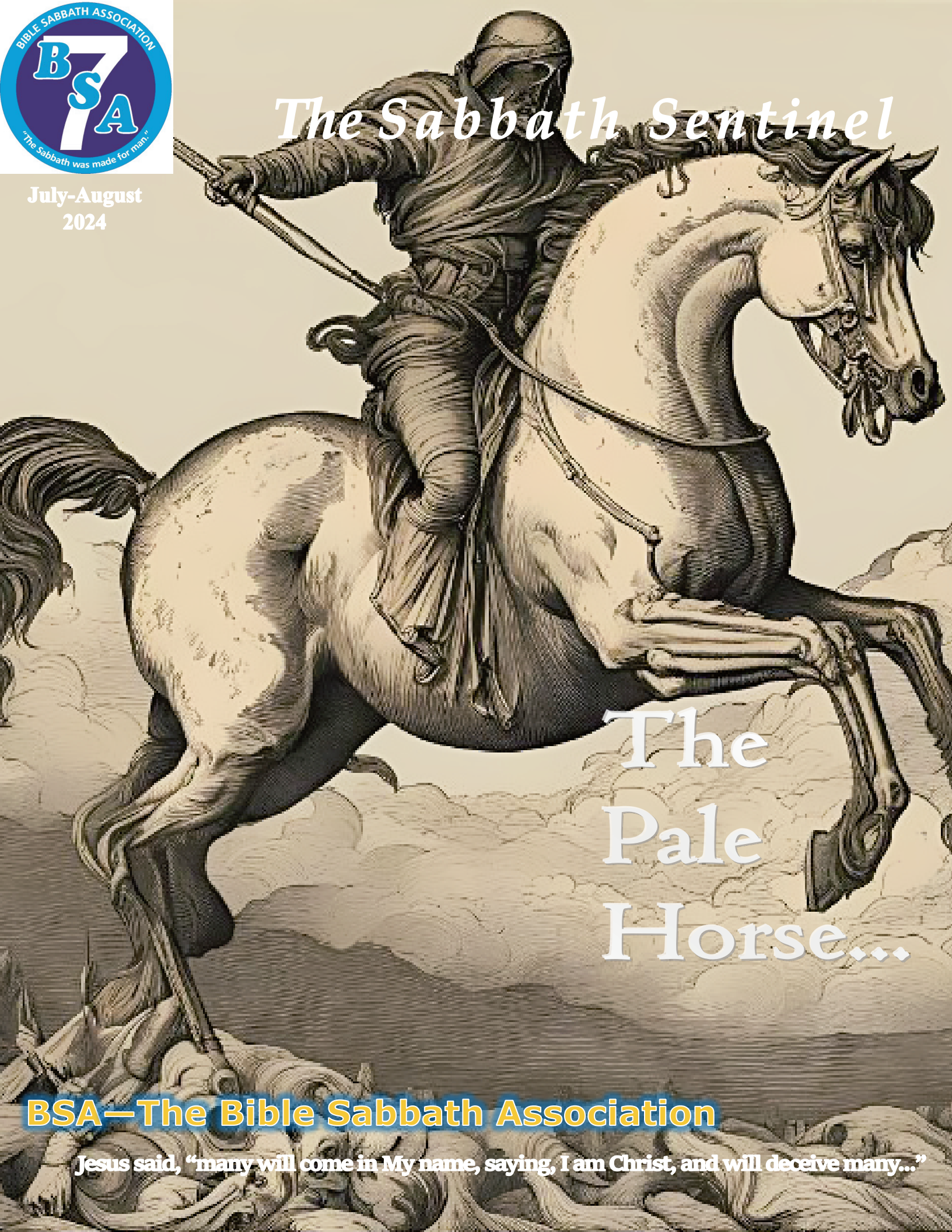




The Sabbath Sentinel

July-August
2024



The
Pale
Horse...

BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "many will come in My name, saying, I am Christ, and will deceive many..."

The Sabbath Sentinel July-August, 2024

Volume 78, No. 4, Issue 627

FEATURES

- 3 President's Corner—"Doing as God Desires ..."
by Dr. Royce Mitchell
- 6 "Parable of a Church Building"
by Daniel Botkin
- 8 "Guilty As Charged!"
by Anonymous
- 10 "All Our Busy Rushing Ends In ... Nothing!"
by Tommy Willis
- 13 "The Pale Horse"
by Darl Arbogast
- 16 "Do You Know God?"
by Daniel Campau
- 20 "The Jewish Ceremonial Sabbaths & God's Sabbath Day"
by Wesly Kipkoech

Cover photo courtesy of [deviantart.com](https://www.deviantart.com).

Please come visit us on our Facebook

page which is located at: [https://
www.facebook.com/groups/biblesabbathassociation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/biblesabbathassociation)

and www.facebook.com/SabbathSentinel.

Don't forget to LIKE us!

If you'd like more information on the Sabbath

Day, please visit

www.biblesabbath.org.

Also, visit our new blog at:

www.sabbathsentinel.org!



The Sabbath Sentinel is published bimonthly by The Bible Sabbath Association, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Copyright © 2023 by The Bible Sabbath Association (BSA). Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited except as noted below. Nonprofit bulk rate postage paid at San Dimas, California.

Editor: Dr. Royce Mitchell, tsseditor@yahoo.com.

BSA's Board of Directors for 2024-2027

President: Dr. Royce Mitchell, tsseditor@yahoo.com.

Vice President: Daniel Russo

Secretary: Sharon Darling

Treasurer: Bryan Burrell

Office Manager—Larry Nelson

Directors at Large: Craig White, John Lemley, Brandy Webb

Copyrights and Trademark: The materials published in *The Sabbath Sentinel* (TSS) are copyrighted and are not for republication without the approval of the BSA Board of Directors (Board) and specific acknowledgement of TSS and the Bible Sabbath Association as the source. The BSA Logo is trademarked and is not to be used for any purpose without the specific permission of the BSA Board.

Subscriptions: write to: The Bible Sabbath Association, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or email to office@biblesabbath.org. *The Sabbath Sentinel* is sent free of charge to all who request it in the U.S. If you live outside of the U.S., please send us a donation of \$25 (US) to cover overseas postage. **Voluntary contributions to the Bible Sabbath Association make publication of *The Sabbath Sentinel* possible.**

Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible in the United States. Those who choose to voluntarily support this international work to promote the Sabbath and proclaim gospel of the kingdom of God are welcomed as contributors.

Annual membership contributions: **General memberships**—individual membership is \$35/year (or \$5/month); Family Membership is \$60/year (or \$7/month); Institutional membership is \$100/year (or \$10/month); International (non-US) membership is \$50; Life Membership is \$700 in any one year.

Participating memberships—Bridge Builder Membership is \$100/year (or \$10/month); Pillar Membership is \$200/year (or \$20/month). Participating members may also directly assist the BSA in its direct outreach programs related to the BSA mission. All memberships include an annual subscription to *The Sabbath Sentinel*. Make all checks, drafts and money orders payable to **The Bible Sabbath Association**. (Most major credit cards are accepted).

The Bible Sabbath Association is dedicated to promoting the seventh day Sabbath. As a nonsectarian association for Sabbath-observing Christians, BSA accepts members who acknowledge Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) as their Savior, believe the Bible to be the Word of the Eternal God, and uphold the seventh day Sabbath. BSA takes no official position on other theological issues, and publishes *The Sabbath Sentinel* as a forum to promote understanding and to share items of interest with Sabbath observing groups and individuals.

Opinions expressed in *The Sabbath Sentinel* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Staff or of The Bible Sabbath Association.

BSA Worldwide Web Site: www.biblesabbath.org.

Correspondence and manuscript submissions: Address all inquiries to: *The Sabbath Sentinel*, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

E-mail: office@biblesabbath.org.

Address Service Requested: If moving, please update your address.



Doing As God Desires...

There are a veritable plethora of ideas related to what people think that God wants from His Children. You can turn on any religious program on Sunday morning and get any number of ideas generated from the fertile imaginations of preachers and teachers about what God will do for people, but precious little about what God desires His Children to actually do. For the largest part, this is because those same preachers are proclaiming the largesse of God out of one side of their mouth while proclaiming that one does not have to do anything to receive such blessings. But, is that what the scriptures teach us?

Instead of looking to men for their ideas, wouldn't the better path to understanding be to look to the words of Him who owns all of the silver and gold, who holds the keys to life in His hands? To my way of thinking, it would be far better to understand what God expects in exchange for what He gives than it is to look into the words of men who make their living promoting their own understanding of the scriptures rather than God's understanding.

Since we desire wisdom and understanding, we should ask ourselves what God has to say about our getting those. What, then, DOES God say about them? King Solomon was inspired to write these words in Proverbs 4:7-8 *Wisdom is the main thing; get wisdom; and with all your getting get understanding. Prize her, and she shall lift you up; she shall bring you to honor when you embrace her.*

We know that Solomon was granted many great things from God because he asked for wisdom rather than riches. Solomon knew, as we should also know, that you can't take riches with you through the grave to the other side. But, do we realize that we can take wisdom with us past this life, through the grave, and out the other side for use in God's great plan? I'll leave that discussion for a later article, but it is something for the reader to consider!

Returning to getting wisdom, we are told in Psalms 111:9-10 *He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever; holy and awesome is His name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all practicing them have good understanding; His praise*

stands forever.

All practicing WHAT have a good understanding? Looking at the previous verse we find that the practicing refers back to God's Covenant! We can sum this up with the statement that having a deep respect for God is what leads to wisdom, and actually living within the Covenant of God brings understanding!

What Covenant was it to which David referred? As he wrote, it is the Covenant that was commanded forever, which Covenant was preceded by the redemption sent to God's people! There is only one Covenant that fits that description. It is the Covenant that was handed down at Mt. Sinai. Within that Covenant we find many promises about the blessings that will come from God for obedience, and the curses that will follow from disobedience.

Why are people not taught this on Sunday morning instead of the pabulum being spoon fed to them—the swill of a watered-down God with watered-down requirements? You can't teach that everything from God is a free gift, that there is nothing you can do for those gifts while at the same time teach that there are requirements of obedience to God!

Returning to wisdom, Jesus taught on this matter also. He was approached by a ruler of some sort and asked a very important question in Luke 18:18, 20: *And a certain ruler asked Him, saying, Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ... You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and your mother.* Jesus pointed the ruler back to the Covenant at Sinai where the Commandments were issued to Israel as the people of God. Jesus was pointing him to wisdom!

Jesus advises us through Matthew 12:42 that His wisdom was even greater than that of Solomon! *The queen of the south shall rise up in the Judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it, for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, One greater than Solomon is here.*

And what did Jesus say was required of us? He told the ruler that to have life he needed to be keeping God's

Commandments! Yes, that means that we have to DO something! While eternal life is a gift, that gift does not come without strings.

I once gave a message in a location where several of my grandchildren were in the crowd. To explain the concept of the gift of eternal life, I place two silver dollars on the lectern and asked my two grandchildren to come forward and take them if they wanted the coins. Fortuitously, one sprinted up front and claimed a coin while the other was too shy to come forward to claim it. I then asked the question of the audience, “Were those coins free gifts from me?” Everyone nodded that they were gifts from me. I then asked, “Did the kids have to DO anything to receive them?” Of course, the kids DID have to do something! They had to come forward and claim the gift! I had placed a requirement on the free gifts of coins. That did not make the coins any less free gifts!

God’s wisdom is much the same. God offers us the free gift of true life, not this physical, chemical existence that we currently enjoy. But, to get this free gift, one has to get up out of his or her chair and go claim it. But, HOW do you claim that gift? Jesus has already explained that to us—keep God’s commandments, those issued at Sinai to all of Israel.

There was nothing new about this concept, though. We find in Deuteronomy 10:12-13 the following: *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, to keep the commandments of the LORD, and His statutes, which I command you today for your good?*

I can hear the Sunday morning apologists screaming from here: “That doesn’t apply to the New Covenant Christian!” This is a prime example of using human logic to justify disobedience to the God who provides all that we desire. Looking throughout the New Testament writings we find nowhere the concept that God has changed the terms of His Covenant with men. Yes, we find that God has opened the door for all men, even those who are not of Israel, to join His Covenant. But, nowhere do we find that God changed the terms by which we can access the blessings of that New Covenant. Instead, men are more interested in their traditions and commandments of men than what God wants from them.

Jesus once dealt with this problem, also. We read in Mat 15:7-9 *Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, say-*

ing, "This people draws near to Me with their mouth, and honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Jesus started out with naming their critical spiritual flaw: hypocrisy. The Sunday morning version of those hypocrites loudly proclaim that one does not have to do anything except accept Jesus as the sacrifice for their sins. You don’t even have to get out of your chair to do that! Moreover, Jesus proclaimed that it is possible to worship Him in vain, a worship that is not accepted by God!

What does it MEAN to accept Christ’s sacrifice? Did God send Israel and Judah into captivity and then turn around and grant mankind dispensation to do those things that caused Israel and Judah to be taken away? Yet, that is exactly what is being taught! And, people sit in pews week after week imbibing this spiritual poison endangering the everlasting life promised to all as a part of that New Covenant!

The worst part about this is that living God’s way is much easier than living the way taught every Sunday morning. Men say to just accept Jesus and be good and they will be saved. What does it MEAN to “be good?” That is a nebulous concept at best. It provides no real insight to what God expects of us!

God, on the other hand, gave us 10 commandments, and inspired Jesus to point to them for us so that we would understand that a New Covenant does not mean different laws, rules, statutes or commandments! In fact, the writer of the book of Hebrews, believed by most to be Paul, said the following in Hebrews 8:6 *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by so much He is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which was built upon better promises.* It is easily seen that we are dealing with a better covenant from God. God never promised Israel eternal life under the terms of the Old Covenants. But, the better promise of life as an immortal Son of God IS a part of the New Covenant. However, that New Covenant is built upon those better promises—NOT on different requirements to access said Covenant!

What were the requirements to access the blessings of the Old Covenants, then? We read in Deuteronomy 28:1-2 *And it will be, if you shall listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth.*

And all these blessings shall come on you and overtake

you, if you will listen to the voice of Jehovah your God. The requirements to receive the blessings of God were to obey the commandments of God. This has never changed!

Israel was never worthy of those blessings that came with the Covenant of Sinai. Like us, they were sinners. Many of those at the foot of Mt. Sinai had grown up without knowing God or His Commandments. Many had only the rumors and word of mouth wisdom that had been passed down across the 400 years of Egyptian existence. God refreshed their understanding of what He desired through the spectacular issuance anew of the Commandments of God. After having done this, God tells them that they need to obey to be blessed, but also allowed them the choice of disobedience and the resultant curses. Moses had not even come down from the mountain before the Israelites had replaced God with a golden calf and proclaimed *These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt*, Exodus 32:4. Despite that, God continued in His part of the Covenant while creating a way for the Israelites to have their sins covered so that God would continue to dwell with them.

Yes, repentance was available to ancient Israel, too! This was not a new concept for a New Covenant. We can read how David sinned a great sin with Bathsheba and yet God accepted his repentance for what he'd done. David DID have to pay the consequences for that great sin. Often we sin knowingly, also, and are then sometimes required to pay the consequences for our sins. Once again, there is nothing new about that in the New Covenant. Indeed, we find John the Baptist make this statement as he baptized before the death of Christ to establish the New Covenant: Matthew 3:7-8 *But seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said to them, O generation of vipers, who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance...* Repentance was known and understood even then.

Paul spoke on this subject, also: Act 17:30-31 *Truly, then, God overlooking the times of ignorance, now He strictly commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day in which He is going to judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He appointed, having given proof to all by raising Him from the dead.* Clearly, then, God desires that we repent. But of what should we repent?

We read in Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said to them, Repent*

and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are to repent for the remission of sins. How do we repent? Repentance is not some trumped up pseudo-sorrow manufactured so that we can claim repentance! Repentance is a change of mind and direction! We have to stop sinning and start doing those things that God commands! We have to DO His Commandments.

Men say that those old commandments were too hard for Israel. Jesus said something different in Matthew 11:29-30 *Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.* Jesus has already shown us that His burden was the Commandments of Exodus 20. Moreover, claiming that those “old commandments” were too hard puts the lie to the scriptures! Notice the insight contained in Luke 1:6 *And they (Zacharias and Elizabeth) were both righteous before God, walking blameless in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.* Keeping God's Commandments is NOT hard if we really care about what God says! Yes, Paul writes that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. But, remember, repentance was not a new thing to people of that time. There is no doubt that repentance played a part in the lives of Zacharias and Elizabeth. However, unless we WANT to do what God asks, then we will never reach the point of repentance and then will never access the New Covenant in Christ's blood shed once for our forgiveness!

The question now becomes, “Do we want to do what God desires?” We know that God desires to give us great and precious gifts among which is the gift of eternal life. He only asks that we do what He says is for our own good—keep His Commandments. The “ball is in our court,” so to speak. The decision is ours as it always has been. Do we want to do what God asks of us, or do we, like Adam and Eve, want to decide for ourselves what is right and good? Will we decide that we have sinned and turn to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God? Or, will we continue down that same path we've always been on, with a nebulous existence and an uncertain fate? As it was with Israel, it is with us—God says, “Choose life, obedience and blessings,” but allows us to choose disobedience, death and curses.

Which one will we choose?



Parable of a Church Building

Daniel Botkin

There once was a town that had no church building. In that town there was a group of Christians who decided to erect a church building for their meetings. They told the town's board members about their plans.

"We have zoning laws and building codes that you will need to follow if you erect a church building and use it for meetings," the town officials told them.

The mayor handed the Christians a book that listed all the details of the laws they were required to follow.

There were lots of laws. The building had to be set back from the highway a minimum distance. There had to be at least one parking space for every four seats in the main sanctuary. The parking lot had to be paved, and a stop sign had to be placed at each exit.

There were laws and restrictions regarding which types of building materials could and could not be used. The wiring and plumbing had to meet certain specifications. Smoke detectors had to be installed and fire extinguishers had to be in each room.

The size of the building determined how many exit doors were required, and each exit door had to have an exit sign above it.

These and many other state and local laws had to be followed if the Christians wanted to erect and use a building for their meetings.

These Christians had their building erected according to all the state and local laws. They met in the building for several years. Then one night the building was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Now once again there was no church building in that town.

Now here is an important question that this story raises:

Did the destruction of that church building cause all the zoning laws and building codes to disappear? Did the destruction of that building abolish the building codes and make those laws null and void? Did those laws about church buildings pass away because of the absence of a church building?

Of course not. All of those zoning laws and building codes were still on the books and were still valid. Not a single one of those laws was made void by the absence of a church building. Those laws did not pass away. And if those Christians ever decided to rebuild their church building in the future, they would be required to obey those laws like they did before.

Some readers might be thinking, "Okay, Captain Obvious, what is your point? Why are you telling us this story?"

Let me tell you what prompted this story. Two times in the same week, I heard two different Christians claim that when the Temple was destroyed in AD 70, all of the God-given laws that govern sacrifices offered by Levitical priests in the Temple passed away.

Both of these Christians made this claim in direct response to the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:17-18, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*"

"But what about the Levitical sacrifices in the Temple?" these Christians said. "All of those laws obviously have passed away."

My response to this claim is: No, those laws have not passed away. They are still in the Book, and they are still valid. Not a single one of those laws, not a jot or tittle, was made void by the absence of a Temple, just as the zoning laws and building codes for a church building are not made void by the ab-

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.

sence of a church building. And if the Jews ever rebuild the Temple in the future, they will be expected to obey those laws like they did before, just like the Christians in the above story would be expected to obey the zoning laws and building codes if they ever wanted to rebuild their church building in the future.

Just because a God-given commandment cannot be kept today does not mean that that commandment has passed away. Why is it important to know this? Because if you take the typical view of most Christians (i.e., the view that "all the laws governing sacrifices in the Temple passed away"), then in effect you are saying that Jesus was wrong.

Jesus said that not one jot or tittle of the Torah would pass away until heaven and earth pass. Heaven and earth have not passed away. Yet many Christians claim that some of the law did pass away. These Christians probably do not realize it, but they are saying that Jesus was wrong and they are right.

Why do so many Christians claim that some of the law passed away? From what I have seen, this claim is most often made in response to someone else quoting Matthew 5:17-19 to show why it is important for followers of Jesus to obey commandments like the Sabbath and dietary laws. If the Christian claims that "some of the law obviously passed away," then he can further claim, without any proof, that the Sabbath and dietary laws are included in that "some of the law" that allegedly "passed away."

But Jesus said that none of the law will pass away, not a jot or tittle, until heaven and earth pass. Who will you believe and follow, Christian friend? Jesus, or those who say that Jesus was wrong?

See *Daniel Botkin's website at gatesofeden.online.*



Guilty, as Charged!

Anonymous

Guilty, as charged. Yes, I'm guilty. I'm guilty of portraying the flood unknowingly as an almost silly childish event! To be honest, I've never questioned it; always believed it to be real but without putting much thought into it. I believed it because the Bible says it—faith in His words.

But, as our children grew and the schools and universities were teaching evolution, the flood never occurred, trying to rid all evidence of His words being true, my belief by faith did not transfer to the younger generation amidst all this “history” they were “learning” in schools! This scenario has been repeated many times over to the point where the younger generation of today has the highest rate of atheism and agnostics!

We failed our children, as a nation, by not teaching the FOUNDATION of our belief by faith. There truly is a foundation and it is called “Genesis.” If Genesis is not true, how can we expect people to believe the rest of the Book? If the flood never occurred and is referenced in the new testament (Matthew 24:27-28), how can we expect one to believe the Messiah is real?

Sadly, many churches are going along with the idea of millions of years for creation and showing the flood as a comic book! A very well known evangelist was quoted as saying you do not have to be concerned about the truth of scriptures, just truth of Yahushua dying for you! How erroneous!

In recent years, I've realized the churches who “should” be teaching the truth of scriptures are failing severely. Now, admittedly most churches in nominal christianity over the past hundred years or so have never taught truth...they teach that Sunday “became” the sabbath, the Messiah was born in the dead of winter, and celebrate His rising on a day named after a pagan deity! So, in a sense, it sadly makes sense...BUT, perhaps if churches went BACK (yes, back, because more truth used to be taught in the early days of our nation) to truly teaching “truth,” they could reverse a lot of what is going on in our nation.

Scripture says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, *“If my people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*



Perhaps if churches got back to basics, emphasizing the TRUTH of the flood and six days of creation, they could start helping folks to get back on track. Sadly, many of the leaders don't believe that and have no problem with “the big bang” because the Heavenly Father could have caused it.

However true that may be, it is NOT what He says in His words! He says, “in six days” and it is reiterated in the New Testament (Luke 13:14). On the flood, there is so much evidence today of a worldwide flood, it is incredible, yet people still say it's a story.

The pictures of Noah's Ark are generally so cartoonish, showing full grown animals, sticking their heads out the windows! What would have happened if that were so?

On top of that, does anyone really think our Father would have put fully matured animals on the ark and then say, “Be fruitful and multiply”? More likely, younger animals who have not yet started to procreate would have been on the ark, and due to their size, there would have been no issue with room onboard.

There is so much more to this, yet it is my prayer that the above causes some of the readers to think and get back to basics. It sure caused me to do so and I speak of Genesis as much as I can these days because that is the foundation of all Scripture! Genesis is referenced or quoted in the New Testament numerous times with the Messiah Himself doing so about a dozen times.



Hungry Hearts Ministries

Feast of Tabernacles 2024



Keep the best Feast of Your Life with Hungry Hearts Ministries. The Feast will begin at 6:00 p.m. on October 16, 2024 and continue through the late afternoon of October 24, 2024. Come celebrate the Kingdom of God in Jackson TN. For more information call 731 736-1055, or email at hungryheartsmin@aol.com.

All our Busy Rushing Ends in...

Nothing!

Tommy Willis

As a student of human nature, it has become clearer to me over the years the price we pay for not slowing down to think about the more important matters; and the big picture.

We are often extremely busy. Our minds are often fretting about the past or future; and we miss the joy of the present moment. I once heard someone say that we hope to be happy in a future that never arrives, because we fail to live in the now. Think about that.

The world will constantly throw things at us, and we will be able to deal with it all better by focusing on the present. Jesus said: *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."* (Mt 6:34) nkjv.

"Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is... all our busy rushing end in nothing." (Ps 39:4, 6) NLT.

We could avoid a lot of trouble if we took the time to slow down to pray more and think; because too often, we let emotions guide our actions. Many Christians are caught up in the division and emotions of the nation, and getting caught up in all of the bickering.

God tells us to come out of the world's ways. The world will do what the world does; but as Christians we need to make sure we stay with God, and don't get caught up in the attitudes of the world. We often have so much confidence in ourselves and our own ability; and we fail to see the danger of our human nature.

As trials increase, we can learn more why twenty

years after his baptism, Paul said that he kept doing the evil he didn't want to do (Rom 7:18-19). And we will see more of the need for prayer, because we can't make it on our own strength. It has to be Christ in us. Our human nature is a failure.

All the disciples had to learn this lesson when they all said they would stay by Jesus; and all fled when times got difficult. Peter wept bitterly after he had denied Jesus three times. He was in agony. But Jesus knew they would do this. 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; and that their human nature could not be depended on. It makes me think of the times I drifted from God, and failed to honor Him for all He did for me; and the utter failure I've often been.

But God would use this, as one of the things that would show them our Adamic nature for what it is. After they had produced failure of the greatest kind, then they would be ready to be used by the Master. And they went forth with the Power of God to go on and astound the world—because now the Life of the One who died on the cross would be in them to produce! Praise be to our wonderful God.

As we are taken through the Romans 7 experience, and see our utter failure in spiritual matters, to where we come to see *"nothing good dwells in me"* (verse 18), then we get a better grasp of matters; and see the biggest enemy is when we look in the mirror.

As our society continues to crumble, we will need to draw close to the one who died on the cross for us, to have His ability to overcome. No wonder Paul

said: *"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."* (Gal 6:14) niv.

One of the major lessons we need to learn is the danger of our human nature. We will come to see more of the reality of Jeremiah 17:9, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* KJV. The hatred is building, and the darkness grows, and many can't see where they are going (1 John 2:9-11). I think about how the two words: "prayer" and "danger" connect here; we often don't pray as we should because we don't see the danger.

Since all our busy rushing ends in nothing, let us learn to slow down from the busy rushing of the world to spend time with God, and ask Him to examine our lives as David did: *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test my thoughts. Point out anything you find in me that makes you sad, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."* (Ps 139:23-24) TLB.

After a lifetime of failure, I'm keenly aware of the danger of my corrupt human nature. Thirty years ago, God healed me of my unforgiving heart; but what I did not see at the time was that this was only the "tip of the iceberg" of my Adamic nature. More failure over the years continued to reveal more. And five years ago, God revealed to me how I had drifted, and I never even realized I did. And he used Rev 3:15-20 to mercifully bring me to repentance. He stands at the door and knocks; but he will not force us to open the door. Jesus says: *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* KJV.

But keep in mind, each time you drift, you will find it harder to find your way back. I now dread not praying as I should. I may not find my way back next time.

As we study Isaiah 55:1-2, God asks why do we labor for that which does not satisfy? Many things can become an idol; it can be the TV, money, politics, social media, cell phones, are just some that dis-

tract us from our prayer life. But whatever is hindering us from spending time with God in prayer and meditation, needs to be put away.

God's peace is given freely; but we usually don't seek it as we should until after we have spent a lifetime seeking that which does not satisfy. We have to open the door (Rev 3:20), and come out of the world with all its consumerism and idols, to have the mind set free for a better relationship with Him. The days ahead are going to be very difficult; we need to grab on to God and stay with Him.

God will give us the peace we need to endure. The best thing we can do is spend time with the best Friend we will ever have. But so many are so distracted with their phones or other distractions that they can't spend time with God as they should.

As this nation and the world gets shaken as scripture says it will, He will be your comfort and protection in the days ahead. Focus on Jesus Christ; get to know and trust Him. Stay with Him in prayer; and he will keep us from falling away from the faith, as Jesus said so many Christians will.

"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," (Jude 24).



“Remember the Sabbath...”

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

<https://commonfaithacademy.org/remember-the-sabbath>



SCRIPTURE NEWS 2 USE

There is a new website out there dedicated to two purposes. First, to have the books of the

Bible in form that even younger people can understand. It is beneficial for home-schoolers as well as useful for Sabbath lessons.

<https://scripturenews2use.org/bible-books>

The other purpose is to encourage all people to read their Bibles to “prove” what is true and what is not, challenging for themselves what is commonly taught.

<https://scripturenews2use.org>

The time is shorter than we may think!
May our Heavenly Father guide and direct all to draw them closer to Him!

THE PALE HORSE

Darl Atbogast

Jesus the Christ called His disciples to Him as he sat upon the Mount of Olives looking out over Jerusalem and saw it as it was then. Pouring through His mind were visions of what lay ahead. Jesus wanted His disciples to know and understand exactly what was going to come to pass in generations to come. As they listened to Him, their interests were piqued and they wanted to know, ‘what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?’ He proceeded to give them a litany of events that would take place prior to His return.

Christ, the Revelator, who inspired the Holy Scriptures to be written, knew in advance what mankind absent of the guidance of the Holy Spirit would be like. He inspired Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Moses and many other prophets to record in advance events that would take place throughout history. These events would come and go and the people of the earth would be oblivious to what was taking place. Those living in their time lived through the rise and fall of empires, they experienced the turbulence in weather, volcanic explosions, hurricanes and earthquakes in various places and for them it was just the way it was.

The same holds true for us today, we are living in the here and now, the events taking place before our very eyes are being explained away by science and meteorologists. Kingdoms are on the rise while others are in decline or failing. For most that is just life; just the way things are.

Christ told His disciples that there is a tremendous significance to these coming events and to keep ‘watch.’ He told them that the generation that sees all these ‘things’ come to pass would be the generation that will see HIM come back to the earth in power and in glory. Christ the Revelator revealed these signs through symbols to the Apostle John, the one He loved. The question is, is there any significance to the events taking place today? Yes!

Most people of today do not understand the seals that Christ removed from the scroll He received from His Father as written in Revelation 5 and 6. Exactly what do these four horsemen represent as they ride forth throughout the earth wreaking havoc, death and destruction? One of these horses is PALE in color following this horse and rider is death and the grave. If Jesus the Christ didn’t put a stop to the four horsemen bringing devastation to the earth no flesh would remain alive. Matthew 24:22 NKJ – *Jesus said, And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

The forth horse denotes the color of death, a yellowish green color, light green of a plant or paleness of a sick person.

Revelation 6:7,8 NKJ - *When He (Jesus the Christ) opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades (the grave) followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

Disease travels in tandem with fear; while the first seal can lead to death by the thousands and the second seal can unravel the social fabric disrupting the precarious balance of relationships essential for the stability of nations. These seals represent powerful forces that will devastate human life on earth.

These seals have a cumulative effect as false religion will cause instability within a relationship between nations which leads to war. Famines will follow, malnourishment comes and social systems will break down and mankind will be more prone to disease. These seals depict the ferocity of problems unleashed on the world in the lead-up to “The Day of the Lord.” Other calamities will follow as written in Luke 21:25,26 NKJ – *Jesus said, "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken."*

The term ‘the sea and the waves roaring’ means great rolling masses of waves crashing upon the shores for example: When a massive tsunami hits thousands of people will die making the spread of a disease epidemic. By the time of the 4th seal when the ‘pale horse’ completes his ride ¼ of the inhabitants on the earth will have experienced incredible devastation and death.

To understand how bad it is going to be we need to look back on history.

In the 14th century ‘black death’ the Bubonic Plague came upon Europe killing 1/3 to 1/2 of Europe’s population; approximately 20 million people died. Whole towns were depopulated, social structures completely broke down, parents abandoned children, husbands and wives left each other to die. It had been reported that 5,000 bodies were lying dead in an open field and no one around to bury them.

During this horrifying time the Bible was the primary means to measure the natural calamity.

The Bubonic Plague came to America from Asia in 1899 and even today cases of this disease is still being reported. We know this disease originates in rodents and is usually trans-

mitted by fleas, while animal bites can also transmit this disease.

The great plague of London in 1664-65 killed more than 70,000 in a population of around 460,000. An outbreak in Canton and Hong Kong in 1894 left 80,000 to 100,000 dead; within 20 years this disease spread from southern China throughout the whole world killing more than 10 million people.

God is giving us warning after warning as written in Leviticus 26:21 thru 25 NKJ - *Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate. And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins. And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.*

Our disobedience to the Great God, the God of heaven and earth is the reason for all of our problems.

Deuteronomy 32:22 thru 25 NKJ - *For a fire is kindled by my anger, and shall burn to the lowest hell; it shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. I will heap disasters on them; I will spend My arrows on them. They shall be wasted with hunger, devoured by pestilence and bitter destruction; I will also send against them the teeth of beasts, with the poison of serpents of the dust. The sword shall destroy outside; there shall be terror within for the young man and virgin, the nursing child with the man of gray hairs.*

The history of war is a violation of God's law 'Thou shall not murder' plagues have been used as an offensive weapon against the population. The Mongols would catapult plagues infested dead bodies over walls of besieged cities and thousands would die as the disease spread throughout the city. During WW2 Japan dropped plagues infested flees on China. After the Gulf War in 1991 weapons inspectors confirmed that Iraq had developed biological weapons; these weapons have disappeared and no one knows their whereabouts.

In June 2001 the Center for Strategic and International Studies hosted a senior level war game examining the security challenges of a biological attack on our soil. Oklahoma City was to have the appearance of a case of smallpox rapidly spreading throughout the country. The results of these tests were:

- 1) A biological weapon attack could threaten our vital national security interests.
- 2) Massive civilian casualties would result.
- 3) Breakdown in essential institutions would occur.

BSA membership carries with it the privilege of electing BSA Officers. Members are also entitled to free postage on all orders for literature.

Supporting the Bible Sabbath Association through your membership helps promote the Sabbath, and co-operation among Sabbath-keeping groups.

Following are the membership levels:

- (1) **Regular Members** (annual membership fee is \$35 for an individual or \$60 for a family),
- (2) **Institution membership**, (\$100 donation),
- (3) **Lifetime Members** (those who have contributed at least \$700 in one year and request a life membership),
- (4) **Bridge Builder Membership**, (\$100 donation),
- (5) **Pillar Membership**, (\$200 donation).

Bridge Builder and Pillar Membership bring with them the opportunity to participate in other of the Bible Sabbath Association's goals of promoting God's Sabbaths and fellowship between Sabbath Keeping Brethren.

Contact BSA via e-mail at office@biblesabbath.org for more information. You can also pay for membership at our web site, www.biblesabbath.org, using credit cards (handled by PayPal) or by writing to us at PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Please join us in our efforts to spread the message of God's Sabbath rest and mutual cooperation of the brethren to the rest of the world.

- 4) Violation of democratic processes would take place.
- 5) Massive Civil disorder.
- 6) Loss of confidence in our government.

The U.S. is experiencing a least 5 of these listed above currently for forgetting Yahweh our God. Within days a million people could be dead and two to three times that many would be infested.

Covid hit the world in 2019 and peaks in the U.S. December 2021 and is still stalking the earth today.

Beyond the human-engineered bio-warfare another type of pestilence is lurking, waiting quietly in the background and could erupt at any time. Just 80 years ago a sudden mutation in the virus that causes influenza killed 25-40 million people worldwide. The flu always has the capability to become global. And since the world population has quadrupled and more than a million people cross international boundaries every day the flu could come back and hundreds of millions of people could die.

Deuteronomy 22:22,24 NKJ - *The Lord will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish. The Lord will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.*

Leviticus 26:14 thru 18 NKJ - *But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.*

America wake up! Repent of your sins before it's too late!

What is the antidote to the pale horse, the 4th rider? Exodus 15:26, Deuteronomy 7:12 thru 15, Deuteronomy 28:15,22,28,28 NKJ - 26 and the LORD said, *If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord our God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."... "Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed above all peo-*

ples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you. "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: ... The Lord will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish. ... The Lord will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. The Lord will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart.

Whether we like it or not the human race is bound to its Creator in a relationship that will reach a conclusion. God will accomplish His purpose of bringing sons and daughters to glory. Mankind will come face to face with God and admit that He is the One and only true God.

In John's vision there is a white horse that will ride; this rider will bring an everlasting Kingdom of Truth, Peace, Justice and Health. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ the Son of the living God.

Revelation 19:11 thru 16 NKJ - *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Written in Matthew 7:21 thru 23 NKJ - Jesus said, *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

The Apostle Paul wrote an important message to the church of Corinth: 2 Corinthians 13:5,6 NKJ - *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.*



Do you Know God?

Daniel Campau

How well do you know God? Do you know how He will respond in most situations? Is it even possible to know this, since His ways are higher than ours? (Ref. Isa 55:8-9).

How often do we have a double standard for God? We put God in a box, wanting Him to wipe out those we see as His or our enemies, while showing us mercy.

Who can know the mind of God? I do not pretend that I know what God is thinking. My intention in this article is to attempt to get us outside of our often narrow view of who God is, and to try to expand our view of how God sees humanity. I will use His own words, and examples from Scripture. The goal is for all of us to become more like Christ.

Remember when Moses asked God to show him His Glory? In response to what seems like an arrogantly bold question, we see that God obliges, allowing Moses to see His back side. Yet an interesting thing happens during this experience. God makes the following declaration:

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." (NKJV throughout, underlining added).

Everyone is different, having a different personality, life experiences, and character traits. This makes each of us unique. Rarely can we fully understand one another's perspective, preferences, and reasoning. As a result, we may look down on others who are different from us; who make different life choices than us, or have different beliefs about God and who He is. Think for a moment about the personality differences in your own family alone. Then expand this to people outside of your family, neighborhood, religion, and culture. Now, think of all

the people that have lived throughout history, each person having their own viewpoint on life, culture, religion—perhaps about who God is, and how He interacted with them. How many of those individuals really had God figured out? Yet God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, understood and loved them, just as He now understands and loves you. He knows every person on the planet. He knows our thoughts and intents. He knows the inner workings of our heart. Some people do not even believe in God. Others believe in a god or gods, and are convinced that their god is the true god, and everyone else is wrong.

Yet, in all of this, the true God shows compassion and mercy, and HE is slow to anger, long-suffering. HE is full of goodness and truth. He calls those who seek Him His very own children.

Gal. 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

We are not only called the “children of God”, we also eventually will be like Him. It seems that we should also strive to be like Him now, learning to show grace and mercy as He does.

But are we sure we know God well enough to show compassion and mercy as He would?

Most of us attend our church or congregation because we agree with and believe the things that are being taught. While none of us would claim to have all truth, we might think we have a pretty good handle on it. We are comfortable. And since we have such a “good handle” on the truth, we may expect to get a little more attention and mercy from God. After all, HE knows who we are and how much we know.

Is it really about how much truth we have or about how much love we show?

Let's learn some lessons about how God sees things, instead of focusing on our own perspective.

What did God do with the evil inhabitants of Canaan when He promised their land to Abraham? God promised to make Abraham into a great nation. Yet because of God's patience, and perhaps compassion toward the people of the land, He gave them time. Genesis 15:15-16 *"Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace ... for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

Here is another example. How would you deal with King Manasseh? He was one of the most wicked kings of Israel or Judah. Indeed, he was so evil that he caused the people to act worse than the nations who God had removed from the land (2 Chr. 33:9). God used Assyria to humble Manasseh (2 Ki. 21:11-12), capturing him and taking him away in bronze shackles. Yet look what happens when Manasseh, now a captive in Babylon, repents and turns back to God. Not only does God show mercy, but He restores Manasseh as king back in Jerusalem (2 Chr. 33:11-12). Would you have wiped out Manasseh to stop his evil?

Now consider how Christ viewed the woman at the well. She had been married to five husbands and was now living with a man to whom she was not married at all.

John 4:9-10 *Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water. In this account, Yeshua did not condemn her for her wrong actions or beliefs. In fact, He offered her something much more important than correcting her sin. What was it? Even though she was ignorant in so many ways regarding the true God, Yeshua showed mercy. Notice that Yeshua's mercy was not dependent on how much truth she understood, or her background. And He is still the same.*

How did Yeshua interact with the woman caught in adultery?

John 8:10-11 *When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

Committing adultery is prohibited within the 10 com-

mandments. In the dialogue between Yeshua and the young rich man in Mathew 19:16-18, adultery is listed once again as one of the behaviors which would prevent a person from entering into eternal life. Yet Yeshua, instead of condemning the woman caught in adultery to immediate death, extended mercy, grace, and time for her to change, along with the admonition to go and sin no more. Notice that Yeshua offered mercy and then truth. Would you have handled the situation differently?

How do you relate to your neighbor who mistreats you? The person who steals from you? The one spreading gossip about you? Do you, as Yeshua demonstrated, refrain from condemning those who are violating God's commands? Can you instead look at them with mercy, perhaps even teaching and allowing time for change?

What if this neighbor we are discussing claims to be a Christian? Now do you have the right to be harsh with them when they sin? What if they don't believe in God in just the same way that you do? Are you at liberty to bad-mouth or condemn that neighbor?

What about your other neighbor? Perhaps a Catholic one who sincerely believes he is obeying God while attending weekly mass, bowing down to images, and praying to dead people: who doesn't read his Bible at all. Surely you can talk ill of this person, right?

Well, how does God view this person?

God knows his thoughts. He knows that this Catholic is doing many things "right" according to the way he has been taught his entire life. He knows that he was only taught to keep 8 of the 10 commandments. He knows this person was taught to pray to the "saints." He knows that this person was told the Bible is too difficult to understand and can only be interpreted by the local clergy.

God also knows that this person has great potential in his Kingdom, and He would like to see him in His Kingdom, if this person will turn and seek God with all of his heart. (Hebrews 11:6-7, Jer 29:13.) Maybe God is giving time for a "neighbor" to show him a better way?

What about us? Do we see the same potential in an apparently ignorant person? Can we forgive when we are offended? Can we pray for our enemies, or the person with a different perspective on doctrine? We would want others to show patience with our ignorance, and for God to show us patience and grace with our own misconceptions while we are growing and overcoming.

Every person on the planet has the potential to be a child

of God. Whether or not we fulfill our potential has to do with our choices. Do we seek, follow, and obey God, or do we simply chase after what feels good, all the while judging everyone else who thinks differently than us.

Yeshua said: (Luke 9:24) "For whoever will save his life will lose it. But whoever will lose his life for My sake, the same will save it."

God's ways are very different from the world's, and from our way as well. (Jer 17:9).

How do you view the Muslim who hates anyone who does not follow his god, who treats women with disdain and believes non-Muslims are less than human infidels? What if this person does terrible things in the name of his god, murdering, raping, and destroying? (I am not sure that the answer to this second question can be expressed in the purpose of this article. It seems like a completely different level of circumstances which may perhaps only be explained by God taking His protective hand off of the one who is attacked for reasons we can't fathom...I don't know how mercy is a component on either side of such a situation)

How does God see this person? Even if God knows they may never change. He knows the end from the beginning: Isa. 46:9-14, God does not necessarily immediately wipe him out as we may think He should. Why?

Have you ever heard anyone say to you? If God is so good, why do I see "Fill in the Blank"...any variety of atrocities and injustices?

Very real atrocities do indeed cloud our perception of God's mercy and justice. We may think God is not good, or there is no God, because He has not behaved and ruled the world in the way consider just. These are difficult situations to process. We do not always have a satisfying answer. We can only cry out to God for understanding and patience, and trust that He is always good and right.

Can we still choose to love and show mercy? Perhaps by our actions, someone can come to know Him more fully?

What about your own picture of God? Do you ever wonder why God hasn't done this or that?

Do not be deceived, there is a time for God's judgment. A time for God to wipe out the wicked. There is also a time coming when the Son of God, our King, will say, "depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!", even

though they have called Him Lord and Master. (Mt. 7:23). However, it is not up to any of us to determine when or how God should show mercy or judgment. Yeshua said we are not to judge others, because we will be judged with the same measure. Instead, we are to do what our Master has instructed, and trust Him as judge.

Read the following scripture carefully, and compare the instruction regarding treatment of our neighbor, including our enemy.

Matthew 5:38-48 *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'* "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

"And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. "Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, *"that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore, you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."*

It is most humbling to read Yeshua's words in Matthew 5. They paint a radically different picture than the rest of the world's outlook on how to treat our neighbors and enemies. Perhaps these words challenge our own view.

Matthew 7:1-2 *"Judge not, that you be not judged. "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*

What does Yeshua mean when he says not to judge? Some would say we should not only accept, but support every person in all that they want to do, no matter how wicked, and no matter the affect on others. Some congregations have accepted, with open arms, completely unbiblical views on sexuality, gender, racism ideologies, and morality.

Does this widespread acceptance match Yeshua's exam-

ple when he didn't condemn the adulterous woman? Actually, if we think that Yeshua was condoning her behavior, we must read the account again.

Mercy first. Than instruction.

Is it possible to not judge someone while simultaneously leading them to truth in God's Word?

Is it possible in this modern world to unconditionally love someone without condoning sinful behavior? This can only be accomplished properly with wisdom from God and His spirit working in and through us.

Remember when Christ yelled at the money changers and overturned all of the tables in the temple? If we handled every situation like that, we would soon be without friends, yet Yeshua knew this is exactly what was needed in the temple at that moment. However, this aggressive outburst was not His usual behavior.

Years ago, it was popular to wear a stretchy little wrist band with the acronym WWJD?. (What Would Jesus Do?). For a time, it was a great reminder. Soon, however, people forgot to follow what the letters suggested.

Shouldn't it be our goal to actually react and respond to others as our Savior did?

Start by learning and understanding how He responded. Read the accounts over and over. We must ask God to show us what we need to learn from the accounts. Then, as we face challenging encounters with others, we must pray for help so that we can respond in a Christ-like manner. Ask God for the same love as Yeshua would show if He were right there.

If we are true disciples of Messiah, we should be identifiable as one of His followers. Therefore, we should respond to others as He would. Certainly not a simple task.

Galatians 5:18-23 *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.* (Notice the similarities between this list and the statement of God when He passed before Moses in all

His glory). Here we have clear instruction on how to conduct our lives as a follower of Messiah. We are not to be doing the works of the flesh, nor condoning others who continue in these sinful behaviors. Instead, we are to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. Are we perfect in this? No. However, just as we would want mercy when we stumble, we can show mercy when others fail. Teach truth in love.

Again, notice how Yeshua interacted with sinners. He loved and instructed them, never condoning or coddling.

Obedying God by following His instructions and accepting His definition of right and wrong, is an eternal life matter.

Romans 8:13-15 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

May we be recognized as followers of Messiah by how we live our lives, and by the way we interact with our neighbors and those who are different. This is only possible by God's Spirit in us.

Let's end with this encouragement.

Matthew 19:25-26 *When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

God loves you and wants you to be in His Kingdom. To get there, you must choose life. Moses explained this clearly in the book of Deuteronomy. (Deu. 30:19) *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;*

Ask God to show you not only how to choose life, but how to be a ready tool in His hands as He expresses His mercy for others, helping them choose life too.



THE JEWISH CEREMONIAL SABBATHS AND GOD'S SABBATH DAY

Wesly Kipkoech .

The Sabbath question is sometimes hard, and confusing for many people to deal with. It normally puts preachers in an awkward situation whenever they are asked for clarification, leading to them making many contradictions in their explanations. Many of them generalise The Ten Commandments' Sabbath and the Jewish ceremonial Sabbaths hence, not only misleading their members but also confusing them more and risking sanitizing the sins against God!!! I think this is so dangerous that even their conscience and those of their audience might judge them wrong!

The Jewish ceremonial Sabbaths were those rest days that were given to Jews to commemorate certain events in the Old Testament. They were normally after or before certain feasts or both. Below are some of them:

The day of Atonement Sabbath. (Lev 16:28-32 & Leviticus 23:27-32).

This was done only once a year on the 10th day of the 7th month (from even on the 9th day to even on the 10th day.) It was referred to as a 'SABBATH' and it required people not to do any work... It was a ceremony for cleansing their sins through burnt offerings prepared by the priests. This was perfectly fulfilled, finished, and abolished by the coming of Jesus the Messiah as the Lamb of God himself. (John 1:29). This atonement was just but a shadow of the actual atonement by Christ as recorded in Hebrews 10:1-14, and Hebrews 9:11-28 that, in his body, he took away our sins and perfectly cleansed us once and for all as opposed to the Old Testament atonement that was done yearly... This SABBATH of the Day of Atonement- therefore, came to an end when the real atonement (Christ Jesus) was offered as a sacrifice for our sins. Paul confirmed this in Romans 5:11 saying, "... *And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement* " Do you think this was the weekly Sabbath? NO!

The Feast of Trumpets' Sabbath (Leviticus 23:24).

This was done on a yearly basis on the 1st day of the 7th

month. It was a memorial for the blowing of trumpets. They blew these in Jericho. It was only for the Jews for it was them who knew when and why the trumpets were blown. This Sabbath was not for the gentiles. It's null and void in the New Testament dispensation.

The Feast of Booths/ Tabernacles' Sabbath (Leviticus 23:34,39- 41).

This feast was done from the 15th day to the 21st day of the 7th month. On the 15th and 22nd days were the Sabbaths. It was a holy convocation for them. This was a memorial of how they stayed in booths (tabernacles) in the wilderness as they journeyed to Canaan (Leviticus 23:43). It was a Feast SABBATH for the Israelites... The gentiles did not stay in booths and so they were not obligated to do the feast or observe these two Sabbaths.

These were done away with by the coming of Yahshua (Jesus). Notice that it was done on the 1st and the 8th day of this month; How long is a week? This, therefore, wasn't a weekly Sabbath day.

The Passover Sabbath (Leviticus 23:4-8; Exodus 12:15-17)

This was a feast done on Abib /Nissan which was the first month. It was from the 14th evening to the 21st day evening. It was a commemoration of the Israelites coming out of Egypt; the day the firstborns were killed as the Angel passed over the Israelites' houses. The first and the last day were taken as the Sabbath. This is what was referred to as 'the high day Sabbath' as in John 19:31. Christ was crucified during the preparation for this Sabbath (Luke 12:54; John 19:14)

This feast was pointing to Yahshua (Jesus) our Passover lamb as Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8. It came to its intended end when Jesus died on the cross. Continuing in this feast and this Sabbath past this point-death of Christ- is a disgrace to the blood of Jesus and might be interpreted to mean that he hasn't come yet, but we are still waiting! This Sabbath was not for the gentiles! They did not go to Egypt at any time of their history; no Angel ever passed over their houses to spare them the killing of their firstborn; this Sabbath was therefore purely Jewish!

Keeping it in the gentile nations and the New Testament is null and void.

The Seventh year Sabbath (Leviticus 25:2-4)

This was a full year Sabbath. It was called, 'the year of the Sabbath' no planting was done throughout this year! The land itself was to rest during this year. It doesn't apply to us in this current age. It was for the land of Israel alone which had not enjoyed any rest when the Canaanites and other nations dwelt in it.

These Sabbaths were just memorials of various Israelites' milestone events. Just like any other nation which has different milestones and days to commemorate them e.g Jamhuri day in Kenya. They were given through Moses and were written in the BOOK of the law. ALL these and everything else in these laws of Moses, were for the Israelites alone and were done away with by the coming of Christ. They were abolished!! (Galatians 3:10-11, 19---) and as Colossians 2:14-16 puts it, these ordinances were nailed to the cross and that none should ever judge you on them!! They are gone and gone forever!!

God's Sabbath day

One might however think and generalize that God and Christ did away/abolished anything going by the name 'SABBATH'. Which just means 'REST'? But the Truth is; there is one Sabbath that remains perpetual and should be observed by not only the Jews but also the gentiles who would like to be the children of God! There is only one Sabbath that was and is not a memorial of Jewish/Israelites events but GOD'S CREATION AND AUTHORITY! There is only one Sabbath that existed from the first week of creation many years before the first Jew! There's only one Sabbath in which God Himself rested, sanctified, and blessed!! There is only one Sabbath that was included in the TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD written by the finger of God and placed inside the Ark of the Covenant!! There is but only one Sabbath that is among the commandments that define what sin is! There is only one Sabbath made for man and Christ is even its Lord!! It is not Jewish! It is God's! It is the SEVENTH DAY (WEEKLY) SABBATH!! My dear reader, do you know and keep this WEEKLY Sabbath on the 7th day? God has always wanted you to keep it for you to be righteous. It is universal to the whole world.

God Himself, after creation, instituted this 7th-day rest. He blessed this 7th day and sanctified it (Genesis 2:1-2), long before Jews existed, and before making it one of the

Commandments. IT'S A MEMORIAL OF GOD'S CREATION. Keeping it is honoring God and His Creation... it's more of THE 7TH DAY than the word SABBATH which came many years after God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it!

In the Commandments, (Exodus 20:8) He specifically used the word "REMEMBER" implying that it was something that was already there. It takes us back to the creation week by saying, "*For, in six days, God made heaven and the Earth and all therein, and rested on the seventh day and blessed it...*" _ He continued in Exodus 31:18 that it's His SIGN FOR HIS PEOPLE. Do you have this sign? It's good to have it. God identifies His people through it. Christ Himself honored this and could even go to the place of fellowship every Sabbath (Luke 4:16). He mentioned that this was made for man (Mark 2:27-28). It's something made for you! Why don't you want to acquire what belongs to you?

Paul took this seventh-day Sabbath to the gentiles who enjoyed and embrace it (Acts 13:14, 42--48-The Antioch; Acts 16:12, 21-the Romans & the Philippians; Acts 17:2-Thessalonians, Acts 18:4-The Greeks). This shows that the 7th day, weekly Sabbath was not abolished by the death of Yahshua (JESUS) and that, it was not pointing to the Messiah-given rest from sins as in Matthew 11:28

NB: If Christ is the seventh day-The Sabbath- as is commonly alleged, then He can't again be the 6 days of work! What else can we substitute with the 6 days of work? The 4TH Commandment says, "SIX DAYS shall work be done. But the SEVENTH day is the Sabbath of the Lord..." Thus, it's the will of God for you, dear reader, to work for six days and rest on the seventh day. Christ did not come to cancel this command requiring people to work for six days and giving them a weekly rest from their physical work, to remember their God and honor his creation and authority.

This particular Sabbath was even known and kept during the times of John-The Revelator-the last Apostle, many years after Christ! (John 1:9, 10). He said, "*I was in Spirit in the LORD'S DAY...*" This was on a weekly Sabbath day which is the only LORD'S DAY mentioned in the scriptures! (Genesis 2:2; Exodus 20:8-11 & Isaiah 58:13-14.) God, Himself calls it 'MY HOLY DAY' in Isaiah 58:13. This shows that John was in the spirit on this Lord's Day-the Sabbath day- and that it wasn't abolished by the death of Christ!

The Ten Commandments -of which THE SEVENTH

DAY SABBATH is amongst them- remain the only Devine law of God that separates His people from the sinners and qualifies one for His kingdom; they are a standard for right and wrong (Mathew 19:16- 18; Revelation 14:12.) They show that you know and love God (1John 2:3-5). They are not burdensome either as John puts it in 1 John 5:3, 4.

This fourth Commandment- THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH REST- summarises the 1st Law- "LOVE YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, MIND, HEART & STRENGTH, (which is the right attitude to God)-Mathew 22:34---. So, keeping it shows that you Love God and vice versa. I can Test myself now! 'Do I love God with all my heart and mind?' No wonder God used the word, "REMEMBER!" It should be in your mind!! Prayerfully put this in your mind, my dear reader, it's good for you to remember it.

In conclusion, it's good to note that the yearly Jewish ceremonial Sabbaths were only meant for the Israelites/ the Jews during the Old Testament dispensation, and that they were effectively abolished by the coming of Christ, the true and only lamb of God. The seventh day Sabbath, on the other hand, was not for the Jews/Israelites! It was and even now is for God Himself, it's made for His people. It's a MEMORIAL OF HIS CREATION which He said, "it's Very good" as opposed to the rest which were Memorials of Jewish events. They were under the law of ordinances and feasts that were abolished. These Sabbath days are the ones mentioned in Colossians 2:14-16 that you should not be judged about it. They were all nailed to the cross.

Dear reader, you should not dishonor God by not honoring His Creation by breaking His seventh-day Sabbath which He gave us as a day to honor His Creation. 'Thou shall keep the Sabbath day Holy'

"Remember the sabbath day` Keep it holy.....' Exodus 20:8-11



Do You Want to Learn More About the Sabbath?

Are You or is Someone You Know New To the Sabbath?

The BSA now offers some free resources to help you learn about the Sabbath.

We have short, 1 or 2 minute audio clips on topics such as:

**“What is the Sabbath?”
and**

**“When is the Sabbath
and How Can We Know?”**

Free booklet download “A Beginner’s Guide to the Sabbath.”

- 1. Go to our website:
www.biblesabbath.org**
- 2. Click on the Products Menu**
- 3. Click on the “Free Resources” Link**

Do You Want to Learn More About the Sabbath?

Are You or is Someone You Know New To the Sabbath?

The BSA now offers some free resources to help you learn about the Sabbath.

We have short, 1 or 2 minute audio clips on topics such as:

“What is the Sabbath?” and

“When is the Sabbath and How Can We Know?”

Free booklet download “A Beginner’s Guide to the Sabbath.”

1. Go to our website:
www.biblesabbath.org
2. Click on the Products Menu
3. Click on the “Free Resources” Link

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!

The Sabbath Sentinel

A Bi-monthly Publication of
The Bible Sabbath Association
PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
CLAREMONT, CA
PERMIT NO. 500



Advertise in The Sabbath Sentinel

Text classified ads (20% discount for second time, 30% thereafter) are available at the rate of \$1.00 per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address; telephone numbers count as one word) for each issue in which the ad is published.

Display ads are available at \$150 per quarter page, \$250 per half page and \$400 per whole page for each issue the ad is published. Where possible your camera-ready copy will be utilized, or we will design your display ad for you for a one-time charge of \$200. Send copy for all ads and payment to The Bible Sabbath Association, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481, USA.

Discounts: Advertise in the TSS for more than one issue

and receive discounts: \$1.00 per word 1st issue, 20% off for 2nd issue, and 30% off for subsequent times. Quarter, half and full page ads can be discounted to a one issue free insertion if 5 insertions are paid for in advance.

Ad copy without payment will not be accepted for publication. Deadline is two months prior to publication (i.e. if you want your ad to appear in the September/October issue we must receive it before July). BSA reserves the right to reject or edit any ad copy.

Publication of articles or advertising does not imply endorsement by the Bible Sabbath Association or The Sabbath Sentinel, its editor or staff.