of an eye, at the Last Trump when Jesus returns. They died in Christ so there would be no need to resurrect them with bones, flesh, and muscles as is shown in Ezek 37.

We had to have known that with the repentant spirit that some will exhibit during the Kingdom there surely would be some converted to followers of the Christ on His Throne in Jerusalem. But what God does for their resurrection does not appear to be stated in scripture, except for one hint in the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, Matt 20:1-16. In that parable those who had labored earlier received a reward but those who had only labored late received the same reward. Otherwise, there does not appear to be anywhere these who have died in Christ after His return are dealt with.

Another interesting point, although not surprising since this event is mentioned in many scriptures, is that Jesus will gather all of the descendants of Israel and bring them to the Holy Land. We find this, for one, in Eze 20:33-36: *As I live, says the Lord Jehovah, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, I will reign over you.*

And I will bring you out from the people, and I will gather you out of the lands in which you are scattered among them, with a mighty hand and with a stretched out arm and with fury poured out.

And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face.

Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, says the Lord Jehovah.

In other places we read that Israel is in captivity at that time when Jesus finds them and removes them to the Holy Land. We also read in one scripture that those who had made the Israelites into slaves are instead made into the slaves of the Israelites in the Land of Israel, serving those who once served them.

Another event that might surprise some is that right before Jesus returns Jerusalem is invaded by armies. In one scripture it is said that Jerusalem is divided into thirds.

But, notice what happens in Jerusalem at that time. We read this in Zec 14:1-2, *Behold, the day of Jehovah comes, and your spoil shall be divided in your midst.*

For I will gather all nations to battle against Jerusalem; and the city shall be taken, and the houses plundered, and the women raped. And half of the city shall go into exile, and the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

The city is split into three jurisdictions resulting in the people living there being subjected to robbery. Those occupying will use the women inhabitants for their own ungodly pleasure. Half of the people will be taken away into exile, possibly slavery. As a result of this, Jesus will stand on the Mount of Olives and cause His armies to do battle against the evil armies. Why would Jesus do this when He could simply command that all in rebellion are to die? One need merely understand what Jesus is about to know the answer to that question; Jesus is all about repentance and mercy for mankind. He will give those in rebellion every opportunity to stop sinning before unleashing His armies to end the rebellion. Sadly, other scriptures indicate that most will not stop their evil.

So many refuse that scripture discusses blood being up to the depth of a horse's bridle in the aftermath of that war. Notice what was inspired to be written in Zec 14:12: *And this shall be the plague with which Jehovah will strike all the peoples who have fought against Jerusalem. Their flesh shall rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes shall rot in their sockets. And their tongue shall rot in their mouth.* Is this how Christ ends the war around Jerusalem? Is this how the blood gets so deep? An army of 200 million men, crammed into the area around Jerusalem, suddenly and instantly meeting this grisly fate might very well result in such a huge amount of blood.

People will be hungry as part of the aftermath of war. Their gold and silver will have no value if there is no food to purchase. This will result in people abandoning their wealth as seen in Isa 2:20-21, *In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made for him to worship, to the moles and to the bats; to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of Jehovah and for the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth terribly.*

People will be hiding out of fear of what they don't know or understand, just as they do today. They don't know Christ even though they've been attending "church" for a long time. They were not taught the Christ of the Bible

but, instead, a Christ who came to do away with His Father's Commandments, even though Christ told them that such was not His purpose!

What happens with all of that gold and silver? Could the answer be found in Zec 14:13-14? What follows is what is written about that day: *And it shall be in that day a great panic of Jehovah shall be among them And they shall each one lay hold of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor.*

And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the nations all around shall be gathered, gold, and silver, and clothing in great abundance.

We notice that men are in a panic, fighting amongst themselves, hiding in caves. Meanwhile, all of that gold and silver, and apparently abandoned clothing, is gathered up and taken to the area known as Judah. Is that because all of Israel being rescued and brought to the Holy Land will need to be clothed? Or, could it be that people who see the blessings being poured out on Israel, who have no food, drink, or even clothes, will try to go there for relief? That's all worth consideration.

We know that Jesus is going to have the whole earth keeping the Feast of Tabernacles during that time, and even punishing nations who refuse to come up with no rain and even plagues. Zec 14:16 states: *And it shall be, everyone who is left of all the nations which came up against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*

And it shall be, whoever will not come up from all the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, Jehovah of Hosts, even on them shall be no rain.

And if the family of Egypt does not go up, nor come in, they shall have no rain, but the plague with which Jehovah shall strike the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

But, we also can see that there will be plenty of free food there, so much so that there will not be anyone selling it! We read about this in Zec 14:21: *Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holy to Jehovah of Hosts. And all those who sacrifice shall come and take of them, and boil in them. And in that day there shall no longer be a trader in the house of Jehovah of Hosts.*

Another strange event happens, one that people today can probably not believe. We read this in Isa 4:1: *And in that*

day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, we will eat our own bread and wear our own clothing; only let us be called by your name, to take away our shame.

Is this an exaggeration? There we have the example shown to us of seven women asking a man to accept them as wives. What is their shame? Have they had children out of wedlock and now recognize that God wants the family to be the place where children are raised? We notice that these women are saying that they will feed themselves and handle their own clothing needs if the man will just give them his name.

How could this come to pass? Could the answer be found in Isa 13:12: *I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.*

Would so many women be willing to share a man because there ARE few men to be had?

Jesus is going to end sin by the nations. Effectively, Jesus is going to have to force mankind to live in a way that brings to themselves peace, happiness and all of the blessings that we have come to know as a result of walking in the Way of God!

Notice what we read in Mic 5:10-15: *And it shall be in that day, says Jehovah, I will cut off your horses out of your midst, and I will destroy your chariots.*

And I will cut off the cities of your land, and throw down all your strongholds. And I will cut off sorceries out of your hand, and there shall not be fortune-tellers among you.

I will also cut off your graven images, and your pillars out of the midst of you; and you shall never again worship the work of your hands. And I will pluck your shrines out of the midst of you; so I will destroy your cities.

And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury on the nations, such as they have not heard.

Jesus is going to end the production of vehicles of war. We already know that in those days that men will not learn war anymore. But notice that Jesus says that He will “throw down all your strongholds.” This would have the effect of making those nations defenseless. Why would Jesus do this unless it is for the purpose of causing them to be reliant upon God for their protection, just as we who are called by His Name do today?

Jesus is going to end their “sorceries,” He says. There won’t be any more those implements of sorcery in any

form. There will be no more graven images! Jesus will make sure that they understand that only God who is the Father will be worshipped. This includes tearing down the “shrines” where these idols can be found. Of course, the largest collection of locations of those shrines is found within the Catholic Church where idols abound in even the smallest of churches. HOW will Christ accomplish all of this? I leave that to the reader to research.

Finally, something else popped up related to the aftermath of the war against man’s evil that will take place after Jesus’ return. We can read that in Jer 50:19-20: *And I will again bring Israel to his home, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied on Mount Ephraim and Gilead.*

In those days, and at that time, says Jehovah, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and it shall not be found; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found; for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.

We know from the many scriptures on this subject that Israel is brought back home to the land given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They will be in a place where they no longer have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, about evil men kicking in doors to take them captive—or worse.

In addition to placing Israel in this joyous situation, God promises that He will forgive their sins, even the ones that caused Israel and Judah to be cast away—their adulterous worship of false gods. God says that if He allows them to survive the great evil that happens at the end then He will also pardon them.

There is much more that will happen during those days that we can read about in the scriptures. This short article can’t possibly do the topic justice. However, in order to disabuse ourselves of the idea that the day Jesus lands everything will become great then we should take the time to study about those days. There are 10 days between the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement, and 4 more to the Feast of Tabernacles. Using the “day for a year” scriptural principle, might it be that all of this warfare and getting the nations to submit lasts 10-14 years? We shall surely see—IF we stay on the path illuminated by the Word of God!





Why Consider Supporting the BSA?

Kelly McDonald

There are different ways to support the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA), and we welcome all of them. The main way to support us is to pray for us. Without the help of God, our efforts are in vain (John 15:1-5). Another way to help our efforts is to share our materials with other people in your congregation or community (whether in person or online). A third way to support us is through financial giving.

I have an admission to make. Many years ago, I did not view financial giving to God's work the way that I should. I once viewed financial giving as simply 'giving away' money or an expense. In recent years, I have had a change of heart. I now think of giving towards the work of the Kingdom of God – whether to my local church or a group like the BSA – as an investment.

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21, NIV).

When we give financially to the work of the Kingdom of God, we are investing in heavenly treasures. All of us are destined to face death once (Hebrews 9:27). We can't take money, property, or other items with us. If we take some of our resources and sow it into the work of His Kingdom, then we will have treasures stored up in Heaven for us.

Consider the words of the Apostle Paul:
"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver...Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and in-

crease your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness" (2 Cor. 9:6-7, 10).

Unfortunately, some church leaders try to coerce people into giving. The Bible does not support that mindset. People are supposed to give as they feel led to do so. God loves a cheerful giver! But I also think that ministers should provide people with joyful reasons to give! What are people investing their money in?

At the BSA, we have created materials and outreach that sparks joy in others. We have investments that bring heavenly return. Below, I have a list of projects and accomplishments from this past year, and a list of projects we hope to start in 2023! We hope and pray that you will consider giving to the BSA work to help with these projects!

A new self-playing class called "Remember the Sabbath" – Board member Dusti Howell and his wife Deanne worked very hard on this self-playing class. It is an exciting way to refresh, renew, and deepen your understanding of the seventh-day Sabbath. In November, we will post links to our two websites so that anyone can access it. Because it will be self-play you will be able to take the class at your own pace. Individuals, small groups, and churches can use this class for a great Bible study tool!

Stronger, more efficient online outreach – Through September 2022, The Sabbath Sentinel online blog (www.sabbath.blog) has had 34,114 views. We have had about 3,500 book downloads. The TSS blog now has 670 articles you can read for free; this includes new material and articles from old TSS magazines. Additionally, we have fourteen books about the commandments of God and Sabbath history that can be downloaded for free. There are plans for more to be released in the future.

New books released in 2022 – We released four new books so far in 2022: [The Life of Polycarp](#),

Constantine and the Sabbath, Quartodeciman Controversy, and Heroes of the Faith (Vol. I). We also released a third edition of A Beginner's Guide to the Sabbath. By the end of the year, we hope to release another book – Persecution in Early Christianity. In 2023, we have plans to either update existed books or perhaps release some new ones.

Free BSA book giveaways –The BSA has hosted some free book giveaways at various church groups or home fellowships this year. These are either free books on the website that we printed out for the event or old BSA material we once sold through the organization.

The Sabbath Sentinel Magazine – In 2022, we continued to print our flagship publication, The Sabbath Sentinel. It is a great opportunity for us to share content with other people and provide believers with an opportunity to tell their story.

Fiscally sound – In 2020, the BSA board worked hard to re-arrange the organization to be more efficient and save money so that we could focus more time and attention to new projects. As I write this article (Oct. 2022), we are on target to finish 2022 with a net gain. This would make two years in a row that we finished with a positive financial gain. This is the first time in over a decade that the BSA has had consecutive years of gains.

Potential New Projects (for 2023 and beyond!)

We are working to continue our progress from 2022 into 2023 and beyond. However, we have some new projects and areas where we will need assistance.

Promotion of the BSA self-playing class – We want to project this class into the public sphere. There are methods of online outreach that we plan to utilize so that as many people as possible play this class. I believe that we are overdue for a world-wide revival of the Sabbath, and we believe a class like this can be a crucial part of such a revival. We can promote it to places where people can't always physically go. There are opportunities to spend some money and promote the class on social media.

Books translated into Spanish – The BSA would like to have some of our free books and booklets translated into the Spanish. Our Spanish speaking brethren need materials in their language. If you know someone who can help with this project,



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please contact us.

Ancient German document translated into English – I am presently working with Daniel Liechty on translating an ancient document from the 1500s that discusses a group of Sabbath keepers in Germany. It is written in high German, and he is one of only a few people who can still read this language. This document is one of the few sources we have that discuss this reformation-era group; it is a vital part of preserving Sabbath history. Many of them suffered as martyrs. Having works like this translated will help the BSA offer more unique materials.

Sabbath Kids – I have recently started a new children’s ministry called Sabbath Kids that we hope to promote through the BSA. At first, we want this to be an aggregate site where we can link to other ministries who have already made children’s material (such as Christian Educational Ministries—CEM). Eventually, we want to create our own materials. With the assault upon our children happening by the extreme forces of our culture, it is high time that we begin to offer a Godly, low-cost solution for children’s Biblical education.

Teaching Videos – It has been a longtime goal to create BSA teaching videos and put them on YouTube. I think this would be a great way for us to take the BSA work out to the public and help individuals and churches. The internet is quickly producing more content via video than any other media form, including pictures. We have been hindered from this project for various reasons, and it can be costly to create such videos.

These are exciting times to be a supporter of the BSA. This ministry is becoming more multi-dimensional as we expand the BSA mission to new platforms of outreach. We are boldly going where we have never been before. Often the BSA offers spiritual food to people at no cost to them. But there is a cost to us as an organization.

It takes funds to keep the momentum going on these new projects. Will you partner with us financially to continue the good work and expand our outreach into new territory?

Thank you for your support over the years!



Your BSA Work of Love, proclaiming the Love of God and of His Son, continues to seek the Godly goal of reconciliation!
Please help us with a donation!
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The Kusch Family Testimony

Jeromy Kusch

How does a family of 12, that was raised in church, leave mainstream Christian theology and live according to the commands given in the Old Testament? It's complicated. When I'm asked, "what denomination are you?" My answer always starts with a drawn out, cautious, "Well..." Our journey begins with two individuals who were earnest about the Word of God, and desire to obey Him with our whole hearts.

I, Jeromy, grew up in a household with an unbelieving father, but a strongly believing mother, who purposefully made Christian faith a central part of our family's life. In general, we sought out non-denominational, charismatic, or "spirit-filled" churches. My childhood was full of church services, revivals, 2-3 services a week, and lots of "speaking in tongues." This largely was the foundation of my view of the Bible, God, and of the Messiah. Two things plagued me as I aged and began to take more and more responsibility for my own faith.

First, I always questioned/doubted my salvation. This was largely a reflection of bad theology and improperly defined terms. However, as an 18 year old, I struggled to identify specifically why this doubt continuously hounded me. Secondly, leaving high school, I was arrogant and brash about my faith. Having determined that I already knew the Bible, I thought it was my time to educate others about where they were wrong. However, my knowledge of Scripture was limited to a few choice verses. This fact coupled with an inconsistent study and pray-

er life left me floundering around in bad theology and man-made doctrines.

Jennifer's experience was a slightly different. Her family largely claimed Biblical faith, yet their lives reflected little in accordance with that belief. Personal faith was rarely discussed in her family, and their regular church attendance largely dwindled to "important" holidays and events. Otherwise, it was of little impact on regular life. While she urgently desired a deeper faith, she had little example of how to pursue that from the role models in her life. Eventually, she found herself connected with a few friends from school who were Mormon. Their sincerity, family dynamic, and knowledge of Scripture drew her to their fellowships daily. Unfortunately, this change prompted much difficulty with her family as her mother sought to convince her of the evils of the Mormon church and led to much pain over the years.

Through her life, serious questions haunted Jenny as she regularly struggled to reconcile certain church doctrines which seemed to either contradict the Bible or were inconsistent with what she understood about Christian life. Jennifer largely credits God for using her time in the Mormon church to keep her from going down a dark path many of her friends would eventually follow.

Her turning point came after leaving home for college. She received a call from her father as she was strongly considering getting baptized into the Mormon faith. A few gentle words from him deeply struck her. "Jenny, don't do this," he said over the

phone. It was then she set out on a journey to decipher whether the LDS claim to be the “one true church” was correct. She may not be able to prove the LDS church and doctrine entirely right, but she certainly should not be able to prove it wrong. It was this personal study and seeking that led her to leave the Mormon church and engage once again with her Christian roots.

After we met, got married, and struggled deeply in our marriage during college, Jenny and I eventually returned to my childhood home. While there, we connected with a large church on the verge of mega church status in San Antonio, Texas. Finances, theological questions surrounding the roots of the Christian holidays, and questions about health and wellness continued to loom over our young family as we wrestled to mature in our faith individually and as a couple. It was here where Jenny and I would briefly differ in our faith, but we could never predict how it would finally reconcile.

Frustrated with the complacency, the lack of real impact on our children, and a driving personal desire to really solidify her faith, Jenny sought something better. She remembered a speaker from our small church in East Texas who had mentioned being part of a Messianic church. Seeing little to no fruit in our mega church, she decided to try something new. She found a local Messianic congregation and began attending Friday nights. While she attended both churches, I had become more and more detached from church fellowship and fell out of regular attendance altogether. It was then I convinced myself that Biblical fellowship was unnecessary and largely was having little to no effect on my faith. In my view, it was a net-zero impact in my life and therefore pointless.

Jenny’s faith however was reignited. Her first visit to Baruch HaShem Messianic

Congregation (BHS) literally blew her mind. The worship, the teaching, and the genuinely loving people drew her to tears. It was what she had been missing. After moving further away from the mega church, Jenny began regularly attending BHS and became fully convinced of a Torah-pursuant lifestyle based on the Torah given in the Old Testament. Her faith in Jesus was further strengthened as she learned how so many of the customs and traditions of the OT pointed straight to the Messiah. Her enthusiasm, however, was met with a great deal of caloused skepticism from me.

Jenny would return home sometimes near midnight with our handful of children in tow. She would get them all in bed and then with all the excitement in the world unleash a fire hydrant of Bible knowledge on my fatigued brain. It was too much for my tortoise-paced processing; I quickly became argumentative and combative about her new way of looking at things. Little did we know this was the beginning of nearly two years of Biblical struggle that would test our faith and our marriage.

I truly desired to encourage my wife’s new enthusiasm, but my personality tested my ability to keep the peace. After months of arguing about the Bible, I finally proposed a compromise. We agreed she could tell me one thing that impacted her each week when she returned home from BHS. Each week she would pray the entire drive home before coming into the bedroom to talk. We spent months talking about Scripture, testing things together, and praying about what we were learning. It was her patient approach in the following months that eventually led me to see the Bible and my faith through new eyes.

I reluctantly agreed to join her for a weekly small group where they were studying word to word through the book of Galatians, and it

revolutionized the way I understood Scripture. Paul was NOT who I thought he was, and my view of Scripture slowly began to shift.

As we attended BHS together, we learned, changed, and began following the entire Word of God to the best of our understanding. Deep, nagging questions became clear to me. The old stale black and white text of the Bible became rich, vibrant, and colorful. Together we began to set aside our past traditions and understanding to study and test everything according to the Bible. We eventually gave up many of our old Christian traditions and adopted the Biblical Sabbath, Feast Days, and personal practices. Our lives would never be the same again.

Years past as we continued to walk according to the Torah. While we struggled financially and at times with our marriage, our faith was never stronger. It had been 10 years since we last were in any ministry work, and we believed the Father was drawing us back to ministry again. One day after years of arguing with people about my new-found approach to the Bible, I was deeply convicted about my current life. After all these years, I began to see I was not bearing any fruit; this realization crushed me. While my view was true, my approach was bringing a poor witness to the truth I knew. I was causing damage, and something in me had to change.

After spending some time praying about how God would bring us back into ministry, I began applying for pastoral positions in our local community. One application was delivered to First Baptist Church for their student minister vacancy. Six months after submitting my application I received a phone call from FBC to come in for an interview. They had exhausted every applicant and only mine remained. Within a few weeks I was their new student pastor. It was

in this Christian church, as a Torah following believer, that the Father allowed us to learn how to talk about our faith, to truly disciple people, and to shake off the newly acquired man-made traditions we had so easily accepted.

Our three years at FBC at times threatened to absolutely crush our family. The constant scrutiny, gossip, and deception was almost too much to bear. While the church was well established, the old guard of Baptist faithful struggled with my approach and our lifestyle. Certain deacons' wives and a staff member had set out to remove us and made our time there nearly impossible. However, the Father showed us something very unexpected.

We had long believed a lie that Christians don't want to hear about this lifestyle, but we discovered that many people were eager to hear and learn the truth even at that rigid, stuffy Southern Baptist Church. Many of them simply had no idea that there might be another way to view the Bible than they had been told their entire lives. Jenny and I reflected on our own journey, and without the patient diligence of just a few people, we too would have never found the answers we sought. Three and a half years after arriving at FBC, the interim pastor requested that I leave my position. As I turned in my resignation, I realized the Father had mercifully brought us through strengthening our spiritual resolve, correcting more doctrinal errors from our lives, and giving us new hope to share the Gospel with even more confidence than ever before.

It has been twelve years since my wife first visited BHS. Now our family of 12 walks in the light of the full Scripture, and the Father continues to use our family for His will. We are not perfect by any stretch. Every year we test and relearn over and over again.

Through Lantern Ministry, we now work to disciple families. We encourage them to read the Word of God daily and apply it to their lives. Moreover, we develop Biblically-rooted material for families online, which includes free resources like videos, blog articles, and a weekly family Bible study guide called “Raising Warriors.” Furthermore, the Father has blessed us with a wonderful fellowship in northern Georgia. We are accountable to a sound Biblical community which assists us in developing Godly character and sharpens our ministry efforts for the Father.

During our journey, we have learned some valuable lessons that should not be overlooked. To conclude this article, I want to share some of them. I hope and pray they will build your faith.

First, it is by the mercy and grace of the Father that we have come to this truth. Therefore, we should not be so self-centered as to withhold this truth from others either by our intention, behavior, or reluctance. Instead, we should lovingly and generously share with others that with which we have been entrusted and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. Second, the Biblical community is so important in our formation as believers. Without it we often wander from the truth and/or become completely useless to our Savior. YHVH is faithful in every way, as His servants we trust and obey.

You can follow Jeromy and his family’s ministry work through their website www.laternministry.org.



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What Are We Offering Our Families?

By Sharon Darling

Greetings again from a very beautiful day in the Northeast, U.S. Today I have some questions and thoughts to provoke some deeper thinking. I hope this is as life changing for you as it was for me. If you have already benefited from this perspective, that's awesome! I am grateful to have changed my approach. Honestly, sometimes I need reminders of this. So, grab your favorite drink and get cozy. For me, I have my favorite Tangerine Tea, YUM!

How we interact with our families is often on my mind. Have you thought about how you behave towards and treat your families as offerings to them? I have made quite a few mistakes over the years. Unlearning bad habits and attitudes can be a long process. How are we doing with the offerings to our families?

The world has lied to us about how we should act towards our families and what behaviors are acceptable. I will share a woman's perspective on this subject.

First, we are not a "mess" and forever stuck that way. God can transform our lives and understanding into that which pleases Him. We must allow Him to do so.

Secondly, our culture seems to think women should look down on men. I have never agreed with women pushing their husbands around and treating him like a child. I used to joke that my husband was one of my kids. Now whenever I hear that statement it makes me cringe. It is an utterly horrible mentality. It isn't cute or funny, but disrespectful and demeaning. In marriage, we are living life together. Being bossy and treating husbands like they cannot handle

life without us is awful.

Lastly, the world treats children as if they hold women back from their full potential. Our kids are not a burden, but a blessing. A stable home life does not hold us back, but it empowers us to experience the God-given blessing of being a wife and mother.

Everywhere in society, we see the message that wives know best in the home and with the kids. The message and attitude is as if the men are idiots who do not have a clue. Often, we see that what wives and moms want is treated as more important. When she does not get her way in the home or with their children she can get very angry, resentful and mean. Not all of us are like this, but it is out there more than a little bit. Everywhere we turn, whether entertainment, conversations or life in general there is a non-stop bombardment of this. It is not good to see this everywhere.

Yes, we all know there are men and women who hold onto poor ideology that do not value women. We know there is abuse out there. We know we can face hardships and a hard time. Real men do not abuse or mistreat women. A Godly man does not belittle, berate, or raise a hand to his wife. He would not be demanding or demeaning. A woman should be careful who she marries and thoroughly know a man before she marries him. Yes, I know, sometimes people change. These are some of the warning signs of a man who is not behaving in a Godly manner. We also must remember that women can do these things too. We must be able to recognize them for ourselves and teach all our children how to treat their spouses and family. While also equipping them to recognize and

avoid the warning signs as well. We should never be doing any of them either. No one should be doing these things.

I daresay most if not almost all of us women struggle at some point when it comes to how we feel at home. Some struggle more than others in this area. It is easy to feel taken for granted or taken advantage of. There are overwhelming seasons, especially when we have small children or a chronic situation in our lives. Having special needs children or medically frail children can be so very taxing. Marital problems can be hard to cope with. Sin in the home can make it unbearable. We do get affected by those things. Much of life we cannot control. It matters, you matter, and I know that it can be quite hard at times. None of what follows invalidates legitimate problems and struggles.

With that being said let's put all that aside. Why don't we look at what was a game changer for me and perhaps can be for you too.

None of this means we cannot take time for ourselves. Not at all. That is necessary and I have a three-part series that I have written about on that very topic on my blog under the "Wellness" category (<http://www.torahwoman.org>). Taking care of ourselves is important. It is also part of how we love and take care of our families as well.

After our relationship with God, the most important aspect of our lives are our families. So here are some things that changed for me some years ago.

I never used to think about housework, cooking, training our kids, intimacy and other aspects of life being "offerings." I did think of it as serving them but not offerings. Some years back my mindset changed when my husband and I were discussing who knows what, we talk about all kinds of things all the time. I do remember though, him asking me to think about it as an offering.

Consider the following questions: What am I offering my family? When I serve them, am I doing it only out of duty? Am I doing it with an irritated attitude? Am I complaining that all I do is serve others? Am I saying, here you go, now go away, be happy I cooked, cleaned or whatever else even though I did not want to right now? Not only in words but perhaps in my attitude or body language as well?

Cain gave his offering, but his attitude was terrible. He got incredibly jealous, and it did not end well. He did the bare minimum and then took his bad attitude way too far.

Going through the motions is not enough. Consider our "offerings" in our day-to-day interactions.

When I am doing my domestic duties, raising my children, and serving them and my beloved, then what is my attitude? What am I offering them? Am I giving them my leftovers and tromping around accusing them of being ungrateful and taking me for granted? Am I showing them I love them? Am I doing my best, as realistically as possible with a cheerful heart and a smile on my face? Am I serving them and loving them like I would if our Messiah was standing right next to me? Am I treating them and my life in a manner that is consistent with how I should be giving my offerings to our Father? (I know there is a difference, but the principle is the same with attitude and etc.). Am I treating my family like the blessings they are? Am I putting effort into whatever I am doing?

How do we respond when our husbands want and need attention? Guess what? As manly as they are, they have emotions, desires, and wants just like we do even if they don't say it. Do we engage them, or do we give them a hard time while listing off everything we must do or complain about all the things we want from them? We still want love, affection, and romance whether they are tired or not or have a ton of things they must do. It hurts when we

don't feel like a priority to them or are put last because they want to do other things first.

Engage with them! Play with them! Take that moment of quiet time they desire! That is far, far more important. The other stuff almost 100% of the time can wait. It really can. He will love that his wife wants his attention and that he is important enough to you for you to give him yours. When those times come that he must wait or does need to come last, he will be far more understanding and secure in your relationship and love.

When we are having quiet time or in middle of housework how do we react when our children want some interaction with us? Do we play that game or answer their question? Or do they get shooed away because mommy has things to do? Read them that book, dance with them when they ask you to. Be silly and make that fort with them and by all means - do not tell them you are too busy for them.

Once can easily turn into all the time and soon they will start parroting that you are too busy, or they don't want to irritate you. In this example, it is awful when you hear your words come out of their mouth. Of course, there are times you really can't because of things like heading out the door, a baby needs to be changed or fed, or your husband is coming home from work and you are going to meet him at the door with a kiss. You can ask for a rain check and then follow through.

Your children will love you even more for that and have some pretty awesome memories. They will know they are a priority to you.

These are some of the different ways to live out loving our family in our day to day. Our actions, reactions and interactions are our offerings to our family. It matters how we approach it and can change the whole atmosphere in the home for good or bad. Why not work at making it good? We have so much influence. Things can wait at times and our family in turn

will show their appreciation generally as well when they see and feel that you love them and show them as well. They will be secure in your love and will know that they are important to you and are not a burden.

I know what it feels like to be that child who is treated as a huge burden and that wife and mother who accidentally makes my family feel like they are to me. Yikes and ouch!

It is easy to get caught up in the "I have to do this, that and the other thing" mindset. Our lists can get so long.

The season in life you are in dictates so much about how our days will go. Sometimes we must work harder than others to maintain a good attitude. It is unrealistic and fake to be like this every moment of every day. There is always room for improvement and as we change our mindsets and approach; life can feel wonderful. In turn getting easier to see the blessings everywhere. You can look at that mess and instead think "man, my kids had a great time, that was a lot of fun!"

My husband loves us enough to do that project or participate in that activity instead of "UGH NOW THAT MESS HAS TO BE CLEANED UP and I am sick of it!" How we approach those moments will be life changing. Whether it will go wonderfully or poorly can be influenced by us. When they want our attention, we can engage them or be crabby. When things need to get done we can get frustrated at having more to do or we can try to have a better attitude. It needs to get done anyways, being miserable is no fun and is exhausting. We can be working on what we are able to control. In turn that will bless our families tremendously. We can do all thing through Messiah who strengthens us!

What do you think will reflect the kind of women that is represented in Proverbs 31 that is called blessed by her family? Our interactions are either building up or tearing down

like it is described in Proverb 14:1. Who will we choose to be, however imperfectly, yet putting in the effort to strive to do better? Struggle with yelling or want to grow in patience? I have blog posts for improving both. With more topics like this to come in time. Working on things like this is a blessing to you and your family. These are wonderful offerings to them that might create a ripple effect of the behavior and attitudes you might like to see change in them.

When we fall short, we have the gifts of repentance and forgiveness, then apologizing as needed. Followed by getting up, dusting ourselves off and trying to do better the next time.

Next times will come. How will we handle them? Doing our best with this is a gift to our children that they hopefully copy. They will be able to learn by living with it. Our examples are important. As we are striving to bring God glory, we can find all the little areas in our life to live out Matthew 6:33. First, above everything in our life, we need to be seeking His Kingdom. Seek Him daily, pray to Him constantly, study His Word. The more we do this, the more we can become the daughters of the Most High we were designed to be! What are our offerings? It matters.



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Prophecy and the Future

Tommy Willis

As the chaos grows, many are saying, “The world is coming apart at the seams.” Man seems to be entering the wildest ride in history. With nuclear threats from Russia, and global unrest rising, many feel the world is heading toward the unthinkable.

Some feel the plague should have been a wakeup call to us. It killed more Americans than the deadly Spanish Flu of 1918, making it America’s deadliest plague. Current events continue to send chills down the spine of many prophecy watchers.

Since the Corona virus, as we try to “get back to normal,” some prophecy students say that the plague could be just the beginning, and are wondering if we are nearing the “birth pains.” These matters should get our attention. But we need to also keep in mind the need for balance, and that unstable world conditions often provoke frenzied prophetic speculation; this has often led many to try to put everything in a neat little prophetic box, as they have charts and timetables, because we want to know about every detail in prophecy.

We often want to see the future, and as much of the details as possible so that we can plan for our future. But how much of a perspective do you need to plan your future? Do we really need to know all the details? God says that if we seek Him diligently, it will all work out for us. He will care for all of our needs as we seek Him first (Mt 6:33).

Therefore, what is most important, no matter where we are in the prophetic time frame, is our need to draw close to God. This is more important than trying to know every little detail about prophecy.

Years ago, I remember reading how a journalist said that because they are often rushed to get the news in print, that they often allow themselves to be short-

sighted; but that an historian can look back on matters with hindsight; and get a better view.

This got me to thinking that, as Christians, we need to be careful with our studies into prophecy. This is because over the years there’s been the tendency to jump to conclusions as a certain events happened in the world. And we often linked it to a certain Bible prophecy about the future, when there may have not been the connection we thought. But if we look at the bigger picture, we can keep a more balanced perspective.

Desiring to see the future, to where you study prophecy endlessly, trying to figure out all the details, can even become a distraction, to where you are not praying and meditating as you should.

I’m not against studying prophecy; I still study it. I understand the excitement, for I was a diligent student of prophecy for many years; but I had to learn the proper balance. For almost 50 years I have seen where many tried to say what would be the future events, but it never came to pass. Therefore, I realized it was better to spend more time in prayer, and focus on my relationship with Jesus Christ, to get to know Him.

It’s more important to get to know Jesus Christ than to know the future.

There’s nothing wrong in planning for our future; we should do that. But we also need to be aware of what God tells us in the book of James: *Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit.” Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live to do this or that”* (James 4:13-15).

When people say “See you next week,” I often respond: “If God spares us, I’ll see you next week.” This

relates to the above scripture. God does not promise us tomorrow. Responding this way helps me stay in focus, and helps keep my mind where it should be—on God. Because like the above scripture says, we don't even know what tomorrow will bring.

We often live in denial of death and the brevity of life. But there is a reason the Bible reminds us that our lives are brief. *“Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.”* (Ps 90:12).

By seeing that our stay is brief, we can better seek out God and focus on what's important with this brief life.

We live in a death-denying culture. And I could go over more scriptures, but the two above should make the point. We are like a flower that is here today and gone tomorrow. And God wants us to use the time wisely to seek Him out, so that we will get to know Him.

Like many other Christians, I believe that we are nearing the end of the Age; but we need to keep in mind that our own personal “end time” could happen tomorrow, like the above scripture relates to. I've known brethren I had end time prophecy conversations with, and we discussed what would happen in a few years, when they were gone in a few years with cancer, at a young age. Others died in car accidents. Yes, God does not promise us tomorrow. Therefore, let us be aware of both—the end of the age and the brevity of life. This can help us stay in focus. It is through much contact with God that we will be prepared for His coming, or the end of our lives.

We all die. But, since we live in a death-denying culture, we often avoid talking about something that we all have an appointment with. I became even more aware of this while caring for my invalid parents. It can help us prepare better. My Mother died four years before my Dad, and I was better prepared with my dad, because I knew I had to discuss these matters of end of life care more with him, matters that I did not discuss with my Mother. I learned from the mistakes I made with my Mother; my Dad and I talked about death freely. And we were better prepared. He told me he did not want to continue to have medical intervention; and that if God did not heal him, then he wanted

to let nature take its course. I honored his request. He died at home in his sleep.

Even Elisha, God's prophet, had to suffer old age and sickness: *“Now Elisha had been suffering from the illness from which he died...”* (2 Kings 13:14). Few escape the health problems that come with old age.

Elisha got old, like we all do; and few go to the grave healthy—very few. Think of the brethren who have died that have suffered with physical ailments. It's all a part of the aging process.

Paul's close companion Timothy, also had physical health problems: *“Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.”* (1 Tim 5:23). God servants have health problems also. God may heal us, and at other times He may not.

Most of the brethren I have known that have died, had health problems; and suffered sickness, often in hospitals or rest homes. We often can't stop the health problems any more than we can stop the aging process. It's often all a part of the aging process.

But both Paul and Timothy were able to go on in peace because of God's grace. God may not heal us physically, but if we are praying and meditating as we should then we can watch the fire within heal us spiritually and mentally! And we can then go on in peace. I know this is true from the experience with my own health problems that I've suffered with for decades. I would not trade a healthy body for what God has taught me from the physical ailments, because God used the thorns for my spiritual growth (2 Cor 12:7-10), to draw closer to Him.

We should not fear the health problems, nor should we fear death. Paul said that death was better than life (Phil 1:21-23). This doesn't mean we should seek death, for life is a blessing and God has a work for us to do. But we can face death unafraid by drawing close to God, and have the perspective Paul had—to face death without fear. Paul loved life, but he looked at death as a promotion, because he said it was “far better” to go be with Christ! And to those with health problems, remember--one day we will have a body just like Jesus!

Enjoying the articles...?

You can aid the BSA effort to promote the Sabbath and a Spirit of brother-hood among all who keep God's Sabbath by becoming a **BRIDGE BUILDER** or a **PILLAR** with the BSA? Besides the monthly or annual membership dues which you can find inside the front cover, you can also help with various functions designed to help bring a fellowship of brethren across denominational lines. Some of the opportunities are: Advise and/or consult with the BSA Board of Directors; visiting and interacting with other Sabbatarian fellowships; speaking on behalf of the BSA; Promotion and/or distribution of BSA materials and services; and assisting with this magazine, the BSA Facebook page, Twitter and other social media on projects defined by the Board of Directors.

Prophetic speculation will come and go. However, no matter what the future is in our brief lifetime, we need to do what Jesus said: "*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*" (Luke 21:36).

Over the years when this Scripture was brought up we have focused so intently on the "watch" part, so much more than the pray part, that we got out of balance with it. We often took this to mean watching world events to the point of wanting to be aware of all the details as much as possible. And we have often let the "pray always" part slip into the background.

I'm not trying to suggest that we should not be watching world events, because I do believe that applies also, and that God wants us to be aware of what is going on around us. We should watch world events. But we can be watching world events diligently, and yet still be drifting from God, if we are not praying as we should

Plus, we won't really see the things we need to see if we are not staying close to God as we should be; we will only think we are. Human nature simply wants to know about the future, and what is going to happen. This often leads Christians to want to put everything into a neat little prophetic box concerning how future events will unfold. But if we are drawing closer to God in our personal contact with Him in our prayers and meditations, then He will have us see what we need to see concerning the times we are living in.

Do not think you stand in these matters, lest you fall. We cannot make it on our own strength. Stay with Him in prayer; and God will see us through the till the end of the Age or the end of our lives, whichever comes first; and we will have nothing to fear. He will sustain us and give us peace.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 24-25).



Making an Online Sabbath Class for You!

Prof. Dusti Howell

In 2010, the Bible Sabbath Association's 'Vision Committee' looked for a special way to promote the Sabbath. The motivation for this committee was to honor the generous donations given to us by our members looking for ways to prudently promote the Sabbath.

In 2020, a new vision committee submitted a list of promotional ideas to the BSA board. The board voted to build an online Sabbath class. Since I had built online classes for over 20 years, this was something that I could help fulfill. I began by looking at BSA's online resources and focused on two full decades of The Sabbath Sentinel (TSS) articles on our BSA website (see <https://biblesabbath.org/media/sabbath-sentinel/sabbath-sentinel-archives/>). From a cache of thousands of TSS articles from 138 issues, 20 articles were chosen that neatly fit into a thread of seven modules or lessons. My wife and I learned new software that we used to visualize these materials. We received training and help from experts on how to build templates and interactive content to make this class unique and professional.

The Pilot Class

Over two dozen students signed up for the pilot class that ran for seven weeks in August and September of 2022. At the end of the class, a dozen students were still actively engaged. Several students said they had become too busy but wanted to finish the class over the next few weeks. The purpose of running a pilot class is to find errors and problems with the course before converting it into a self-playing course. This course can now be taken by anyone with internet access anywhere in the world at any time. Interestingly, as we were finishing the pilot class, two interested individuals requested ac-

cess to the course from Kenya and Thailand.

We received positive comments from students from both ends of the Sabbath spectrum. Some students had kept the Sabbath for over 50 years while others were new Sabbath keepers. One student felt this course would be great for her Sunday church friends. Another effective way to use this resource is for a minister, bible study facilitator, or Sabbath school teacher to use it in giving a series of teachings on the Sabbath. They can spend a week on each topic as a facilitator or invite their congregation to all take the class together and discuss their findings at church on Sabbath. Another idea is to select the topics that are most beneficial to your church or yourself. The seven major themes and topics that are covered in the class are as follows.

- 1) Looking deeper into the Sabbath Commandment
- 2) What happened on the first Sabbath and in Garden of Eden?
- 3) Difficult Sabbath Scriptures
- 4) How Important and Weighty is the Sabbath Command?
- 5) Man's Laws versus God's Laws
- 6) Preparing for the Sabbath
- 7) Favorite Sabbath commands and WHY we want to keep the Sabbath Holy

Please Pray for the Success of the Online Sabbath Class

It is easy to see God's hand in helping my wife and me build this class. Even though hundreds of hours of development and design have gone into building this class, it still needs to be shared. That means we are not done. We need your prayers and your help promoting this class. Just like any great book, if no

one talks about it or recommends it, it just sits on a bookshelf without benefiting anyone. We ask for your help in sharing this resource with others. Even more, we ask for your prayers for this course to be a success and go viral. We know of one online happiness course that has been shared publicly by a famous university and four million people have taken it over the past three years. God can use our 'Remember the Sabbath' course in a way that helps even greater numbers find eternal happiness.

Directions for taking the Sabbath Class

If you are an existing student just log in and scroll to the Sabbath course. For new students go to <http://www.CommonFaithAcademy.org> and click on 'Log in' at the top right corner. Click on the "CREATE NEW ACCOUNT" button and fill out the registration form. When finished click on the "CREATE MY NEW ACCOUNT" button at the bottom of the screen.

The system will send you an email. Open that email and click on the link provided for verification purposes. Now you can simply 'Log in' and scroll down and click on the 'Remember the Sabbath ...' course. (You are welcome to take other courses in the list if you wish.)

TESTIMONIALS AFTER TAKING THE 'REMEMBER THE SABBATH...' COURSE.

- For me it was a renewed view of how to celebrate the Sabbath. (Audie M. in Texas)
- It reinforced and refreshed the importance of the Sabbath and why I keep the Sabbath. It just was a great reminder. (Sherry J. in Georgia)
- I really enjoyed the course and will keep all the documents and review and use parts of them in some of my own future messages. (Elder Daniel C. in Michigan)
- Yes, I would recommend this course to others... which refreshes my own zeal and sometimes gives fresh ideas for how I want to "do Sabbath" in our home. ...Thank you, thank you, thank you. (Jenna C. in Michigan)
- I enjoyed reading about all of the modules. They all had something that I learned a little more to think about. (Marti R. in Texas)
- I am new to the Sabbath... Your class helped me to reflect on how I see the Sabbath and gave me insight to celebrate it better. (Rachel T. in Missouri)



“Remember the Sabbath...”

A FREE course for the novice and the long-time Christian!

The Bible Sabbath Association's "Remember the Sabbath..." course will help you grow in knowledge to gain spiritual wisdom to enhance your walk with God. Even if you have kept the Sabbath for many years, you'll find something unique from the dozen-plus featured authors. If you are new to the Sabbath this resource will be a blessing to you.

To sign up go to <http://www.CommonFaithAcademy.org> and click on 'Log in' at the top right corner. Click on the "CREATE NEW ACCOUNT" button and fill out the registration form. When finished click on the "CREATE MY NEW ACCOUNT" button at the bottom of the screen.

TAKING THE NAME OF THE LORD IN VAIN

Daniel Botkin

“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain” (Ex. 20:7).

What does it mean to take the name of the LORD in vain?

Many Sacred Name believers think this commandment forbids saying “the LORD” instead of “Yahweh,” or “Yahveh,” or “Yehovah,” or whichever one of the few dozen possible pronunciations they believe is the correct one.

While it is true that God has a four-letter Hebrew name, the proper pronunciation of God’s nomenclature is not what this commandment is about.

Many Christians think it just means to not say “God” or “Jesus Christ” as swear words. While it is certainly wrong to say “God” or “Jesus Christ” as swear words, that is not the primary thing that this particular commandment forbids.

Christians who think this commandment just forbids saying “God” or “Jesus Christ” as swear words, and Sacred Name believers who think this commandment forbids saying “the LORD” instead of some Hebrew or pseudo-Hebrew/quasi-Hebrew pronunciation, are both mistaken.

Why can I make such a bold statement? Because of the Hebrew word *nasa*, translated “take” in this verse. A look at this verb *nasa* shows that this commandment is primarily about not misrepresenting God by our behavior rather than about saying or not saying His name.

You do not even need to know Hebrew to see this; you just need to know how to look up the Hebrew word in a lexicon. When I was a young disciple, I often looked up Hebrew and Greek words in the lexicon of Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance. I had been following the Lord only about two or three years when I looked up the Hebrew word for “take” in Exodus 20:7. I discovered that taking God’s name in vain is far more than saying “God” or “Jesus Christ” as swear words.

According to Strong’s, the general meaning of *nasa*, the word translated “take” in this verse, is “to lift in a great variety of applications.” The word is translated with many different English words in the KJV. As you look through this list, you will see that *nasa* is never once translated as “speak” or “say” or “utter.” That fact alone tells us that this commandment is not just about saying or not saying God’s name.

Here are just a few ways that *nasa* is translated in the KJV: bear, exalt, extol, lift up, magnify, receive, take, wear.

Let’s consider some implications of these aspects of “taking” God’s name in vain.

BEAR & WEAR

If you believe in the God of the Bible, you are bearing and wearing His name. In other words, you are labeled as a person who belongs to God. If you behave contrary to God’s will, you misrepresent God, and bring shame upon His name, that is, on His reputation. You are bearing and wearing His name in vain. Your claim of faith in God counts for nothing, because you are taking His name in vain.

EXALT, EXTOL, LIFT UP & MAGNIFY

If you exalt and extol and lift up and magnify God's name in your singing, in your praise, and in your testimony, but live contrary to God's will, you are taking His name in vain. Your worship and praise of God counts for nothing.

TAKE & RECEIVE

If you receive God's name and take it upon yourself, you become an ambassador. You represent God to the world. If you live contrary to God's will, you are misrepresenting Him to others. You are thereby taking God's name in vain. Your role as an ambassador counts for nothing.

From these few examples we can see that taking God's name in vain is not just about saying "God" or "Jesus Christ" as swear words, nor is it about knowing the correct Hebrew pronunciation of God's nomenclature. Although it is

wrong to say "God" or "Jesus Christ" as swear words, and although God does have a four-letter Hebrew name, this commandment is primarily about God's people not misrepresenting God by engaging in behavior that is contrary to God's will.

In other words, if you claim to be a follower of the Lord, live the way a follower of the Lord is supposed to live.

If you have a Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, look up *nasa* and see all the other ways this word is translated in the KJV. Go through the list of words (there are about 50 of them) and consider how some of these words might pertain to "taking" God's name in vain. And if you discover you have been taking His name in vain by some of your behavior, stop taking His name in vain, "*for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.*"



Letters to the Editor

I have enjoyed the article in the July/August issue of 'TSS' by Tommy Willis on 'war and peace' as this article was a good reminder for everyone. I believe that is what the Apostle Paul was telling us in 1 Corinthians 13 that the lack of love gives way to human nature.

When you think of all the splinter groups that were formed after 'Worldwide' was taken down the faithful are all still our brethren, friends and/or family with the same goal for the kingdom, even if they may see things a little differently to some degree.

Most of these groups that I know still have love, mercy and compassion for one another as we serve the same God the same way with few exceptions. People continue to visit one another's services from time to time and come together during feast times.

The identifying sign for me is baptized Sabbatarian's observing Passover and God's sanctioned Holy Days as that person is my brother or sister in Christ. Being perfect, no one is but Jesus the Christ, however we have the same goal in mind, Philippians 3:14 NKJ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. It is written in Matthew 7:18 NKJ—(Jesus said) 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

Thus far God has not raised up an evangelist who can reunite us un-

der one roof so to speak and may not, so we have Christ the Good Shepherd to lead us with the written word to give all of us guidance. Suffice it is to say that is a very good leadership.

Quite a number of believers have learned justice, mercy and faith and have shown acceptance to other Christian groups; this is brotherly love.

Darl Arbogast

We each can be, and ARE, an Evangelist ourselves—whether for good or bad! We can stiffly refuse to understand that God has each of us at our own level of understanding and thereby claim to have the sole truth with everyone worshipping a "different Jesus," or we can accept that God can fix all misunderstanding in His own time and then accept and love those with the same basic understanding as brethren. As in all things, God tells us what HE wants and bids us CHOOSE how we will respond. I suspect God allows us to understand differently just to see how much we love one another. Thanks for your insight.

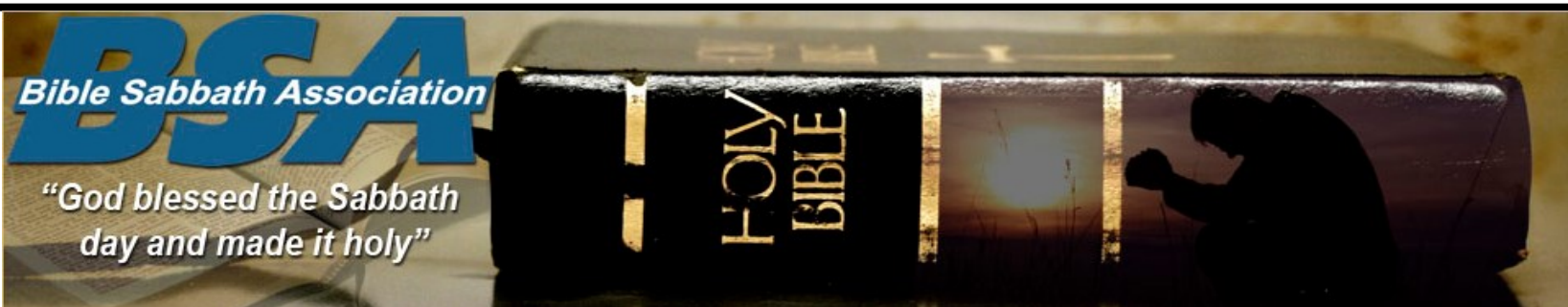
We hope that everyone likes the story of the Kusch Family this edition. Please tell us YOUR story of conversion and walk with Christ, too!

Ed.

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