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BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY

April - June 2025

From the Editor: Examine Yourself

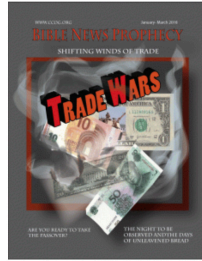
**The History and Truth About
Pentecost! Pentecost runs
from sunset May 31st
through sunset June 1st**

**Trade Wars are in Progress
Since the re-election of Donald
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About the Front Cover: Artwork developed for the Continuing Church of God.

Bible News Prophecy magazine is published by the Continuing Church of God, 1036 W. Grand Avenue, Grover Beach, CA, 93433. www.ccog.org

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Examine Yourself!

Christians should always have an attitude of a willingness to change.

The New Testament tells of that in many places. But it emphasizes Christians doing that before we partake of Passover, which occurs after sunset on April 11, 2025.

The Passover is a memorial of the death of Jesus Christ who is the Savior of the world. Partaking of the symbols of His broken body and shed blood mean that YOU have been selected to know and understand God's purpose. Being chosen as one of the ELECT to know God's truth carries sobering responsibilities. We cannot approach this event lightly.

WE MUST EXAMINE OURSELVES before Passover as the Apostle Paul wrote:

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:23-32; NKJV throughout unless otherwise noted)

So, notice that we are talking about the annual Passover. Oddly, many think the statement "as often as you drink it," means they can take it daily (even though the Church of Rome does not normally allow its lay members to drink at all) or weekly.

Yet, also notice that the only way to insure that you are not eating of the bread or drinking of the cup unworthily is to have first gone through personal examination. Most who think they are taking the Passover symbols weekly (or daily or monthly or quarterly) are not doing that.

Those who take Passover without examination are not properly discerning that their sins contributed to Jesus' suffering for us.

Anyway, what does it mean to be worthy?

What is your attitude? Is it like that of all your neighbors?

The Apostle John wrote:

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

As long as we live in this evil, Satan-ruled society, there will be tests and temptations to break God's

law.

The Apostle John wrote that real Christians keep God's commands:

1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:1-6)

If you do not strive to keep the commandments, you are not a real Christian. To learn more about them, check out the free book, online at ccog.org, titled The Ten Commandments: The Decalogue, Christianity, and the Beast.

This does not mean we never sin:

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ... 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (1 John 1:8,10)

We sin when we are tempted through our own lusts (James 1:14) to cheat, to lie in business, to boast, to swear, to gossip, to possibly commit adultery (Matthew 5:28), and to put other things before God.

And we as Christians — yes, as truly called and redeemed Christians — will slip occasionally and sin! But, as long as we are repentant, striving to overcome sin, God accepts us, applying Jesus' sacrifice (1 John 1:9). God continues to lead us. We live under grace (Ephesians 2:8).

No one is worthy of Christ's sacrifice, but not to take the Passover is to also deny Christ.

To take the Passover in a worthy manner, we must repent of our evil desires and ways, come to hate the sin that Jesus had to suffer and die for and work to set our will not to compromise God's law.

Jesus said our goal is to become perfect, and not operate like the world does:

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 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, 45 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. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:43-48)

You have to go beyond whatever cultural politeness is in your particular society.

You even are to strive to bring every thought under control:

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

You cannot, of yourself, make yourself perfect, but God can:

32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. (Psalm 18:32)

Keeping the Passover and understanding all its pictures, as well as striving to keep all of God's other laws, is vital to attaining that perfection Jesus spoke of.

Notice something that the Apostle Paul wrote:

6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

Notice that we are to purge out the old leaven. Leaven is a symbol of sin and hypocrisy and we are to remove it. Physically, we are to remove leaven from our houses prior to the start of the first day of unleavened bread as the Bible teaches (Exodus 12:19).

Do not think that you are so spiritual that you do not have any problems to overcome.

Do not think you are so spiritual that you do not remove the physical leaven from your homes and vehicles each year.

The Apostle Paul also wrote:

5 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. (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Now is the time, just before the Passover to examine ourselves to see whether we are truly right with God and in harmony with Him and His plan.

Do you realize that at this coming Passover you could eat and drink CONDEMNATION? Do you realize how high are the stakes?

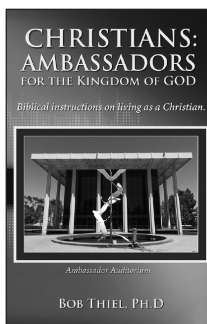
To prevent condemnation, we are told to examine ourselves this time of year.

Satan does not want you to do that.

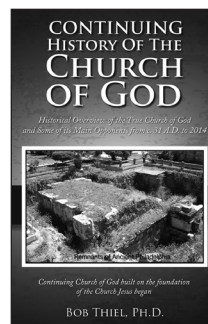
Therefore, resist Satan (James 4:7) and examine yourself.

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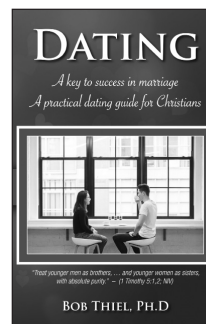
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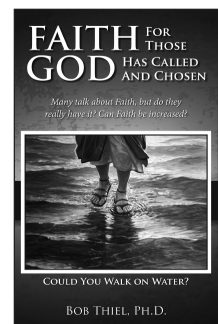
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The History and Truth About Pentecost!



Artist Depiction of Pentecost (Pixabay)

Editor's note: Pentecost runs from sunset May 31st through sunset June 1st in 2025.

The following edited article was written by the late Dr. Herman Hoeh and published by the old Radio Church of God in the Good News magazine for May of 1952 (and hence is in the public domain and can be used in this magazine):

Yes, I know you haven't heard the truth about Pentecost from the average pulpit, but it's time for you to get the chance to learn the truth which has been hidden from you for centuries. So let's understand the real meaning of Pentecost which is part of the faith once delivered to the saints.

Pentecost Centuries Before A.D.

In writing the book of Acts, Luke gives us this significant statement: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they (the disciples) were all with one accord in one place." Notice that in this first verse of Acts 2, the day of Pentecost WAS ALREADY FULLY COME and the disciples WERE in one accord BEFORE the Holy Spirit descended into them that day.

This account proves that Pentecost existed BEFORE the Holy Spirit came on that day in A.D. 31. Also notice that there were thousands of devout Jews gathered together in Jerusalem for this day. (Acts 2:5-12) These Jews did not come to receive the Holy Spirit. They were unconverted, but devout men, who were not as yet the disciples of Jesus and who did not yet know the way of salvation. They had to ask

Peter, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)

Now, WHY were all these people gathered together on this day!

To understand, we must know the meaning of the word Pentecost. It is from a Greek word and means "count fifty." All scholars and Bible students know that Pentecost — "fiftieth" — is merely the Greek name for one of the annual holy days God revealed to the children of Israel. Peloubet's Bible Dictionary says: "Pentecost, that is, the fiftieth day ... or Harvest Feast, or Feast of Weeks." It was also called the Festival of First Fruits and was appointed each year by counting fifty days from the day the wave sheaf was offered. (Leviticus 23:11, 15)

So the origin of Pentecost was not at the coming of the Holy Spirit in A.D. 31, but over fifteen hundred years before that time! It was to celebrate this festive day, that devout Jews from many lands, as well as the disciples of Jesus had assembled at Jerusalem.

Instead of abolishing the day of Pentecost, or feast

of first fruits, or His death, as you have been falsely told by many churches, Christ told His disciples to be in Jerusalem that day so that they might receive the Holy Spirit, the divine power of God. (Acts 1:4) God honored His day of first fruits (Exodus 23:16; Deuteronomy 16:10) or Pentecost, by giving the first fruits of His Spirit to those that obey Him. (Acts 5:32)

We shall soon see the special reason why God sent the Spirit this day and also the special meaning of the day of Pentecost FOR US TODAY!

Pentecost in the New Testament Church

When originally given by God, the day of Pentecost was commanded to be observed forever. (Leviticus 23:21) Jesus never abolished Pentecost — nor any of the other annual Holy Days. The day of Pentecost DID OCCUR after Christ's death that year as Luke records.

None of these annual festivals had burnt offerings or sacrifices on them when originally instituted. (Jeremiah 7:22,23) The sacrifices were added to these days and to every day of the year (Exodus 29:38) as a part of the service of the Levitical priesthood.

When the sacrifices and offerings were consummated in the death of Christ once for all, these usual offerings ceased to be made for conscience (Hebrews 9:13, 14) by those who were converted and who believed in Christ. But the command that Pentecost be observed forever as a Sabbath and convocation still remained. (Leviticus 23:21) That is why the apostles and disciples were gathered together with all the devout Jews on this occasion. If the disciples had not gathered on this day which was sacred to God, they would not have been there to receive the gift of God, His Spirit.

Even after the Holy Spirit came, Pentecost did not cease. Instead of being a memorial of the material harvest of the first fruit of the land alone, Pentecost, or the Festival of Harvest or First Fruits, had now a greater meaning. It became a memorial also of the first fruits of the Holy Spirit which makes possible

the first harvest of human beings for the Kingdom of God.

Not only did the Jewish Christians know this, but also Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, understood that this annual Sabbath was still commanded by God for His spiritual church. He “determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.” (Acts 20: 16)

Paul, the teacher of the Gentiles, wanted to keep Pentecost thirty years after the death of Christ!

At another time Paul spent the day of Pentecost in Ephesus, a Gentile city. (1 Corinthians 16:8) Yes, Pentecost, together with the other annual festivals, was observed by all those of the true original church which was under divine instruction from the apostles. (Acts 18:21; 12:3; 20:6; 27:3; 1 Corinthians 5:8; 11:20-34) Gentiles received the praise of Paul for following the churches of God in Judaea — the Jewish brethren. (1 Thessalonians 2:14)

Pentecost Centuries After A.D. ...

With the death of the apostles, a great change occurred, which most of you have never been told about. A terrible apostacy set in among the churches of God. Paul warned the Ephesians with whom he observed Pentecost, as we have already seen, that “after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw disciples after them.” (Acts 20:29, 30) “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Here is the place Paul warned Christians about the very fables that most of you have been taught since childhood by an apostate Christianity.

By the time Jude wrote his epistle, the fables of which Paul warned had already started. He exhorts:

“YOU should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares.” (Jude 3, 4) There were both Jewish and Gentile deceivers as we shall see.

Almost every church history will contain the information proving that many Christians of Jewish parentage returned to the tradition of the elders. (1 Peter 1:18) This tradition was not the true Old Testament practice, but the fables and errors of the uninspired Jewish teachers who made the law of God of no effect (Mark 7:13) Because of tradition, the Jews kept the Passover a day late, as they do to this day. (John 18:28) The Jews ALTERED the day on which Pentecost should fall, making it always the sixth day of the third month of the sacred calendar. Later they also altered Pentecost into two days. The Jewish Encyclopedia gives all the information on the beginnings of these “feasts of the Jews” as the apostle John spoke of them.

Since the Jews attempted to pervert the days of God by their traditions, WHAT ABOUT THE GENTILES? Did they adhere to the truth of the Bible, or did they corrupt the teachings of the apostles and change the day of Pentecost, too?

Remember, the Gentile Christians in the original inspired church observed Pentecost as we have seen. Therefore, we will naturally expect some PROOF IN LATER HISTORY that the church either kept this day pure or changed it.

If the Gentiles NEVER kept this day, as you have so often heard from the pulpits of the land, then we should NOT expect to find any record of Gentile churches observing a “Pentecost.”

The following extracts from histories obtainable at most libraries PROVE THAT THE EARLIEST GENTILE CHURCHES DID KEEP PENTECOST! These records speak of keeping Pentecost — a Pentecost that was changed in the immediate years that followed the death of the last apostles. This Pentecost, so-called, had become corrupted with SUN WORSHIP. It always fell on Sunday, the same as the pagan Easter substituted for the Passover.

Here is a plain statement of Hasting’s Dictionary of the Bible, article “Pentecost”:

“In the Christian Church the importance of Pentecost was continued and its significance emphasized by the outpouring of the Spirit on that day (Acts 2). The day of the week on that occasion is TRADITIONALLY represented as Sunday... Wieseler (Chron. d. Apostl. Zeitalter, p. 20) plausibly suggests that the festival was fixed on Sunday by the later Western Church to correspond with Easter.

“Among the early Jewish Christians observance of the Hebrew feasts continued, doubtless with fresh significance derived from the new revelation.”

Let’s notice these statements. Pentecost was continued in the early true Christian Church. It is TRADITION, that places Pentecost on Sunday according to Wieseler.

Now let us also take note of the Catholic Encyclopedia,

“Whitsunday, or Pentecost, a feast of the universal Church which commemorates the Descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles, fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ, on the ancient Jewish festival called the “feast of weeks” or Pentecost ... Whitsunday, as a Christian feast, dates back to the first century, ...”

Bingham’s Antiquities of the Christian Church, page 1157, 1158, says:

“The next great festival was that of Pentecost, which is taken in a double sense among the ancients. For sometimes it signifies the whole space of fifty days between Easter and Whitsuntide ... In the former acceptance Tertullian speaks of it, when he tells the Christians ... That Pentecost was a large space of time APPOINTED BY THE CHURCH for administering of baptism ... And hence it became a standing rule over the whole church to read the Acts in these fifty days of Pentecost, as appears from many other places of Chrysostom, Austin, Cassian, and the fourth council of Toledo.”

In his On Fasting, Chapter XIV, Tertullian says this:

“Our solemnities too will be bound to be new: else, if the apostle has erased all devotion absolutely ... why do we celebrate the Passover by an annual rotation in the first month? Why in the fifty ensuing days do we spend our time in all exultation?” (From Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 4, pp. 111-112.)

Obviously, Tertullian recognized that the Apostle Paul did NOT abolish all these days.

At other times, Pentecost was used to mean the specific day that ended the season of fifty days, during which “the newly-baptized wore their white and shining garments” — hence, Whitsunday. At one time the confusion over the day of Pentecost led the Council of Elvira, Spain, in 305 A.D., to condemn the tendency to celebrate it forty days after Easter.

The reason for the preservation of Passover and Pentecost to a great extent in the apostatizing church was the meaning these two annual holy days originally possessed. One pictured the death of Christ, the other the coming of the Spirit of God to ripen the FIRST HARVEST of human beings.

The fact that the Jews nationally speaking rejected Christ, our Passover, and spurned the Holy Spirit, made the false universal church cling to the name of the festivals commemorating these two portions in God’s great plan.

Since, however, the apostates of the universal church were almost wholly Gentiles, these men gradually developed their own customs to distinguish themselves from the Jews, and yet to retain the Christian or Jewish names.

The Reformation failed to restore the Holy Days of God. All the multiplicity of churches today either follow the custom of observing Pentecost on Sunday or else NEGLECT the day altogether. The time has come for us to get back to the faith ONCE DELIVERED to the saints. Let’s begin to keep holy, the days God made holy. It is time we quit this Babylon of religious confusion and human tradition and follow the paths of the saints through all ages who have remained

faithful to the truth of God.

What Pentecost Means in the Plan of God

To keep us in mind that this present age is only the preliminary or first harvest of human beings, God took the yearly material harvest of Palestine as the picture of the spiritual harvest. As you probably have already learned, there are two harvest seasons in the Promised Land. The first small harvest is produced by an early rain, the second great harvest by a later rain.

Pentecost was ordained forever at the end of the spring harvest season, so that we might remember year by year and never forget, that this present church age is not the great day of Salvation for all the world, but the day of salvation for only the few who are called out of this present evil civilization and given the Spirit of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:26 we find that “not many” of the great in this world are called. Everywhere, the Christians are spoken of as called out from the world. Not all the world is being called today. It is the “elect” or chosen who are called in Israel today; the rest are blinded so that God could IN THE FUTURE have mercy upon ALL. (Romans 11:7, 32)

The “harvesting” of human beings who are called in this church age to be heirs of the Kingdom of God is explained in Leviticus 23 beginning verse 9. Here the material harvest of grain was originally used as a type of the spiritual harvest.

The Israelites were not permitted to harvest their grain until the day the wave sheaf was offered. (Leviticus 23:10) This ritual, given to the Levitical priesthood to perform and therefore not practiced today, pictured the resurrected Christ being accepted by the Father as the very first human being to be born of God.

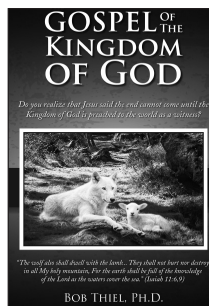
But notice this, the wave sheaf was merely the first part of the first harvest. It was a sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest. (Verse 10) Thus Christ is the “firstfruits of them that slept.” (1 Corinthians 15:20) And Christians who are called in this age are also said to be the firstfruits. (James 1:18; Romans 8:23)

Christ is the first of the firstfruits of God's harvest of human beings. Pentecost pictures, then, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the ripening of the rest of the firstfruits for harvesting at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:23). This church age is merely the first harvest. The great final "fall" harvest is after Christ returns.

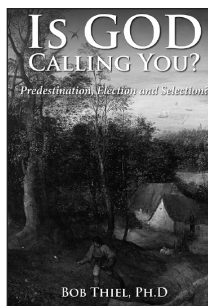
Editor's note: More on the meaning of the Holy Days, including the "fall harvest," check out the free book, online at ccog.org, titled: Should You Keep God's Holy Days or Demonic Holidays?

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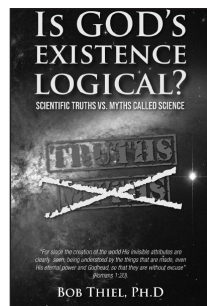
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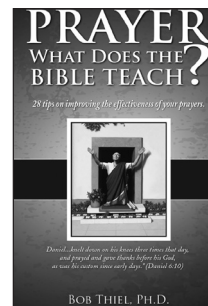
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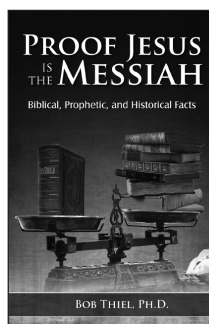
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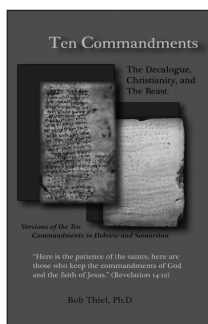
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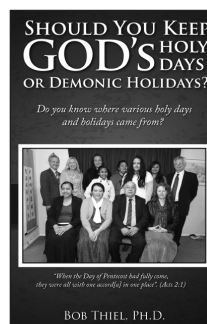
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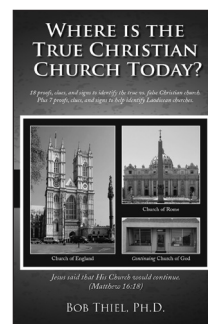
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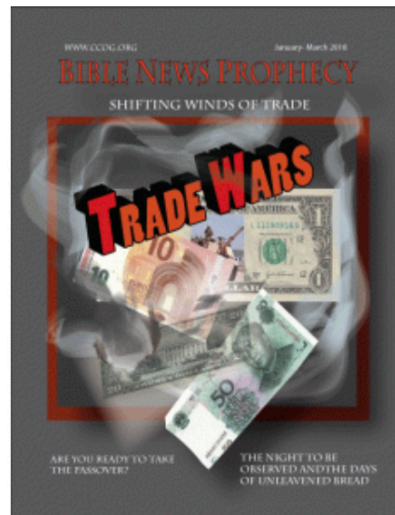
Should You Keep God's Holy Days or Demonic Holidays?



Where Is The True Christian Church Today?

Trade Wars Are in Progress

By Bob Thiel



(Cover of Bible News Prophecy Jan-Mar 2018)

The Church of God has warned about trade issues for decades. And in the past several months, we have seen many developments that align with what we have been saying that Bible prophecy foretells.

Back in 1971, the late Pastor General of the old Worldwide Church of God Herbert W. Armstrong wrote the following:

Trade War Looming to Trigger World War III?

Either we start raising high tariff barriers against other countries, starting a TRADE WAR which in time will trigger the nuclear war that will DESTROY US – or, American workers are going to have to MEET the competition of the workers in other countries, by lowering living standards. Obviously American workers are not going to choose to do the latter. And if they don't – well, THE HANDWRITING IS ON OUR NATIONAL WALL. (Armstrong HW. Trade War Looming to Trigger World War III? Plain Truth, March 1971)

And while his basic impression of timing was off, it is correct that trade issues will be a factor that will trigger WWII. A war that will be against the USA, Canada, and the UK by a power that will reorganize (Revelation 17:12-13). A Europe that is angry at the UK for Brexit and one that is mad at the USA for a

host of reasons (including decisions of its President Donald Trump and its Congress).

Last century, the late Gene Hogberg of the old Worldwide Church of God wrote the following:

ENVISION the startling future of Western Europe. ...

A new Western Europe controlling perhaps half of all world trade, by exclusive arrangements with dozens of nations who produce raw materials.

A “United States of Europe “ possessing one single currency - a currency so strong that it will replace the U. S. dollar as the kingpin currency of world trade. A United Europe developing great military strength to protect its unprecedented standard of living and its Number One position in the world. Visionary ideas?

Not at all.

Such a European powerhouse is now just over the horizon. ...

Biggest Obstacle

The biggest obstacle to accomplishing this whole effort still remains. It's the nagging political question. ...

If Britain were not pleased with the 'way things are going in the Common Market by the end of 1975, she, along with any other dissatisfied member, could quit. In that case Britain would be virtually isolated - cut off from Europe ...

It should be obvious that an expanding Europe will not forever tolerate monetary irresponsibility on the part of the United States - or look the other way should the U. S. institute protectionist trade legislation. The way things are now developing, it is only a matter of time before the Europeans cut loose from the dollar. They have already put the machinery in to motion. ...

Should the dollar fail, a new European currency would automatically become the kingpin currency financing world trade. The dollar would become an unwanted commodity. Trading nations around the world would have to trade in the currency of this "beast" in order to survive. (Hogberg G. Rising World Colossus. Plain Truth, May 1971)

Since that writing the Euro has come on the world scene and it (or a possible replacement) has the potential to dethrone the US dollar as the world's primary reserve currency.

Additionally, since that article came out, following a referendum held in the UK on 23 June 2016, the British Exit (Brexit) from the European Union (which was once the European Common Market) officially took place at 23:00 GMT on 31 January 2020.

In a different article, Gene Hogberg wrote:

Prepare for Trade War

The Free World's 40-year period of unprecedented prosperity may soon come to a crashing halt. Support in the United States — the West's leading trading nation — for maintaining free trade is crumbling fast.

Instead, there reverberate in the halls of Congress warnings to trade partners to open markets or face the retaliation of heightened tariffs and quotas. ...

Dangerous Security Changes

Other experts warn that American political leaders — responding to calls for immediate competitive relief from their constituents — may be ignoring another lesson of the Great Depression: that the severe contraction of world trade gave added impetus to imperialist surges in Asia and Europe, specifically Japan and Germany.

Since 1945 Japan has chosen the mercantile road as its path to power, prestige and national restoration. Germany, specifically the Federal Republic of Germany, is heavily dependent upon world trade, exporting a full third of its manufactured goods.

Access to the U.S. market is central to the economies of Japan and the other nations of the Pacific Basin, writes National Review executive editor John McLaughlin, "and hence perhaps to their stability." If protectionism takes hold, what would happen to Japan and to Western Europe, whose economic heart is in Germany? Protectionism, leading to a full-blown trade war, would likely break the extensive joint defense relationships between the U.S. and its primary World War II foes, now allies for the past 40 years.

Americans should then prepare to witness the emergence of a nuclear — armed Japan as well as a nuclear — armed united Europe with Germany at its core. It's doubtful whether the American public and its elected representatives have thought out the likely end results of actions now under way.

Former Senate majority leader Howard H. Baker Jr. sounded this warning: "The disastrous Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930 was rushed through Congress ... and it took 14 years and a

world war to straighten out the mess.” (Hogberg G. Prepare for Trade War! Plain Truth, January 1986)

Again, while his timing was premature, events are going in the direction he wrote about.

Notice something I wrote and posted back in 2008:

Negotiations will continue and some type of loose agreements will happen. In the spirit of accommodation and personal interest, many of the “standards” of the European Union will be adopted by the USA, Canada and Mexico, as well as by nearly all of the countries of the world. The Arab nations will most likely agree with many of the standards as they seem to be destined to form a brief end-time alliance with the Europeans.

However, over time, it will become increasingly clear that the British will be in more agreement with the Canadians and Americans and that the European Union in more agreement with the Mexicans than the EU will have with the English-speaking nations.

Trade wars and/or serious trade disputes will most likely arise.

The Brits will ultimately decide that they are more supportive of the Americans and Canadians. They will be so much more supportive that they will end up in a trading agreement with them (with the Australians and New Zealanders probably also becoming part of that agreement).

The EU will decide that Mexico and the rest of Latin America are in more agreement with it and thus make some type of serious trading agreement with most (or all) of Latin America. The Vatican will also have influence here as Latin America is highly Roman Catholic.

The Europeans and Americans, however, will continue to have military agreements, though many will be tense about them. (Thiel B. A Combined EU & North American Trade Block

Coming? COGwriter.com, March 3, 2008)

Trade wars increase costs and international tensions.

It should also be noted that at least partially due to sanctions talk from 45th US President Trump, in late 2017, China, Russia, and Venezuela took steps to move away from the US dollar as the world’s primary reserve currency. The eventual loss of the US dollar’s status as the world’s main reserve currency will harm the economy of the USA in many ways.

Furthermore, the re-election of Donald Trump to be the 47th President of USA, has caused major concerns among many of the nations that export to the USA.

There are many talks about trade wars.

While campaigning in 2024, Donald Trump warned about putting a minimum of a 10% tariff on most imported goods. He threatened 20% of certain items from Europe, 25-100% on Mexico, and 60% on China. After winning the election in November 2024, Donald Trump also threatened a 100% tariff against the BRICS nations if they come up with a currency to compete against the US dollar.

His statements and re-election have caused Mexico to consider retaliatory tariffs against the USA, whereas the Europeans and Chinese have since been working on how to deal with such tariffs and threats.

Mexico is also looking to Europe. Europe is looking to Latin America and Asia. China is looking to Africa, Europe, and elsewhere.

Notice an item from the German press years ago related to Donald Trump’s first term:

Europe must be ready to find new economic partners in Asia when the president destroys the existing world economic order. (Riegert B. The EU has to stand up to Donald Trump. Deutsche Welle, January 31, 2017)

In a sense, this has happened. In 2017, European, and in particular German, leaders were actively courting trade as the US dropped its participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) and took other steps against certain existing trade arrangements.

Europe is working on what is billed the largest trade agreement with the Mercosur nations of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Europe is also looking to make deals in Africa as well as Asia.

Donald Trump's statements about trade and "America first," further told parts of the world that the US wants to change trade practices in ways that many nations do not believe will be beneficial — and this helps open the door for the European Union to work to trade more with others.

Europe sees Donald Trump's statements as part of a trade war and it is taking steps (Verhelst K. Locked and loaded? The EU weapons to fight Trump's trade war. Politico, November 18, 2024).

Additionally, European leaders have stated that they no longer want 'subservience' to the USA and want to put "Europe first" (in contrast to the "America first" campaign slogan that Donald Trump has used).

As far as subservience goes, the Europeans realize that they have been subservient to the USA as they have depended upon the military of the USA for protection since World War II ended in Western Europe, and then after the fall of the Berlin wall, for military protection in Eastern Europe and the Baltics.

Europe has been in the process of trying to strengthen its own military, while also increasing its international trade. Europe expects to set the standards for various goods and services as well as the rules for much of the world's trade.

The Bible is clear that Europe will rise up to the world's basic surprise as a major military (Revelation 13:1-10; Daniel 11:39-43) and massive trading

(cf. Revelation 18) power. Such are some of the unintended consequences of various US policies as well as statements from Donald Trump.

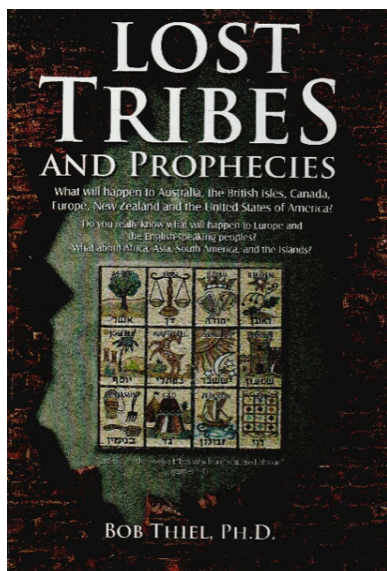
While nations do not normally economically 'win' a trade war, political leaders have found them helpful for a variety of reasons.

Trade issues are important and consistent with end time biblical prophecies.

Events in the USA and Europe are aligning with the understanding of biblical prophecy that we in the Continuing Church of God hold and teach.

We in the Continuing Church of God "have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19, KJV)."

Gentile Europeans: Background and Prophecies – Part I



By Bob Thiel

This is the first part of what is expected to be a two-part series covering information and prophecies related to Gentile Europeans. The second part is planned for the next edition of this magazine as well as mainly also being in the

The Bible tells of a coming time when Anglo-American dominance will be eliminated (Isaiah 17:3a; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 8:24-25, 11:39). A temporal 'new world order' is to come during the final times of the Gentiles, which is prophesied to arise (cf. Ezekiel 30:3; Luke 21:24; Revelation 11:2) — which will include “the worst of the Gentiles” to eliminate the Anglo-American world order as well as to eventually hit those of the other tribes of Israel (cf. Ezekiel 7:24).

Europe has a mix of peoples, traditions, and languages. Though there are people of Israelitish descent mixed in, most people in Europe are non-Israelites, scripturally often referred to as Gentiles.

As far as European nations go, sometimes they were independent and at other times parts of alliances like the old 'Holy Roman Empire' and the Axis powers of World War II.

As far as where European nations descended from, the following list was mainly produced by a Church of God minister in the 20th century with some 21st century slight updates to address that:

Nation/Area	Progenitor(s) in Genesis	Nation/Area	Progenitor(s) in Genesis
Albania	Lud or Canaan	Macedonia	Elam/Javan
Austria	Asshur/Gether	Malta	Canaan
Belarus	Madai/Midian	Moldova	Chaldeans/Madai
Belgium	Asher/Dodanim	Netherlands	Zebulun
Bulgaria	Elam/Esau	Norway	Benjamin
Crete	Caphtor	Poland	Elam/Aram
Cyprus	Javan/Sidon/Esau	Portugal	Javan/Canaan
Czech Republic	Nahor	Romania	Chesed [Chaldeans]
Denmark	Dan/Naphtali	Rhodes	Javan
Estonia	Letushim [Keturah]	Russia	Madai/Meshech
Finland	Issachar/Riphath	Siberia	Togarmah
France	Reuben/Dodanim	Sicily	Canaan
Germany	Asshur	Slovakia	Buz
Greece	Javan	Spain, North	Aram/Chesed [Chaldeans]
Hungary	Keturah/Riphath	Spain, South	Canaan & Javan
Iceland	Benjamin	Sweden	Naphtali
Ireland	Dan/Simeon	Switzerland	Gad/Asshur
Italy, North	Chesed [Chaldeans]	Turkey	Esau [Edom]
Italy, South	Javan & Canaan	United Kingdom	Ephraim
Latvia	Letushim [Keturah]	Ukraine	Madai/Medan
Lithuania	Letushim [Keturah]	Yugoslavia	Elam/Madai
Luxembourg	Asher/Dodanim/Asshur		

While many of the above can be debated, since everyone had to descend from someone, and few modern national names are in the Bible, the above list can sometimes give us clues about what is prophesied for the peoples of the different lands in Europe.

As far as microstates and microregions in Europe,

such as Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, and Vatican City go, their prophetic future will be tied in with the coming European Beast power. However, scripture teaches that the one associated with the ruling power of seven hills will be betrayed by supporters of the Beast (Revelation 17:14-18), before the others would be subject to destruction (cf. Revelation 18).

European Unity?

Europe has had unity in the past under what was called “Pax Romana” — “peace” — enforced by the ancient Roman Empire. There were also partial unifications under the so-called Holy Roman Empire, French Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the Axis powers.

Towards the end of World War II, the three small European nations of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg agreed to form a trading alliance known as Benelux.

On the surface that may not seem like much, but interestingly, Bible prophecy teaches that a small power in the Europe will expand mainly to the south and the east.

9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. ... 17 ... the vision refers to the time of the end. (Daniel 8:9,17)

Benelux, itself, became a model for the European Economic Community (EEC), and then the formation of the European Union. This united Europe has mainly expanded south and east of the Benelux nations. Like several other Church of God writers, Gene Hogberg asserted last century that the Benelux nations would be part of the coming Beast power (Hogberg G. EUROPE: Winds of Change Before the Storm. Plain Truth, December 1981).

Currently, approximately 450 million people are now under a new, single (though not completely united) government, called the European Union, headquartered in the Benelux land of Brussels, Belgium. The coming Beast will have some ties there.

In 1965, the late evangelist Dr. Hoeh taught:

This “little horn” does the same thing as the final “beast” of Revelation 17! ... Daniel 8 ... verse 9: “And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.” ...

The little horn in Daniel 8 is none other than ... the final “King of the North” described in Daniel 11. (Hoeh H. The 2300 Days. Plain Truth, August 1965)

Note: There is another “little horn” mentioned in Daniel 7:8, which is a reference to a religious leader, which would be the Antichrist — different Hebrew words are used there than in Daniel 8, but translators have often missed the difference.

Anyway, the final King of the North is a European empire that a man, also called the Beast of the Sea will rule in the end times. He will unify Europe in a way that it has never been before (cf. Revelation 17:12-13).

While many have noticed that the European Union is not currently getting along that well even amongst its own member nations, the Bible specifically warns that the final European Beast power will be composed of parts that do not hold well together:

41 The feet you saw, part earthenware, part iron, are a kingdom which will be split in two, but which will retain something of the strength of iron, just as you saw the iron and the clay of the earthenware mixed together. 42 The feet were part iron, part potter’s clay: the kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron and the clay of the earthenware mixed together, so the two will be mixed together in human seed; but they will not hold together any more than iron will blend with clay. (Daniel 2:41-43)

But the Bible shows that Europe will stay together for a time under the leader known as the King of the North (Daniel 11:40) and the “Beast of the Sea” (Revelation 13:1-10).

U.S.A.-European Relations

While there have long been difficulties in the relationship between the U.S.A. and Europe, some issues have seriously worsened them in the past dozen or so years. And the same is true for UK-EU relations.

The Obama-Biden Administration greatly offended the Europeans when the Europeans found out via Edward Snowden's release of documents that the Americans were spying on the European Union (E.U.) and on European leaders. They also learned that the U.S.A. treated the others in the Five Eyes much better than the Europeans themselves.

The Five Eyes is an intelligence alliance comprised of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. The continental Europeans were not part of that alliance.

Many in Europe feel that they were misled, lied to, or otherwise betrayed by the government of the U.S.A. So much so, that various Europeans believe this caused irreparable damage to relations with the U.S.A.

Some documents revealed that the U.S. spied on Germany to a similar degree as to the amount of spying it has done on China (Rehle M. U.S. taps half-billion German phone, internet links in month: report. Reuters, June 30, 2014), which many U.S.A. officials consider to be its biggest threat (Babb C. China Remains Top Threat in New US National Defense Strategy. Voice of America, October 27, 2022).

The documents leaked by Edward Snowden showed that the U.S.A. only listed the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic nations as its "close friends":

According to an NSA document dated September 2010, only a few countries labeled as close friends by the U.S. are explicitly exempted from monitoring – Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. (Germany Calls Allegations of US Bugging 'Unacceptable' Voice of America, July 1, 2013)

Zealand. (Germany Calls Allegations of US Bugging 'Unacceptable' Voice of America, July 1, 2013)

(NSA is the National Security Agency of the United States.)

The German publication Der Spiegel reported that

the U.S. considered Germany to be a 'third rate partner' in at least one of the leaked documents (Rehle M. U.S. taps half-billion German phone, internet links in month: report. Reuters, June 30, 2014). It was reported in 2014, that the Obama-Biden Administration may have succeeded in "helping to convert it {Germany} from an ally into an adversary" (Heilbrunn J. The German-American breakup. Los Angeles Times, July 10, 2014). Germany will become an adversary according to Isaiah 10:5-11 and the Obama-Biden Administration contributed to that.

The original election of Donald Trump also caused alarms in Europe as did the British exit (Brexit) vote from the European Union. As has Donald Trump's re-election.

These, and other related matters, outraged the Germans and many other continental Europeans. So, also did the disparaging comments about the European Union from then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland in 2014 (Ukraine crisis: Transcript of leaked Nuland-Pyatt call. BBC News, February 7, 2014).

Despite the fact that the Europeans were insulted by Victoria Nuland, in 2021 she became as undersecretary of state for political affairs, effectively the third-ranking U.S. diplomat in the Biden-Harris Administration (Biden to name Sherman, Nuland to top diplomatic posts: sources. Reuters, January 5, 2021). That did not please the Europeans.

Neither did the USA pullout from Afghanistan in 2021 nor the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, and United States) alliance of 2021 please the Europeans.

Furthermore, notice also the following:

Europe Won't Get Any Relief on Trade From Biden ... a President Biden would do as little as possible on trade. But the world will not stand still. ... Europe would be ... challenging. (Alden C. China and Europe Won't Get Any Relief on Trade From Biden. ForeignPolicy.com, November 6, 2020)

Notice also:

Top European officials are furious with Joe Biden's administration and now accuse the Americans of making a fortune from the war, while EU countries suffer.

"The fact is, if you look at it soberly, the country that is most profiting from this war is the U.S. because they are selling more gas and at higher prices, and because they are selling more weapons," one senior official ... The U.S. rejected Europe's complaints. ...

"The Inflation Reduction Act has changed everything," one EU diplomat said. "Is Washington still our ally or not?" (Moens B, et al. Europe accuses US of profiting from war. Politico.eu, November 24, 2022)

From fossil fuel prices, to raising interest rates, to subsidizing 'green energy,' and to the threat of high tariffs, the USA has upset Europe on trade issues.

That said, we would expect trade negotiations with Europe to continue and some type of agreements will happen. In the spirit of accommodation and personal interest, many of the "standards" of the European Union will be adopted by the U.S.A., as well as by nearly all of the countries of the world. The Arab nations will most likely agree with many of the standards as they seem to be destined to form a brief end-time alliance with the Europeans.

Yet, misunderstandings and differences of opinion will occur.

Trade wars and/or serious trade disputes will arise. Some have already started (e.g. German finance minister warns of US trade war. Deutsche Welle, December 3, 2022; Verhelst K. Locked and loaded? The EU weapons to fight Trump's trade war. Politico, November 18, 2024).

It is likely that trade issues will be a factor in Europe ultimately turning against the U.S.A.

Donald Trump Has Had an Impact

Many in Europe were offended by Donald Trump and his comments, even prior to his first election (e.g. Europe hates Trump. Does it matter? BBC, March 4, 2016). Even back in late 2015, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, former German Defense Minister, called Donald Trump "that blonde lunatic named Donald" (Wish List or Reality? Digital Trends in 2016 | Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg | hub conference. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgdZUA96UBU>. Posted 12/11/ 2015).

Herr Guttenberg wants Europe to see Donald Trump's re-election as a wake-up call to take military, unity, and trade steps (Bluchel C. Zu Guttenberg: Nach Ampel-Knall hält Trump Deutschland für ein leichtes Opfer. Focus, November 2024).

Donald Trump has berated Europe, in particular, for trade issues and currency valuation.

He pulled the U.S.A. out of the Paris climate accords and the Iranian nuclear deal, both of which were backed by the European Union.

Donald Trump also upset many in Europe by calling NATO "obsolete" (Trump worries Nato with 'obsolete' comment. BBC, January 16, 2017) and he has threatened to NOT help protect nations in NATO if they do not spend more on their militaries (Fitzgerald J. Trump says he would 'encourage' Russia to attack Nato allies who do not pay their bills. BBC, February 11, 2024).

While many in the original Trump-Pence Administration thought that the Europeans would have no choice but to cater to their demands, the Europeans moved in a way many did not expect. Less than one year after the Trump-Pence Administration began, 25 European countries formed a pan-European military alliance called the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) (Stur B. The making of a European Defence Union. New Europe. December 12, 2017).

While some have resisted it, there have been more and more calls for Europe to develop its own military force that will not have to defer to the U.S.A (Bosotti

A. EU army plot to fuel 'antagonistic' fury from global enemies and spark conflict threat. December 1, 2020; Flores J. The End of NATO? Macron Laments 'Brain Death' and Pushes for a European Military. Strategic Culture, November 10, 2019).

Furthermore, shortly after Russia's "special military operation" into Ukraine began in 2022, Germany announced it was increasing its military spending to levels that Donald Trump had pushed for (Germany commits €100 billion to new armed forces fund. Deutsche Welle, February 27, 2022).

Europe already has its own space agency, satellite system, and many other military components.

For decades, Washington has pushed the Europeans to spend more on their militaries. The U.S.A. needs to be careful about what it has been asking for. Although it is true that the U.S.A. contributes a vastly disproportionate share to NATO, the more the Europeans themselves spend, the more independent they will be about their spending and military priorities.

Since the Bible says that Europe will have a "great army" (Daniel 11:25), we know Europe will end up with a great army. It will also end up with a substantial navy as the Bible says it will have "many ships" (Daniel 11:40). Europe is prophesied be an amazingly marvellous military power that will surprise the world (Revelation 13:3-4).

This will not end well for the U.S.A. or the other Israelitish nations.

Europe to Rise Up

Germans and others see the U.S.A. declining. Europe will go in a direction that U.S.A. leaders, including its 'foreign policy experts,' do not comprehend (Daniel 11:39; Isaiah 10:5-11).

Notice something that was claimed by the German Press after Donald Trump's first presidential election:

For 100 years, the United States was the leader of the free world. ... It is time for Europe ... to step into the void. ... Europe's turn. (Kurbjuweit

D. America Has Abdicated Its Leadership of the West. Spiegel Online, November 16, 2016))

Europe wants to rise up. And also militarily:

Germany's respected Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper, meanwhile, even contemplated the "unthinkable" in an editorial: a German bomb. (Karnitschnig M. Why Europe secretly roots for Donald Trump. Strategic-Culture.org. September 22, 2016)

While European leaders have begun to publicly challenge reliance on the U.S.A., biblically, the time will once again come when Europe cannot be trusted militarily (Isaiah 10:5-11; Daniel 11:21-39; Lamentations 1:2).

The U.S.A., itself, has repeatedly shown the Europeans that it does not trust them, yet scripture suggests it sometimes will trust them too much. According to the Bible, the time will come when the U.S.A. will find that continental Europe will be an enemy (cf. Isaiah 10:5-11) and not an ally (Ezekiel 23:4,9-10). The Bible warns:

2 All her friends have dealt treacherously with her; They have become her enemies. (Lamentations 1:2)

Europe will cooperate with the U.S.A. as long as it feels the relationship is beneficial, and then (as prophecy foretells) one day turn totally against the U.S.A.

The Bible is clear that there will be problems in Europe (Daniel 2:41-43), yet it also shows that Europe will undergo several reorganizations (Revelation chapters 16-18), and the two reorganizations in Revelation 17:12-13 specifically will not turn out well for the U.S.A. (cf. Daniel 11:39), the Arab world (cf. Daniel 11:40-43), nor ultimately Europe (cf. Jeremiah 50:41-46, 51:27-32; Daniel 11:44-45; Joel 2:2-6).

GPS and Galileo

The U.S.A. has military issues that many do not realize.

Back in 2009, despite denials from the U.S. Air Force (Air Force Official Disputes GAO Report on Projected GPS Failure. Satellite Today, May 26, 2009), I warned that the U.S.A. was likely to have problems with its Global Positioning System (GPS) and may need to rely on Europe's future Galileo system for some of its military needs (Thiel B. 2012 and the Rise of the Secret Sect. Nazarene Books, 2009, p. 89).

My warnings were based upon my biblical understandings (e.g. Isaiah 10:5-11; Daniel 11:39; Revelation 13:4) as well as my previous military experience. I knew full well that military spokespersons did not always tell the full truth.

In late 2009, Air Force General Kevin Chilton publicly confirmed my then published view that the U.S.A. did NOT have enough satellites for military purposes (Butler A. U.S. Satellite Coverage Gaps Loom. Aviation Week, November 10, 2009).

At the same time, Europe's Galileo satellite system was in process. In March 2002, the European Directorate-General Energy and Transport produced an 'information note' which stated:

Galileo will underpin the common European defence policy that the Member States have decided to establish. **There is no question here of coming into conflict with the United States which is and will remain our ally, but simply a question of putting an end to a situation of dependence.** If the EU finds it necessary to undertake a security mission that the US does not consider to be in its interest, it will be impotent unless it has the satellite navigation technology that is now indispensable. Although designed primarily for civilian applications, Galileo will also give the EU a military capability. (As quoted in: North R. Galileo: The Military and Political Dimensions, Paper no. 47. Bruggesgroup.com accessed 12/29/16)

Some in Europe have long wanted to be independent of the U.S.A.

It should also be understood that there were "early objections from the Americans who thought a rival system to GPS might be used to attack its armed forces" (Amos J. EU awards Galileo satellite-navigation contracts. BBC, Jan 7, 2010). Former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz also wrote to a European leader raising objections to it back in 2001 (A Wolfowitz P. Letter to the Honorable Minister of Defense. Office of the US Deputy Secretary of Defense, December 2, 2001).

Yet the later Obama-Biden Administration did not object, but instead encouraged the Europeans to develop it (Wolf J. US, wary of China, mulls satellite substitutes. Reuters, February 4, 2010).

Then in late July 2010, it was announced that the U.S.A. would rely on Europe's Galileo system for part of its own military defense (U.S. and the EU to collaborate on usage of Global Navigation Satellite Systems. BNO News, July 31, 2010). This is biblically very dangerous (cf. Lamentations 1:1-2; Daniel 11:39).

While phase one of Galileo is in place, second generation (more accurate, reliable, etc.) satellites for Galileo are expected to be put in place in 2026 (Savage O. Ariane 6 to launch second-gen Galileo satellites from 2026. Janes, May 2, 2024).

Could Europeans have the ability to know where people are? Well, since most cellphones now have 'GPS,' those with them in the U.S.A. also face the very real possibility that Europeans will be able to track where they are as well as to control other aspects of cellphones. Yet, relatively few in the U.S.A. realize this. Europe has military intentions in space (**bolding added**):

EU Commissioner Thierry Breton said ... "Space is indeed a much coveted area in which the European Union must guarantee its essential interests. And our space technologies have become strategic capabilities for our citizens, for the resilience of our economies **and of course for our armies.**" (Jewett R. The EU Reaches Agreement on New Satellite Constellation Iris. Via Satellite, November 22, 2022)

By the time all of Galileo and various systems (like Iris and subsystems) are fully implemented it may be too late for the U.S.A. to get enough of its own satellites up sufficiently independent of Europe to change this.

Because of the Snowden leaks, the Obama-Biden Administration pledged to share U.S.A. data collection espionage techniques with the Europeans (Stearns S. Kerry: US to Work Closely With Allies Over Surveillance Concerns. VOA, November 5, 2013), and it would not seem that a Biden-Harris Administration would have stopped all of that.

The United Kingdom had been involved in the development of Galileo. Yet because of Brexit, the E.U. took a stance to block the U.K. from so much of it, that the U.K. is no longer part of that project (Gannon M. UK ends Galileo talks, says it will explore a homegrown alternative. SpaceNews, December 4, 2018).

Notice also:

No single system is a perfect backup for GPS, said the report. Some systems such as Europe's

Galileo are similar to GPS and could be a suitable substitute. ... GPS 3 satellites are built by Lockheed Martin under a 2008 contract from the U.S. Air Force. ... Five GPS 3 satellites have been launched since 2018. The remaining five are projected to go to space from 2022 through 2024. ... The Space Force already has ordered the first four {GPS 3F}. The first GPS 3F is projected to launch in 2026. (Erwin S. U.S. military doubles down on GPS despite vulnerabilities. SpaceNews, August 9, 2021)

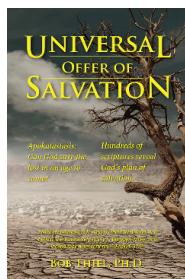
Having the U.S.A. dependent upon Europe's satellite systems for any part of its military defense communications is dangerous. Satellite technology appears to give the Europeans a unique offensive and defensive capability, which one day looks to be for use against the U.S.A. (cf. Daniel 11:39; Revelation 13:3-4).

It is dangerous to have a potential enemy control portions of one's military communications systems. But the U.S.A. has allowed that to happen.

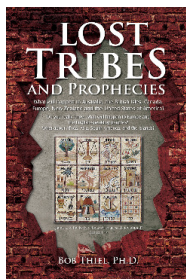
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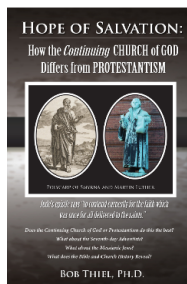
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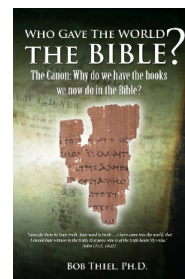
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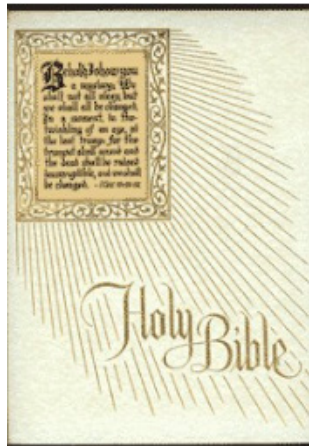


HOPE OF SALVATION:



Who Gave The World The Bible?

STUDY THE BIBLE COURSE



Lesson 25b: Baptism

Bob Thiel, Editor-in-Chief

Published 2025 by the *Continuing Church of God*

Preface: This course is highly based upon the personal correspondence course developed in 1954 that began under the direction of the late C. Paul Meredith in the old Radio Church of God. Various portions have been updated for the 21st century (though much of the original writing has been retained). It also has more scriptural references, as well as information and questions not in the original course. Unless otherwise noted, scriptural references are to the NKJV, copyright Thomas Nelson Publishing, used by permission. The KJV, sometimes referred to as the Authorized Version is also often used. Additionally, Roman Catholic-approved translations such as the New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) are sometimes used as are other translations.

The Flood a Type of Baptism

The Old Testament contains significant types or foreshadows of New Testament water baptism which are important to our understanding of Christ's and the Apostles' teachings concerning baptism. Let's begin with Noah and the Flood.

1. When men began to multiply upon the face of the earth, did they obey God? Or did they sin grievously against God? Genesis 6:1, 5, 11-12.
2. What did God say He would do to the earth's population as a punishment for sin? Genesis 6:7. By what means of destruction? Verse 17.

COMMENT: God says "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). The evil world of Noah's day was to receive just payment for sin.

3. But who, in that world of rampant sin, found grace in God's sight? Genesis 6:8. Why did God favor Noah? Did he walk with God in obedience to His Laws? Verse 9. Also 2 Peter 2:5 compared with Psalms 119:172.

COMMENT: Noah preached OBEDIENCE to God's Commandments! But the world would not listen.

4. God told Noah to build an enormous ship so he and his family could escape the great flood He would bring on the wicked and lawless world (Genesis 6:13-16). How did Noah demonstrate his belief – his FAITH – in God's promise of salvation from the flood – the PENALTY of the world's sins? Genesis 6:22 and Hebrews 11:7.

COMMENT: Many long, arduous and trying years were required to complete the ark. (Compare Genesis 5:32 with Genesis 7:11.) Just imagine all of the RIDICULE Noah must have endured from the

people around him. They thought he was a fool! But Noah BELIEVED God. He TRUSTED and OBEYED God. He had SAVING FAITH!

5. Does Noah's escape from the tremendous flood – a WATERY GRAVE for the sinning world – typify our deliverance from sin's penalty through the symbolic meaning of water baptism? 1 Peter 3:20-21.

COMMENT: God provided a WAY for Noah to ESCAPE the old world of sin and the penalty it had incurred for disobedience to God's Laws. Noah BELIEVED God when He warned him of the flood He would send upon the sinning world. And Noah OBEYED God by building the ark. He DEMONSTRATED his faith by his obedience! This is the same kind of ACTIVE faith God expects from us today – if we want to be saved from the penalty of our sins!

Noah was brought up OUT OF the water that destroyed the sinful world, and was saved physically. Today, we can be saved SPIRITUALLY from the penalty of sin – if we believe Christ died for our sins and if we symbolically BURY OUR sins in baptism, rising up out of the water to begin living a new SPIRIT-FILLED life of obedience to God. But more about this later.

Israel "Baptized" in the Sea

Let's notice another interesting Old Testament analogy pointing to New Testament baptism. While the children of Israel were in Egypt, they were Pharaoh's slaves – HELPLESS AND POWERLESS under his taskmasters – just as a sinner is the slave of the devil and sin (Romans 6:16).

Egypt is a type of SIN. Pharaoh and his army can be compared to Satan and his demons who strive to bring us into captivity to sin. God commanded Israel to COME OUT of Egypt – sin. Israel obeyed.

The Israelites began their exodus out of Egypt under Moses after they applied the blood of the Passover lamb to their doorposts (see Exodus 12:1-13). Their departure from Egypt is a type of our departure

from sin! The blood of the lamb which protected them from death typifies the blood of Christ – OUR "Passover lamb" (1 Corinthians 5:7) – whose blood was shed for the remission of our sins.

1. Were the Israelites happy and joyful upon leaving Egypt behind them? Numbers 33:3, KJV.

COMMENT: "With a high hand" means JOYFULLY. The children of Israel left in GREAT EXALTATION and elation over their deliverance from the bondage (sin) of Egypt.

2. While the Israelites were rejoicing over their newfound freedom, did Pharaoh and his army begin to pursue them? Exodus 14:8-9.

COMMENT: Today, many professing Christians unwittingly find themselves in the same position the Israelites were in. Since they have accepted Christ and His blood for the remission of their sins, they THINK they are now FOREVER free from sin, the devil and their own human nature, just as the Israelites thought they were free from the bondage of Egypt – until Pharaoh began to pursue them!

3. Did God commission Moses to deliver the children of Israel from the clutches of Egyptian bondage? Exodus 3:10 and Acts 7:35.

4. Is Moses therefore referred to as a TYPE of Christ? Acts 7:37. The word "Prophet" refers to Christ. Note the words, "like me." Also see Acts 3:20-22. What did God send Jesus Christ to deliver us from? Romans 3:24-25.

COMMENT: Moses, sent by God to deliver Israel from PHYSICAL bondage, was a TYPE pointing to Christ – whom God sent to deliver repentant believers from SPIRITUAL bondage!

5. What did Moses say when the Israelites became fearful of Pharaoh's oncoming army? Exodus 14:12-14. Did God tell them to bog down, give up, and QUIT, giving up all hope of escaping the Egyptians? Or to go forward in obedience, TRUSTING Him and His POWER to deliver them? Verses 15-16.

COMMENT: God likewise tells us TO GO FORWARD in OBEDIENCE TO HIM, trusting Him and His Power – the Holy Spirit – to deliver us! But many in this

world believe and practice the very opposite. Some Protestants teach there is NOTHING more for us to do other than to ACCEPT Christ and BELIEVE in His shed blood for the remission of our sins.

6. What external help did the Israelites receive from God to protect them from Pharaoh and his army? Exodus 14:19-20.

COMMENT: The angel of the Lord in the cloud had gone before the Israelites in order to show them the way. Now he went behind them, between them and their enemies, to PROTECT them.

True Christians need external help today, too – and very desperately! What we need is God’s Holy Spirit to help us keep ourselves from falling into the clutches of future sins, once our past sins have been forgiven and covered by Christ’s blood!

7. When God divided the Red Sea so the children of Israel could pass through (Exodus 14:21-22), were they FEARFUL? Psalms 78:53. Did they TRUST God to keep the walls of water from crashing down upon them? Hebrews 11:29.

8. What happened to the Egyptians who pursued the Israelites? Exodus 14:26-28.

COMMENT: Here we see Pharaoh and his army, who represented the SIN of Egypt in which Israel had lived, buried in a watery grave. How wonderfully this typifies the symbolism of Christian baptism! “Knowing this, that our old man [our old SINFUL carnal self] is crucified [KILLED and buried by baptism] with Him [Christ], that the body of sin might be DESTROYED, that hence forth we should NOT SERVE SIN” (Romans 6:6, KJV).

9. Therefore, isn’t Israel’s deliverance from Egypt (a type of sin) through the WATERS of the Sea clearly a type of Christian baptism today? 1 Corinthians 10:1-2.

COMMENT: God often required many of the Old Testament prophets, including Moses, to ACT out the things that He would bring to pass in the future (see Ezekiel 4:1-17; 5:1-4). Likewise, God requires those who now sincerely want to have their past sins blotted out and covered by Christ’s blood, to perform the PHYSICAL act of baptism! It impresses

the MEANING of baptism upon them, and is an OUTWARD SIGN showing that they have truly repented and believed in Christ’s sacrifice for their sins.

And so the passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea, and the drowning of Pharaoh and his army in a watery “grave” (symbolizing the destruction of our “old man,” or past life of SIN) clearly TYPIFY New Testament WATER BAPTISM!

Baptism frees us from sin. Paul tied the symbolism of baptism and the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea together:

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. (1 Corinthians 10:1-6)

We want God to be pleased with us. The seventh day of Unleavened Bread pictures that we are to totally leave spiritual Egypt and not be a slave to Satan or his world’s systems.

John’s Baptism

Just before the coming of Christ, and the subsequent arrival of the Holy Spirit, God commissioned John the Baptist to administer a SPECIAL TYPE of baptism – the “baptism of REPENTANCE.” Let’s understand why.

1. Was John the Baptist a prophet of God? Luke 1:63, 76. Was he sent to proclaim and PREPARE the way for Jesus Christ? Verse 76 and Matthew 3: 1-3.

2. Was John also sent to BAPTIZE with water?

John 1:33.

COMMENT: Remember that baptism symbolizes BURIAL of the old carnal, sinful self. It is the outward expression of INWARD repentance.

3. Who sent John and gave him authority to baptize? Luke 3:2-3 and Matthew 21:25-26.

COMMENT: The chief priests and elders knew John was a prophet sent by God, but would not acknowledge the fact. If they had, they would also have been acknowledging that Christ's authority came from God – which they REFUSED to do!

4. Just exactly what was the MESSAGE John preached? Mark 1:4-5 and Matthew 3:11.

COMMENT: John's message was the "baptism of REPENTANCE" (Mark 1:4). It was EXACTLY what it implied. Those John baptized had truly REPENTED of their past sins and were actually forgiven by God. But they did not yet receive the Holy Spirit – the power to overcome sin in their nature, and to master themselves – for the Holy Spirit was not made available until AFTER Christ's resurrection (John 7:38-39).

The account in Luke 1:77 clearly states that John the Baptist was sent "To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins." John was simply preaching REPENTANCE FROM SIN! His message was preparing a people to receive and obey CHRIST when He came, thus PREPARING the way for His coming.

What Was the Original Practice?

Christian baptism includes the concept of burial, cleansing, and resurrection. But the idea of being cleansed by water is older than that.

Being cleansed by water is shown in several parts of the Hebrew scriptures, also known as the Old Testament (e.g. Leviticus 14:8).

The Jewish Encyclopedia of 1906 teaches that by the time of Jesus, the Jews required converts to be baptized by full immersion before they could be considered to be Jews. Although no specific Hebrew

scripture required that, the Jews seem to have concluded thousands of years ago that since the unclean are to be washed (e.g. Leviticus 15:1-27), having "unclean" Gentiles get baptized was a way to remove their uncleanness. The Jews also have pointed to scriptures such as Zechariah 13:1, Ezekiel 36:25, and Psalm 51:2 to support requiring converts to be baptized.

We can safely conclude that full immersion was the practice of John the Baptist, otherwise he would not have been baptizing where "there was much water" (John 3:23).

John the Baptist was the first person shown in the Bible to baptize. (Although the New Testament also discusses a type of baptism that happened in a sense in the Old Testament, see 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, it was not the same type of baptism.)

Notice that the Bible shows that repentance was necessary, as well as a lot of water (the Jordan was/is a river), for what John the Baptist did:

2 ... the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (Luke 3:2-3).

We in the Continuing Church of God require that there is sufficient water for the baptismal candidate to be fully covered with it.

Baptism a New Testament Command!

Now that this foundation of understanding has been laid, let's learn exactly what Jesus Christ COMMANDS US TODAY concerning water baptism.

1. Did Jesus set an example for us in all things to show us that we should walk – live – as He did? 1 Peter 2:21 and 1 John 2:6. Was He baptized? Matthew 3:13-16.

COMMENT: Even though Jesus had committed no sins to repent of, He was baptized, SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR US TO FOLLOW! This was the ONLY purpose for His baptism.

Jesus of Nazareth, Himself, was baptized (Luke 3:21). Yet, Jesus never sinned (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15) He did not NEED to be baptized as a repentant sinner, but was probably baptized because, “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Peter 2:21). Jesus’ baptism was an EXAMPLE to follow for all wanting to be true Christians. Scripture states that:

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (Matthew 3:16)

2. After His resurrection, Jesus gave His twelve apostles the final gospel commission for this age. In it, did He COMMAND His disciples to BAPTIZE repentant believers? Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:16. What is the ultimate fate of those who won’t believe? Verse 16.

COMMENT: Christ plainly COMMANDED baptism!

3. What was Peter’s COMMAND to the repentant believers on the Day of Pentecost? Acts 2:38.

4. Do we find that repentant believers were always baptized? Acts 2:41; 8:5, 12.

5. Ten years after the Apostle Peter preached his first inspired sermon to the Jews in Jerusalem, God sent him to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. He was sent to the house of Cornelius, a very devout Italian. But Cornelius did not have saving knowledge. Peter had to preach the FORGIVENESS OF SINS through Christ to Cornelius and his family (Acts 10:22, 30-33, 43).

Did they receive God’s Spirit BEFORE being baptized? Verses 44-45. Was their receiving of the Holy Spirit before baptism a SPECIAL SIGN from God to the apostles? Acts 11:17-18.

COMMENT: God made an exception in this instance. Repentant believers ordinarily have to be baptized FIRST, before they can receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). But since Cornelius and his family were the FIRST GENTILES to be called of God and converted, God gave them the Holy Spirit before

baptism as a SPECIAL SIGN to prove to Peter and the other apostles that He had also opened the way of salvation to the GENTILES! . Peter then COMMANDED that they needed water baptism (Acts 10:46-48). So, yes, baptism is essential.

Well, who can be baptized?

The opportunity to be a Christian is open to all God calls who are willing to obey Him. God does not discriminate against any race, sex, or status in society:

34 ... God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. (Acts 10:34-35)

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28).

So, people with any background can be baptized.

The true Gospel or GOOD NEWS that Christ commanded His Church to preach is not just a message about the PERSON of Christ – it is the very message HE brought and preached – the good news of the coming Kingdom or Government of God!

Since one cannot truly spiritually understand God’s spiritual Law or many spiritual things UNTIL after receiving the Holy Spirit, and one is to be baptized before attaining the promise of the Holy Spirit, one should be baptized when one is ready and able.

Yet, many are afraid to request baptism as they do not feel they “know enough.” This fear is usually unfounded. The two basic prerequisites for baptism given in God’s Word are repentance and belief (Acts 2 :38). What we repent of is sin, which is the violation of any of God’s laws (1 John 3:4) – and we are to believe that Jesus is our Lord (means “master”) and Savior, hence we are to be willing to obey Him.

Obviously baptism is VERY IMPORTANT to God – else He would not have made it an absolute COMMAND!

Only ONE True “Baptism”

The world today is in great confusion regarding baptism. One panting, perspiring preacher “baptized” by dousing a group with a fire hose! Others “baptize” by sprinkling, and some by pouring water over the heads of new believers.

It is interesting to note that the word for “sprinkle” does occur a few times in the New Testament, and normally in connection with the blood of Christ – NEVER referring to baptism!

The words “pour” and “pouring” are mentioned several times in the New Testament – but NOT ONCE as a form of baptism!

Dr. John R. Rice quoted from the official Catholic Encyclopedia, which said:

The most ancient form usually employed [in baptism] was unquestionably immersion ... In the Latin Church, immersion seems to have prevailed until the twelfth century. After that time it is found in some places even as late as the sixteenth century. Infusion and aspersion [sprinkling and pouring], however ... gradually prevailed in the Western Church (quoted by Dr. John R. Rice, in *Bible Baptism*, Sword of the Lord, 1943, p. 49)

Thus, Dr. Rice pointed out that even the Roman Catholic Church baptized only by immersion for a thousand years before sprinkling or pouring gradually became their new method.

It is quite plain that sprinkling and pouring were late innovations of mere MEN!

Perhaps the first recorded case of a professing Christian being sprinkled was that of Novatian, who lived at Rome in the middle of the third century after Christ. Of him even Eusebius, a Greco-Roman Catholic historian in the days of Emperor Constantine, wrote: “... And being supposed at the point of death [Novatian] was baptized by sprinkling, in the bed on which he lay; if, indeed it be proper to say that one like him did receive baptism”

(Ecclesiastical History, Bk. VI, Chap. 43).

The word “baptize” is not an English word. It is a Greek word. The New Testament was written in the Greek language. In translating the Bible into English, the translators left this word untranslated. Literally, in the Greek, the word is “baptizo”. The definition is “immerse.” It means to “plunge into” or “put into.” It DOES NOT MEAN “to sprinkle” or “to pour.” The Greek word for “sprinkle” is “rantidzo” and “to pour” is “cheo”. The Holy Spirit inspired only the use of the word “baptizo”, meaning to immerse, when referring to BAPTISM!

Therefore, sprinkling or pouring are NOT forms of BAPTISM! IMMERSION – being placed completely down under water – IS! Baptism symbolizes the BURIAL of the old carnal self. Sprinkling or pouring – or dousing with a fire hose – are NOT symbolic of a BURIAL BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION!

Notice that the Roman Church admits that immersion was the original practice, without the use of baptismal fonts (like it now uses):

The word Baptism is derived from the Greek word, bapto, or baptizo, to wash or to immerse. It signifies, therefore, that washing is of the essential idea of the sacrament ... The most ancient form usually employed was unquestionably immersion. This is not only evident from the writings of the Fathers and the early rituals of both the Latin and Oriental Churches, but it can also be gathered from the Epistles of St. Paul, who speaks of baptism as a bath (Ephesians 5:26; Romans 6:4; Titus 3:5). In the Latin Church, immersion seems to have prevailed until the twelfth century. (Baptism. The Catholic Encyclopedia, 1907)

1214 This sacrament is called Baptism, after the central rite by which it is carried out (Greek baptizein) means to “plunge” or “immerse”; the “plunge” into water symbolizes the catechumen’s burial into Christ’s death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as “a new creature” (Catechism of the Catholic Church. Imprimatur Potest + Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. Doubleday, NY 1995, p. 342)

Notice that The Catholic Encyclopedia admits that immersion was the biblical practice, the practice of the early Church, and was slowly dropped in the Latin/Western Church. Hence, the Church of Rome admits that it is not faithful to the original practice of baptism.

Also notice that the Catechism of the Catholic Church admits that baptism is a plunging/ immersion that shows a burial and resurrection, but this is certainly not the ceremony that they use of infants (which most likely are the majority of those baptized by Roman Catholics).

Let's notice what the Bible itself teaches concerning the proper mode or method of baptism.

1. Why was John baptizing IN Aenon near Jerusalem? John 3:23.

COMMENT: John would have needed only a cup full of water to sprinkle, or a pitcher full to pour – but BAPTIZING requires “MUCH water.”

2. How does the baptism of Christ prove that He was IMMERSED? Matthew 3:16, KJV.

COMMENT: Jesus had to be put DOWN INTO the water, for He “went up straightway out of the water” It is ridiculous to think He could have come “up ... out” of a sprinkle or a pour!

Notice the following related to the baptism of Jesus:

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (Matthew 3:16)

So, Jesus was immersed in water since He came up from it – this use of water was obviously not sprinkling. Notice also that the Holy Spirit descended on Him AFTER Jesus had been immersed in water.

When Philip baptized the eunuch, did they both go INTO the water? Acts 8:38.

COMMENT: There was no purpose whatever for Philip to actually go INTO the water, except for the

reason there was no other way he could PLUNGE the eunuch INTO the river. Had sprinkling or pouring been the proper method of baptism, Philip would have only needed to bend over and scoop up the water in his hands.

Let's look at some verses with the Apostle Philip and the eunuch:

36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” 37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. (Acts 8:36-38)

Only those who can believe that Jesus is the Son of God can be eligible for baptism. Notice also that the eunuch also pointed to the availability of water for the ceremony – so obviously he somehow knew (or had been told by Philip) that a lot of water was needed for baptism (consider that he probably had a small amount of water with him when he was traveling). In this case, the water for baptism was either a river or a lake that he and Philip went down into.

After hearing the Apostle Paul:

8 ... many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8).

The original practice in the New Testament was immersion after belief and repentance. In addition to picturing death and burial of the old self, baptism was also considered as the process to wash new Christians of the sins/faults of their past. Notice something from the Old and New Testaments:

25 I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your filth and of all your foul idols. (Ezekiel 36:25, NJB)

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Baptism was mostly done out-of-doors, but sometimes inside, but always by immersion. And this was done by true Christians who were clothed (some heretics improperly pushed nude baptism, which is not something ever recorded in scripture).

It is probable that many, if not all, of the original twelve apostles had been baptized in water by John the Baptist as several of the apostles had first been John the Baptist's disciples (John 1:35-41). Furthermore, because they were later involved in water baptism during Jesus' time (cf. Luke 3:21; John 3:22), it seems logical to conclude that all of the original apostles underwent water baptism.

The use of water for baptism was continued by the apostles after they received the Holy Spirit. Notice the following:

46 ... Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. (Acts 10:46-48)

Water baptism was also practiced by the successors of the apostles.

Roman Catholic scholars know and teach that baptism of early Christians was by immersion (e.g. Fanning W., Baptism. The Catholic Encyclopedia, 1907) and that baptism was only for adults. (Briand J. The Judeo-Christian Church of Nazareth. 1982, p. 54; Bagatti B. The Church from the Circumcision. 1971, p. 239)

Yes, Roman Catholic scholars are aware of some of the truth, despite supporting the heretical changes related to baptism.

3. How many methods of "baptism" are

acceptable to God? Ephesians 4:4-6.

COMMENT: The Apostle Paul was inspired to write and explain that there is but "ONE BAPTISM" – not several different modes which may be practiced. Just ONE! God did not leave it up to men to invent or devise their own modes of baptism, attaching the name of Christ to them. According to the divinely inspired Word of God, there is ONLY ONE proper method or mode of baptism! Any other method devised by man is absolutely CONTRARY to God's Word, and is NOT VALID!

The Bible, the Greek language itself, and the admissions of Catholic historians, all PROVE that complete immersion – being placed COMPLETELY UNDER WATER – was the only method of baptism practiced by the original INSPIRED Church of God! Therefore, sprinkling and pouring are COUNTERFEIT modes of baptism!

To be continued in the next edition of this magazine.

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Questions and Answers



By Bob Thiel

Q: Since the Great Tribulation cannot happen yet, what are some specific events to look for which occur prior to the Great Tribulation?

A. Below is a list, but understand that the following order may not be completely fixed as the Bible is not clear about the sequence of all the events listed:

The basic sequence is that certain sorrows will begin and troubles will continue:

5 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 6 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. 7 But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows. ... 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" (Mark 13:5-8, 37)

The sorrows are happening. What will happen next, for the next seals to be opened, is not laid out clearly enough.

But there are also other events that will build to fulfill many scriptures.

For example, some nation will become highly indebted before the Great Tribulation (Habakkuk 2:6) — this is happening to the USA (as well as the UK, though the total amount of indebtedness is less).

Damascus will be destroyed (Isaiah 17:1), and great military damage will hit Jerusalem (Isaiah 22:8-9). The timing of these two events possibly occurs

before a prophesied peace deal.

One of the most important events to watch for is when the 'peace' deal of Daniel 9:27 is confirmed by a prince. Deals have been proposed, but the biblically confirmed one may not be known until after it happens, and even then, many will likely not accept it as the prophesied deal — yet its confirmation will be the "countdown" to the start of the Great Tribulation.

A King of the North (who was a 'prince' in Daniel 9:27) and a King of the South (Daniel 11:27) will arise and make a lying deal (Daniel 11:27). Europe will get a "great army" (Daniel 11:25) and "many ships" (Daniel 11:40). We are seeing the foundations for this now.

Animal sacrifices will begin (cf. Daniel 9:27). (Note: It is possible that the King of the South could rise up prior to Daniel 9:27 or even after the sacrifices resume as could the King of the North — and his army will be greater years after the deal of Daniel 9:27 is confirmed).

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God then will have been preached enough to the world as a witness for the end to come (Matthew 24:14) — steps related to this are in process (such as getting our The Gospel of the Kingdom of God booklet in closer to 2,000 languages/dialects thus far). This seems to be related to the 'short work' of Romans 9:28 — preparations for this are also occurring.

A naval encounter between the King of the North and the Anglo-Americans (could just be the Americans) will take place per Daniel 11:30) — this might mark the start of media attention and the

short-work of Romans 9:28. It will mark the start of a time of pre-tribulation persecution per Daniel 11:30-35.

Jewish sacrifices will be stopped (Daniel 9:27, 11:31). Some Jews would like to start the sacrifices now (and did perform a trial event on December 10, 2018), but the Israeli government still has not been allowing the daily sacrifices that groups like the Temple Institute and Sanhedrin want.

Europe will reorganize into ten 'kingdoms' (not necessarily ten currently existing nations as some have improperly insisted upon and give power the Beast) — some of this could happen earlier — and reorganization has been proposed.

The abomination of desolation will then be set up (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14) because of actions of the King of the North (Daniel 9:27; 11:31). The most faithful expect to continue to tell what is happening (cf. Romans 9:28) until they are somehow stopped (cf. Amos 8:11-12).

A decree is to be issued (Zephaniah 2:1-3) and then the most faithful Philadelphian Christians, most of which will have previously gathered together as Zephaniah points to, will 'fly' to the wilderness (Revelation 12:14-16) and those in Judea should flee per Jesus' statements in Matthew 24:15-19 and Mark 13:15-18. Several days prior to the time the Great Tribulation starts, the two witnesses will support the work, and they will get miraculous power from God to do their job (Revelation 11:3-15).

The King of the North Beast, bolstered by the Antichrist, will launch an attack and the Great Tribulation will begin (Matthew 24:21-22; Mark 13:19-20; Daniel 11:39, 12:1b; cf. Habakkuk 2:7-8). This will eliminate the USA and its Anglo-Saxon descended allies as nations (Daniel 11:39; Jeremiah 30:7; Habakkuk 2:7-8). The King of the South will shortly later push against the King of the North and get eliminated (Daniel 11:40-43) — those loyal to the King of the South will know tribulation (cf. Ezekiel 30:2-8).

About a month or so less than 2 ½ years after the Great Tribulation began, the sixth seal will be opened, there will be a 'blood moon' and a darkened sun (Revelation 6:12; Joel 2:30-31), then the 144,000 of Revelation 7:1-8 will be sealed.

Shortly thereafter, the seventh seal will be opened (Revelation 8:1-6) and the year long Day of the Lord (Isaiah 34:8) will begin with trumpet blasts, plagues, etc. (Revelation 8:7-13; 9:1-21; 11:13-14).

The crashing of Wormwood into the earth will occur with after third trumpet blast (Revelation 8:10-11). Some might call this Planet X hitting the earth.

The gathering for Armageddon will begin related to the sixth trumpet blast (Revelation 8:13-19; 16:12-16).

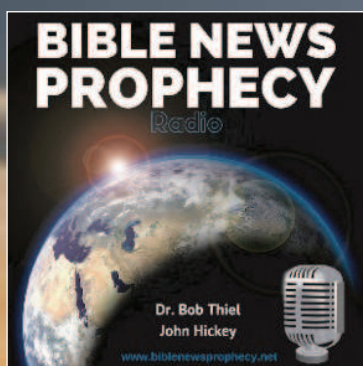
It will get very bad, as Jesus said:

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24:21-22)

Then at the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15) those days will be shortened, the saints will rise in the first resurrection, and Jesus will return to establish the millennial kingdom.

The Great Tribulation should begin about three and a half years after the peace deal (Daniel 9:27) is confirmed, and right after a time that the King of the North tries to proclaim peace and safety (1 Thessalonians 5:3) to throw people off (cf. Daniel 11:24) for his invasion plans.

Plans, we in the *Continuing* Church of God are expected to point out (cf. Daniel 11:29-33).



Fulfilling Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19-20



Continuing Church of God www.ccog.org
Daily Bible News Prophecy www.cogwriter.com

BIBLENEWSPROPHECY.NET Radio messages of biblical and prophetic interest.

CCOG.ASIA This website is focused on Asia. It has articles in many Asian languages.

CCOG.EU This website is focused on Europe. It has materials in many European languages.

CCOG.IN This website is focused on the Indian subcontinent. It has materials in many Indian languages.

CCOG.NZ This website is focused on those in New Zealand.

CCOGAFRICA.ORG This website is focused on those in Africa.

CCOGCanada.CA This website is focused on those in Canada.

CDLIDD.ES La Continuación de la Iglesia de Dios. This is the CCOG Spanish language website.

PNIND.PH Patuloy na Iglesia ng Diyos. This website is focused on the Philippines.



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The Continuing Church of God also uses books, personal visits, daily electronic newsletters, and weekly letters to the brethren to support Matthew 24:14, Romans 11:25, and Matthew 28:19-20.