

April - June 2024

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# BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY

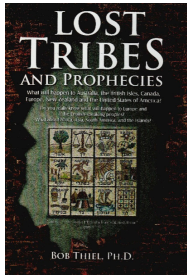
Prophecies for 11 Tribes, Part 2  
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## From the Editor: Passover Approaching. Are you ready?

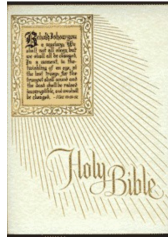
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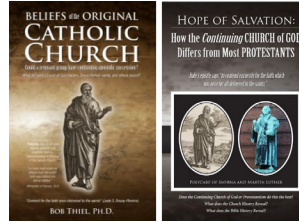
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**Back Cover: Internet and Radio** This shows where written as well as audio-visual messages from the Continuing Church of God can be found.

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# In 2024, Passover begins right after sunset on April 21st in the Roman

Should Christians keep the Passover?

As many are aware, the children of Israel were specifically told to observe the Passover in the Book of Exodus. Families took a lamb, without blemish (Exodus 12:5), for the sacrifice (Exodus 12:3-4). The lamb was sacrificed on the fourteenth at twilight (Exodus 12:6) and some of its blood was placed upon the door of the family's home (Exodus 12:7).

Those who took the steps God instructed were 'passed over' from death, whereas the Egyptians who did not do this were not (Exodus 12:28-30).

As many realize, Jesus kept the Passover annually (Exodus 13:10) from the time of His youth (Luke 2:41-42) and throughout His entire life (Luke 22:15).

Passover was observed on the fourteenth day of the month of the first month (Leviticus 23:5; called Abib in Deuteronomy 16:1 or Nisan in Esther 3:7). It occurs in the Spring season of the year.

Although Jesus changed several practices associated with it (Luke 22:19-22; John 13:1-17), our Savior also told His disciples to keep it (Luke 22:7-13). Also, the New Testament is clear, that because of Jesus' sacrifice, killing sheep and putting blood on doorposts (Exodus 12:6-7) is not needed anymore (cf. Hebrews 7:12-13, 26-27; 9:11-28).

The Apostle Paul specifically taught that Christians were to keep Passover in accordance with Jesus' instructions (1 Corinthians 5:7-8; 11:23-26).

The Bible teaches that Jesus "was foreordained before the foundation of the world" (1 Peter 1:20) to be "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). Thus, God's plan of salvation through His Holy Days and festivals,

including Jesus being the "Passover lamb," was known before humans were placed on the planet. That is why some of the celestial bodies were placed in the heavens to be able to calculate them!

Pretty much all churches recognize that the Bible teaches that Jesus fulfilled something associated with Passover when He was killed.

We find the operation of this great Sacrifice even discussed in the Garden of Eden. After Jesus was prophesied (Genesis 3:15), God killed an animal (probably a lamb or goat) to cover the nakedness (a representation of a type of sin in this incidence) of Adam and Eve with its skins (Genesis 3:21). We also see this principle of sacrifice operating when Abel sacrificed a lamb from his flock (Genesis 4:2-4).

The famous Passover in the days of Moses showed the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt (Exodus 12:1-38). Moses recorded God's instructions about this as well as the calendar (Genesis 1:14; 2:1; Exodus 12:1) and His feasts (Leviticus 23). The Passover basically became the first of these events annually picturing to God's children His great plan of salvation.

In the Old Testament, the Passover pictured deliverance from the bondage of Egypt and God's intervention. But prophetically, it was also looking towards the time that Jesus would come and be our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). The Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29; cf. 3:16-17).

On Jesus' last Passover as a human being, He continued to keep it at the time of the late evening and told His disciples to keep it (Luke 22:14-19; cf. John 13:2, 12-15) and on the 14th of Nisan/Abib (cf. Luke 22:14; 23:52-54).

Jesus, however, changed several of the practices associated with its observance. Jesus made the unleavened bread and wine an integral part of Passover (Matthew 26:18, 26-30) and added the practice of foot washing (John 13:12-17).

Jesus in no way taught that it was not to be an annual Passover, nor did He change the time of day of its observation to a Sunday morning like those who follow Greco-Roman traditions do. Even Greek Orthodox scholars admit that 1st and 2nd century Christians kept Passover at night (Calivas, Alkiviadis C. *The Origins of Pascha and Great Week - Part I*. Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1992) like we in the Continuing Church of God do in the 21st century. Passover is only to be taken by properly baptized Christians (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29; Romans 6:3-10; Exodus 12:48; Numbers 9:14).

It probably should be added that the Church of Rome (as well as many of its Protestant descendants) officially teaches that it keeps Passover, though calling it something different in the English language and not keeping it as Jesus did (Catechism of the Catholic Church. Doubleday, NY 1995, p. 332).

But as Jesus said, we also are to do more than JUST watch and not be caught up with the ways of the world. We are also to pray — and we all should strive to improve so that we will be counted worthy to escape what is going to happen.

According to other words of Jesus (cf. Revelation 3), not all Christians will be accounted worthy (see also Revelation 12:14-17). But, if you at least watch and pray, and take proper action, and gather together early enough (cf. Zephaniah 2:1-3) with the Philadelphian remnant, you may be protected from the hour of trial that will affect the whole earth (Revelation 3:7-10).

### **Wine, Not Grape Juice**

Despite the fact that Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:3-10) and the Greek term used in the New Testament (oinos) refers to wine (cf. 1 Timothy 3:8), various ones have claimed that it was grape juice,

and not wine, that was used for Passover. The Jews, themselves though, use wine at Passover (Hirsch EG, Eisenstein JD. *Wine*. Jewish Encyclopedia. 1907, pp. 532-535).

How do we know that grape juice was not possibly used by Jesus?

Grapes are normally harvested around September and Passover is usually in the Roman calendar month called April. In Jesus' day, they did not have modern sterilization or refrigeration. Hence, grape juice would have spoiled between the time of harvest and Passover.

Others have noted that it was IMPOSSIBLE for Jews to have stored grape juice that long (Cf. Kennedy ARS. *Hastings Bible Dictionary*. C. Scribner Son's, 1909 p. 974). Therefore, only wine, which can remain unspoiled for even many years would have been used. (The use of alcohol, like wine, is endorsed during the Feast of Tabernacles in Deuteronomy 26:14, but not required.)

Christians are not to be "drunk with wine, wherein is excess" as Paul wrote (Ephesians 5:18, KJV). Only a very small quantity of wine is normally consumed at Passover (about a teaspoon full or less).

### **Passover Was on the 14th Not the 15th**

Some have been confused about the date of the biblical Passover.

The Bible teaches that it was to be kept on the 14th day of the first month of God's calendar (Leviticus 23:5).

In the 6th verse of Exodus Chapter 12, it states that the lamb is to be killed "at dusk" (GWT and Jewish Publication Society translations). The 8th verse says that they are to eat the flesh that night. It is to be roasted and eaten that night. And, yes as one who has killed lambs, one can easily kill, roast, and eat a lamb 'of the first year' (Exodus 12:5) between sunset and midnight — which is basically what the children of Israel did on the recorded Passover in Exodus

12. And technically, they had until morning to have eaten it per Exodus 12:10. Now the Bible is clear that the angelic Passover occurred “on that night” (Exodus 12:12), the same night of the 14th.

The Bible teaches that Jesus was only to be sacrificed once (1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:28; 10:10-14). In the New Testament, it is clear that Jesus kept His final Passover (Luke 22:14-16) and was killed. The Bible shows that Jesus was removed from the stake prior to the 15th. Why? Because the 15th was a “high day” (John 19:28-31), specifically the first day of unleavened bread (Leviticus 23:6). Hence, Jesus kept and fulfilled the Passover on the 14th.

Early church history also records that Passover was kept on the 14th of month of Nisan by faithful Jewish and Gentile Christian leaders in the first, second, and third centuries (Eusebius. Church History, Book V, Chapter 24) and that it was kept in the evening (Calivas).

Most leaders who profess Christ claim to observe some version of Passover, though many have changed the name, the date, the time, the symbols, and the meaning (see Easter section in chapter 10).

The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ was the Passover lamb sacrificed for us and that we are to keep that Feast with unleavened bread:

7 Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8, NAB)

Notice that the feast is to be kept with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. The Apostle Paul realized that Jesus was a substitute for the Passover lamb that the Jewish people used. He also taught that Christians should still continue to observe Passover.

But, basically, how were Christians to do this?

The Apostle Paul explains:

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. (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

So, the Apostle Paul taught that Christians were to keep the Passover in the manner that Jesus observed His final Passover with the bread and wine. And that was at night as remembrance or memorial — a memorial is an annual, not a weekly event.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church correctly notes that “Jesus chose the time of the Passover ... took bread, and ... he broke it” and gave it to be eaten.

It is documented in the Bible that Jesus broke unleavened bread and passed it to His followers to eat. Jesus also passed the wine to His followers to drink a small amount. We in the Continuing Church of God pray, break and distribute unleavened bread, and distribute wine for His faithful followers to consume. Yet, the Church of Rome (like many others) no longer breaks unleavened bread (it uses a whole ‘host’) nor does it usually distribute wine for its followers to drink (the distribution of wine is considered optional by the Church of Rome, and it is often not done in Protestant churches).

### **What About ‘As Often ... You Proclaim’?**

How often should Passover be taken?

Jesus stated, **“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”**

Consider that it is Jesus’ death that this commemorates.

Christ’s death reconciles us to God (Romans 5:10)

and Jesus gave His life for our salvation (John 3:16-17; Hebrews 5:5-11). His death teaches us that Christians are not to have sin reign over our mortal bodies (Romans 6:3-12). The Christian Passover is the annual commemoration of Jesus' death.

Jesus DID NOT say to do this ceremony AS OFTEN AS YOU DESIRE, only that when you do it, you are proclaiming His death. The Greek term for often in 1 Corinthians 11:26, *hosakis*, is used one other time in the New Testament. It does not mean as often as you desire UNLESS the Greek term for "you desire," *thelo* or *ethelo*, is also present (which it is in Revelation 11:6; the only other place in the Bible this particular term is used). However, since this is NOT present in 1 Corinthians 11:26, Paul is NOT telling us to observe the Lord's Passover as often as WE desire, but that when we are observing it on Passover, it is not just a ceremony, it is showing Christ's death.

Furthermore, Paul wrote this:

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. (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Paul is clearly teaching that to take this bread and wine, one must examine oneself. The delecting that is supposed to accompany Passover helps us focus on our faults and sins, and thus helps fulfill this command from Paul to examine ourselves. As delecting can take lots of effort, this also supports the concept of an annual examination (people were not removing leaven every day or week). The New Testament records that both Jesus and Paul taught to observe the Passover in the Christian manner. And that was an annual observation.

### **Foot washing**

Foot washing is part of the Passover ceremony for Christians. Foot washing helps show humility and that even the followers of Christ still tend to have areas that need to be cleansed (cf. John 13:10).

Jesus taught that His followers should do this:

13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (John 13:13-17)

Relatively few who profess Christianity wash feet like Jesus said to do.

But we in the Continuing Church of God follow Jesus' instructions on this annually.

Passover was kept annually on the 14th of Nisan by the faithful and others in later centuries. Greco-Roman Catholic scholars (Eusebius, Socrates Scholasticus, Bede) record this occurred in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th and also later centuries. Various Church of God writers have traced its observance from the time of the apostles to modern times (e.g. Dugger AN, Dodd CO. A History of True Religion, 3rd ed. Jerusalem, 1972 (Church of God, 7th Day). Thiel B. Continuing History of the Church of God. Nazarene Books, 2016).

Greco-Roman scholars recognize that aspects of Passover, like foot washing, were also observed by those they considered to be early faithful Christians (e.g. Thurston, H. (1912). Washing of Feet and Hands. In The Catholic Encyclopedia).

Passover is the first annual feast listed in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus.

Passover helps picture salvation and grace for Christians. It should be noted that early Christian writings most often refer to it as the Passover and not "the Lord's Supper."

While some may 'spiritualize' away the necessity of Passover's observance, leaders considered to be saints by the Greco-Romans and the Church of God did keep it literally.

We in the Continuing Church of God still do so today.

We in the Continuing Church of God keep Passover



and include the historical, and biblical, practice of washing one another's feet.

### The Plan from the Beginning

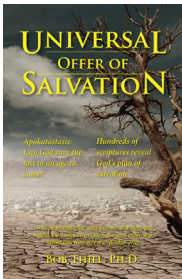
Passover shows that God had a plan before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20), to send Jesus to die for our sins, that God loves us (John 3:16), that God can deliver us, and that His Son suffered and died for us. Passover shows that Christians are freed from sin by His death and not to remain in sin (Romans 6:1-5).

But simply accepting the sacrifice of Jesus is not all there is to God's plan of salvation.

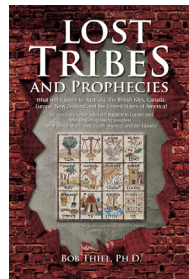
Various people keep the beginning of God's feasts of salvation by somewhat recognizing Passover and/or Pentecost, but never go on to know the "depth of the riches" (cf. Romans 11:33) of God's grace (2 Peter 3:18) pictured by the other biblical feasts.

Christ is not only the author/beginner of our salvation (Hebrews 5:9) but is also the finisher of our salvation (Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 1:1-9). His true followers keep His Spring and Fall Holy Days.

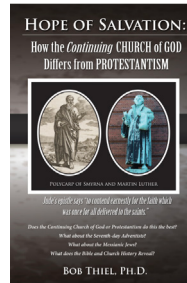
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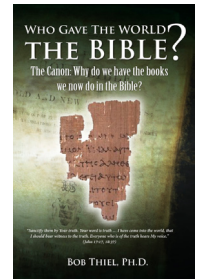
Universal Offer of Salvation



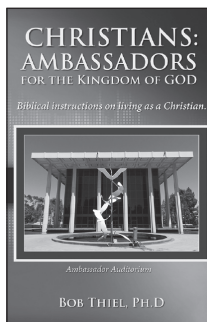
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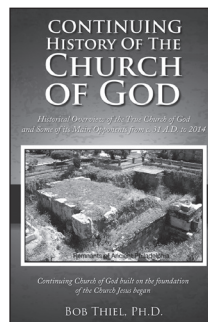
HOPE OF SALVATION:



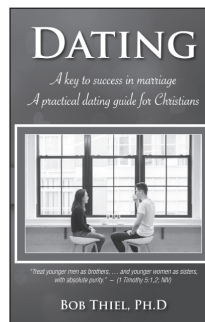
Who Gave The World The Bible?



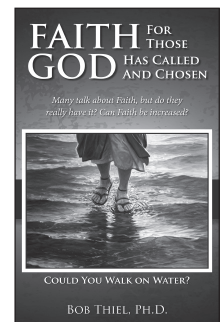
Christians: AMBASSADORS



Continuing History of the Church of God



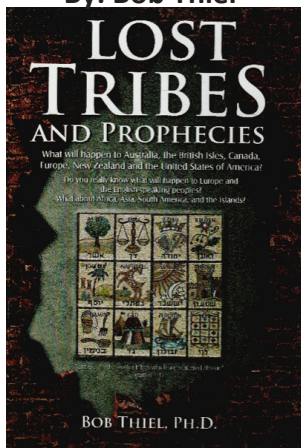
Dating: A Key to Success in Marriage



Faith for Those God has Called and Chosen

# Prophecies for 11 Tribes, Part 2

By: Bob Thiel



This is the second part of a two-part series covering prophecies related to 11 of the 13 tribes of Israel.

God promised Jacob the following:

14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Genesis 28:14)

Therefore, the tribes must have scattered and gone somewhere according to the Bible — and the New Testament confirms this (e.g. James 1:1).

How have various ones attempted to determine the locations and identities of the tribes of Israel?

This is the second part of what is expected to be a multi-part article to provide insights into that.

In the first

## **Naphtali: Sweden**

Now, let's look at another tribe.

Jacob prophesied:

21 "Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words. (Genesis 49:21)

The late Dr. Herman Hoeh wrote:

Thomas {the Apostle} ... journeyed into Northwest India, east of Persia, where the "White Indians" dwelt. These "White Indians" --

that is, whites living in India -- were also known as "Nephtalite Huns," in later Greek records. Any connection with the tribe of Naphtali? They were overthrown in the sixth century and migrated into Scandinavia. The archaeology of Scandinavia confirms this event. (Hoeh H. COMPENDIUM OF WORLD HISTORY, VOLUME 2. Ambassador College, 1969 Edition) Nephtali represents Sweden — "satisfied with favor, full with the blessings of the Lord." She is compared to a prancing hind or deer and "giveth goodly words" (Gen. 49:21). From Sweden, with a well-balanced economy, come the Nobel prizes in token to great world accomplishments. Sweden, during two world wars and ... trouble in Palestine, sent her emissaries to speak words of conciliation and peace. The promise by Moses to possess "the sea and the south" is applicable both to ancient Nephtali and modern Sweden: notice the position of the Sea of Galilee and Baltic relative to the position of this tribe. (Hoeh H. Location of the Tribes of Israel. © 1957)

Moses wrote:

23 About the tribe of [Naphtali] he said, "The people of Naphtali enjoy the LORD's favor and are filled with the LORD's blessings. They will take possession of the lake and the land south of it." (Deuteronomy 33:23, GWT)

As far as lakes go, Sweden has the largest lake in Europe, the Vänern. And it does possess the land



south of it until the sea. Note: many translations translate the Hebrew word transliterated as 'yawm as west, but it means a "large body of water" (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 2010 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.), and it is frequently translated as "sea" (which Smith's Literal Translation does for this verse) and not "west" (like the KJV/NKJV do) in the Old Testament (e.g. see also Deuteronomy 30:13 where it is used twice).

The late Raymond McNair wrote (**bolding mine**):

Here is a very interesting quotation taken from an article entitled Synchronous History, Volume III (1874), written by J.W. Bosanquet:

"The old gravestones in the Crimea", writes Neubauer, "which are now recognized as genuine by all men of learning, attest that there were Jewish **[Israelitish communities in the Crimea as early as the year A.D. 6**, and that ... held themselves to be descended from the TEN TRIBES."

I Jehuda Ben Mose ha-Nagolon of the East country ... of the tribe of Naphtali ... who went into the exile with the exiles, who were driven away with Hosea, the king of Israel, together with the tribes of Simeon and Dan, and some of the generations of the other tribes of Israel, which (all) were led into exile by the enemy Shalmanezzer ... the cities of the exiled tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half of Manasseh, which Pilneser drove into exile and settled there ...

The author of the above quote, like almost everyone, thought these exiles of the "Lost Ten Tribes" of Israel were "Jews." But the people of Ten-Tribed Israel were never called "Jews" in the Hebrew Scriptures!

Notice that the person whose name was found on this Crimean Epigraph was of the tribe of NAPHTALI, who was taken into captivity with the captives in the time of Hosea, king of Israel, with the tribes of SIMEON, DAN, REUBEN, GAD, and the half tribe of MANASSEH. This is another proof that the exiles of Israel (those of the so-called Lost Ten Tribes) passed through the area of the Crimea, in the vicinity of the Black Sea!

The exiles of the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel wandered

for centuries in the steppes of Southern Russia under such names as Cimmerians and Scythians. (McNair R. Key to Northwest European Origins. Ambassador College, 1963)

So, yes, there is supporting evidence of migration and Israelite connections.

Although some tie Naphtali with Norway (Y. The Tribes, 4th edition. Russell-David Publishers, 2011, p. 438), scripture (e.g. Deuteronomy 33:23) points elsewhere. It also should be noted that although the Swedes and the Norwegians often appear the same (and there has been intermarriage), many of the two peoples are ethnically slightly different (Haugen E. Blessings of Babel, Chapter 20, Ethnicity: Swedes and Norwegians. De Gruyter Mouton, 2012, pp. 125-130).

This is seemingly because they originally descended from two different tribes. This may explain why they have had two different migratory patterns (Are Norwegians and Swedes the Same People? Get the Facts. ScandanavianFacts.com accessed 03/23/22).

It is also possible/likely that some in Denmark have descent from Naphtali.

### **Gad: Switzerland**

According to scripture, Leah's handmaid Zilpah gave Jacob a son Leah named Gad (Genesis 30:9-11), which means fortunate or troop — both of which apply to Switzerland.

With a combination of cattle, cheese, clocks, watches, multi-function knives, mercenaries, banks, international organizations, tourism, and international investments, the fact is that Switzerland has been among the most affluent countries over the past two centuries.

In ancient times, Gad had a lot of cattle (cf. Numbers 32:1). In the 21st century, Switzerland being a country of mountains and valleys, is very suited for cattle. And for its size, has a lot.

Moses wrote:

20 And of Gad he said:

"Blessed is he who enlarges Gad; He dwells as a lion, And tears the arm and the crown of his head. 21 He provided the first part for himself, Because a lawgiver's portion was reserved

there. He came with the heads of the people; He administered the justice of the Lord, And His judgments with Israel.” (Deuteronomy 33:20-21)

Switzerland, Geneva particularly, has had a history of being an “international lawgiver.” Note: Even though the migrations of some of the ancestors of Switzerland and Germany are similar, and some have erroneously taught that Germany is Gad, Germany has no history of being a recognized lawgiver — but instead primarily descended from Assyria.

The late Dr. Herman Hoeh put out the following on Gad:

Gad, which means “the troop” certainly designates Switzerland the only Israelite nation in which every man is mobilized for defence. Against Gad would come the foreign troops, said Jacob, but he will “trod upon their heel.” Moses declared that Gad does NOT “leap,” a characteristic of the colonizing or pillaging tribes. Gad “teareth the arm, yea, the crown of the head” of the Holy Roman Empire, in whose territory “he chose a first part for himself, and there a portion of a ruler was reserved.” To Gad come “the heads of the people” as they do today to Geneva. No other nation on earth so perfectly fits this description of a nation of troops. (Hoeh HL. LOCATION OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, Herman L Hoeh © 1957)

Jacob prophesied:

19 “Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last. (Genesis 49:19)

The above is an end time prophecy as it is for “the last days” (Genesis 49:1). It looks to be a reference to Switzerland — which will not be able to stay totally independent of the Beast power that will arise in Europe. A troop shall tramp Switzerland.

Although many in Switzerland have not descended from Gad, the Swiss will apparently have to temporarily accept European Beast domination.

Consider, also, the following along with the reality that Switzerland is full of mountains:

12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. (Revelation 6:12-14)

17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. (Revelation 16:17-20)

5 O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the Lord.

6 For You have forsaken Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled with eastern ways; They are soothsayers like the Philistines, And they are pleased with the children of foreigners. 7 Their land is also full of silver and gold, And there is no end to their treasures; Their land is also full of horses, And there is no end to their chariots. 8 Their land is also full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands, That which their own fingers have made. 9 People bow down, And each man humbles himself; Therefore do not forgive them.

10 Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, From the terror of the Lord And the glory of His majesty. 11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

12 For the day of the Lord of hosts

Shall come upon everything proud and lofty,

Upon everything lifted up — And it shall be brought low. (Isaiah 2:5-12)

The above time frame is the Day of the Lord. It shows that various parts of Jacob/Israel are pleased with children of foreigners — suggesting intermarriage. They have silver and gold (cf. Revelation 18:11-12). They will end up hiding in the rocks (cf. Revelation 6:15-17) — while this hiding includes all associated with Babylon, it appears to be including various tribes of Israel, like Switzerland.

Mountainous Switzerland, as well as other mountainous regions, will be affected by what is coming.

Switzerland will not remain a safe place, like some modern writers and survivalists have claimed.

Asher: Belgium and Luxembourg

Zilpah's next son was named Asher, meaning happy (or blest), by Leah (Genesis 30:12-13).

Jacob said:

20 "Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties. (Genesis 49:20)

Dutchman Bert Otten wrote:

Literally it says that Asher's bread will be fat. It is noteworthy ... In Belgium they sell bread in big, round, 'fat', loaves. However, lechem also means food in general, and not just bread. Asher's food would be rich in content, and it would be plenteous... (Otten B. Asher - Walloons (Belgians) Email to COGwriter@aol.com, March 5, 2014)

Belgium's main crops include barley, corn, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, and assorted fruits and vegetables. Luxembourg's main crops are wheat, spelt, corn, triticale (a wheat/rye hybrid), rapeseed and assorted fruits and vegetables. Both countries are also involved in livestock and cheese production.

Moses wrote:

24 And of Asher he said:

"Asher is most blessed of sons; Let him be

avored by his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil. 25 Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be. (Deuteronomy 33:24)

Belgium is one of the world's leading processors of cobalt, radium, copper, zinc, iron, and lead as well as an important producer of steel. Luxembourg is also a producer of steel, though many there are ethnically German.

Both Belgium and Luxembourg are among the wealthiest per capita nations in the world.

### **Issachar: Western Finland**

Leah's fifth son was named Issachar, basically meaning habitation (Genesis 30:17-18).

Jacob prophesied:

14 "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens; 15 He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves. (Genesis 49:14-15)

Here are a couple of claims related to the identification of Issachar, the second of which is from 1957:

Finland has been identified ... as ... especially Issachar. (Davidy. The Tribes, p. 217)

Issachar ... Jacob continues: "For he saw a resting-place that it was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and he BOWED HIS SHOULDER TO BEAR, and became a SERVANT UNDER "... (Gen. 49:14-15.) ... Such is Finland. Finland is the ONLY nation that has voluntarily taken the full responsibility of her debts. She is today paying off a huge indemnity to Russia. Her land is pleasant and good, not extraordinarily rich. According to Deuteronomy 33:19 she derives wealth from fishing and from hidden treasures of the sand gigantic peat bogs and the finest sand for glass-making. Issachar is not a colonizing people they dwell pastorally "in tents," said Moses. (Hoeh HL. LOCATION OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL Ambassador College, 1957)

Finland is located next to Russia.



Moses declared:

18 "Rejoice, ... Issachar in your tents! 19 They shall call the peoples to the mountain; There they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness; For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas And of treasures hidden in the sand." (Deuteronomy 33:18-19)

As far as rejoicing goes, Finland has been named the happiest country in the world by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Finland is reliant on seaborne trade. It is among the world leaders in ship technology and ship operations, particularly for arctic and harsh environments. As far as treasures in the sand go, Finland is involved in seabed mineral extraction in the sand as well as the deep sea.

### **Zebulun: The Netherlands**

Leah named her sixth and last son Zebulun, meaning habitation (Genesis 30:19-20).

Jacob prophesied:

13 "Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon. (Genesis 49:13)

The Netherlands is next to the sea and has one of the largest ports in the world.

As far as Sidon/Zidon goes, according to Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible this is not a reference to the city with that name. Barnes' Notes on the Bible says Sidon initially referred to a Phoenician territory Zebulun bordered. Now, the Netherlands is a nation adjoined to a Gentile one (Germany).

Moses wrote:

18 And of Zebulun he said:  
"Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, ... 19 ...  
For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas And of treasures hidden in the sand."  
(Deuteronomy 33:18-19)

Moses said: "rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out." The Netherlands takes also treasures from the sea and

the sand. Zebulun is a colonizing and trading people.

In Old English, the name Holland literally meant "wood-land," but some believe that the name came from the Bible:

According to Dutch Israelites, the Dutch were one of the lost tribes of Israel, namely the Zebulun. After all, one of the children of Zebulun was called Helon, who gave his name to Holland. (Diab K. Did Adam and Eve Speak Dutch? Haaretz, June 23, 2014)

If the term Holland came from Helon of the Bible that would seem to be a strong connection. Zebulun's son Helon is mentioned five times in the Book of Numbers (1:9; 2:7; 7:24,29; 10:16). In the 16th century, Protestants pointed to one term in Obadiah 20 as to pointing the land of the Dutch (Geneva Bible, p. 373), whereas the Jewish sage Rashi said that verse referred to where the ten tribes went into (Rashi on Obadiah in The twelve prophets: Hebrew text & English translation. Abraham Cohen, ed. Soncino Press, 1948).

According to Jewish rabbinical interpretation of scripture, the precious stone representing Zebulun on the breastplate of the ancient high priest was diamond (cf. Exodus 28:18). For 400 years Amsterdam was the most important diamond city in the world, and while it is not anymore, it is still an important city in the diamond industry.

There are also concentrations of descendants of Zebulun in South Africa and in the Caribbean (Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten), and even some in Indonesia.

### **Benjamin: Norway and Iceland**

Benjamin was the second and last son of Rachel (Genesis 35:18). Rachel wanted to name him Ben-Oni, meaning son of my sorrow (she died right after giving birth to him), but his father chose Benjamin, meaning son of my right hand.

The Bible points to the ancient Benjamites as being highly effective warriors (Judges 20:24). But after the other tribes declared war on them for supporting terrible behavior (Judges 20:12-46), Benjamin became the smallest tribe numerically (cf. 1 Samuel 9:21).

Israel's first king, Saul, was a Benjamite (1 Samuel 9:21-22). When the 10 tribes left to form the Kingdom of Israel, Benjamin remained with what became known as the Kingdom of Judah (1 Kings 12:21). But in time, some left consistent with Jeremiah 6:1.

Jacob prophesied:

27 "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil." (Genesis 49:27)

Moses wrote:

12 Of Benjamin he said:  
"The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him, Who shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders."  
(Deuteronomy 33:12)

In his previously cited Location article, Dr. Hoeh also wrote:

Benjamin constitutes Norway and Iceland. The Icelandic people in reality {are} a colony of Norwegians. Benjamin was given to David because Jerusalem, David's capital, was in the tribe of Benjamin, not Judah. God said He would give David light in Jerusalem (1 Kings 11:36). This verse could not refer to Judah which did not have to be given to the Jewish House of David. Benjamin was told to flee the destruction of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 6:1) which many of them did.

Benjamin is compared to "a wolf that raveneth; in the morning he devoureth the prey, and at even he divideth the spoil" (Genesis 49:27). This is certainly an apt description of the Vikings who pillaged Northern Europe, and even Mediterranean regions. Almost all Viking raids came from Norway. It is also significant that Benjamin, the smallest tribe, still is the smallest today. There are fewer Norwegians (plus 148 thousand from Iceland) than any other Israelite nation. (Moses' blessing in Deuteronomy 33 has particular reference to this fact that Jerusalem was in the tribe of Benjamin.)

Most Benjamites were part of Judah when ten tribes

were given to Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:29-35). Some Benjamites are still part of Judah and in the land of Israel.

In the future, the prophet Obadiah proclaimed:

19 ... Benjamin shall possess Gilead. (Obadiah 19)

So, more of these people will end up back in the promised land.

### **Blessings and Curses**

While God promised a variety of blessings to the tribes of Israel, those blessings were not stated to be permanent.

Notice, for example, the following warning from scripture:

10 When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

11 "Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, 12 lest — when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; 14 when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God ... 17 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' ... 19 Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. (Deuteronomy 8:10-14, 17,19)

Now, the descendants of the children of Israel have, to a major degree, forgotten the true God and believe they have gotten all their wealth on their own. Many of the Israelite nations mentioned in this chapter will temporarily support the Beast power. Unless they repent, they will perish in the latter days (cf. Deuteronomy 31:29b).

Furthermore, in the 28th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy there are a number of blessings

and curses listed. While the descendants of Israel have received many physical blessings, the Bible shows that curses will come to the disobedient (Deuteronomy 28:15-24), including having aliens rise up (Deuteronomy 28:43) — which has happened.

Additionally, the descendants of Israel will ultimately face tests and trials from the coming European Beast power which will turn on them (cf. Ezekiel 5:4; 39:23,28). Ezekiel 5:4 seems to show that after the Anglo-Americans are eliminated, fire will spread to “all the house of Israel.” Furthermore, Amos 6:3-7 points to many of them becoming captives in time as well.

### **What About Other Ethnicities?**

One reasonable question some might ask is, “Okay if descendants of the children of Israel are in various nations, what about people in those nations that are not ethnically Israelites or otherwise not somehow descended from one of Israel’s sons?”

Well, from scripture we see that a “mixed multitude” came out of Egypt during the Exodus (Exodus 12:38). Those people, generally, experienced the same blessings and cursings that the ethnic Israelites did. Furthermore, the Bible teaches that all families and nations would be blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:3, 18:18 22:18), with a similar promise given to Isaac (Genesis 26:4) as well as to Jacob (Genesis 28:14).

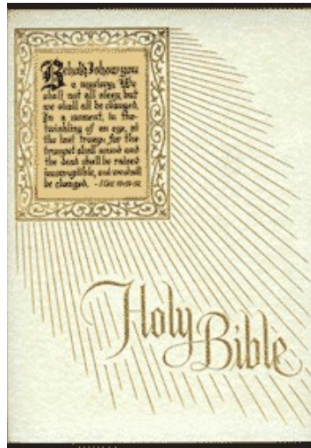
Thus, those in lands with a lot of Israelites would tend to get many of the same blessings (cf. Deuteronomy 26:11).

That being said, although the non-Israelites will also experience some of the same cursings (cf. Numbers 15:30), certain scriptures suggest that they may not be subject to all the cursings (e.g. Deuteronomy 28:43-44). And some of the non-Israelites living among the Israelites are expected to turn against the Israelites and join invading armies.

(More details as to why the listed nations have characteristics to tie them in with specific prophecies to the individual tribes can be found in numerous free articles at [cogwriter.com](http://cogwriter.com).) This article basically comes from the free book, online at [ccog.org](http://ccog.org), titled *Lost Tribes and Prophecies*. More on what will happen to nations, including the USA, can be found in that free book.



# STUDY THE BIBLE COURSE



Lesson 24a

## Lesson 24: God Won't Ultimately Accept You “Just as You Are”

Bob Thiel, Editor-in-Chief

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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.

Does God want you to be just as you are or does God expect YOU TO CHANGE?

Do you think you are fine as you are?

The Bible reveals that much suffering is the AUTOMATIC PENALTY of following the wrong ways of this world and the downward pulls of human nature. Through miseducation and RELIGIOUS DECEPTION, people continually follow the ways that seem right to the human mind. Only when one comes to realize that true, heartfelt repentance of sin and SELF is the first step toward experiencing the abundant life God offers the world, WILL GOD BEGIN TO GRANT IT! This final lesson on repentance makes it plain.'

Jesus commands us to “repent” – to CHANGE! (Matthew 4:17) But what is it Christ wants us to

change? Merely our way of “thinking” about Him? Do we change our “outlook” on religion? Do we change our Church? Change our habits?

Change WHAT?

The apostle Paul explained that the “... carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” (Romans 8:7) That CARNAL mind is the NATURAL human mind – the nominal, sincere, natural, common “way of looking at things,” we are inclined to develop from childhood. It’s the mind of every normal human being PRIOR to this CHANGE Christ was talking about! Paul went on to say, “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” (Romans 8:9). Did you notice it? If someone does not have the SPIRIT of Christ – that

one doesn't BELONG to Christ, and therefore IS NOT A CHRISTIAN!

This change has something to do with the carnal mind, and the Spirit of Christ! Let's notice another important scripture. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:1-2). Read that scripture again! STUDY it!

God says you must undergo a renewing, a TRANSFORMING, a CHANGING – OF THE MIND!

This changing of the mind is a change of HUMAN NATURE! The nominal, natural way of human nature is the way of SELFISHNESS. The SELF is the entire motivating drive in human nature. It is the pleasing of the self, the satisfaction of the SELF – the way of GETTING for the SELF that is the basis of human nature. You are extremely selfish! All human beings are selfish.

And behind the selfishness of every person lies the root cause of it all: VANITY!

"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, ALL is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

The word vanity means "worthless, empty, fruitless, transient."

Every person has VANITY, in one form or another. Notice that Paul tells us, "For the creature [correct meaning, "creation"] was made subject to VANITY, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope" (Romans 8:20, KJV).

Let's look more of what the Apostle Paul wrote there from the NKJV:

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until

now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. (Romans 8:20-25)

So we were made subject to futility. One definition that Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines the Greek term used here for futility is "what is devoid of truth and appropriateness."

Much of what we witness is vanity! The desire of every person to be "liked" by others – to be "well thought of," to be ACCEPTED by the society, looked up to, respected, admired, and loved by others – is often VANITY!

Having been reared in a world that measures everything by WHAT PEOPLE THINK, YOU probably are QUITE CONCERNED about the opinions of your friends, neighbors and relatives. Unless you have repented and been totally conquered by God, your life is all wrapped up in this age, this society! Whatever is the standard, whatever is looked upon with approval BY these people, whose acceptance you humanly covet, THAT becomes the standard of your life!

If you're like most unconverted people – you live in the way which is MOST likely to GAIN for you the acceptance and approbation you seek. You are a PART OF THIS WORLD. Your life is regulated by this world and its customs, its holidays, its practices in business, in social life, in religious life, and all the many accepted standards of society which make up this "world."

Most people are ENSNARED by it – trapped into CONFORMITY with whatever is the way of the majority – following like blind SHEEP wherever society leads, never QUESTIONING WHETHER it is right, but simply CONFORMING TO the ways of others.

It is the VANITY in human nature, the SELFISHNESS, which drives individuals on and on, seeking the respect and approbation of OTHER PEOPLE!

It is to RELEASE us from these shackles of tradition

and society that Jesus calls us OUT of this world!

Jesus said, “My kingdom is NOT of THIS WORLD” (John 18:36). He was the Messenger from God the Father of a BETTER kingdom – the world ruling Kingdom of God! When Jesus walked this earth AS A MAN, He spoke to His disciples of a soon-coming WORLD GOVERNMENT that would SUPERSEDE and PUT DOWN all opposing, human-made governments, and RULE THIS WORLD! (Revelation 2:26-27).

He prayed that His disciples would be SEPARATE from this world. “I pray for THEM. I do NOT pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.” (John 17:9).

Did you know Jesus Himself said – IF YOU ARE A TRUE CHRISTIAN, YOUR FORMER FRIENDS, YOUR RELATIVES, THIS SOCIETY – WILL HATE YOU?

Listen! Jesus said:

18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were OF the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are NOT of the world, but I chose you OUT of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:18-19)

Jesus said YOUR OWN FAMILY (unless converted) would begin to look down on you, if you are really willing to OBEY HIM! And yes, that can be difficult and cause problems.

Jesus also said:

34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; 36 and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ (Matthew 10:34-36)

If you are REALLY FOLLOWING JESUS – LIVING as He

lived, DOING as He did – keeping God’s LAW as He did – this society, even your closest former friends and your own relatives, will begin to RESIST and PERSECUTE you.

The Apostle Peter wrote:

“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, ... For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles ... they think it STRANGE [the former associates, with whom you followed the courses of society] that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.” (1 Peter 4:1-4)

Notice HOW STRONGLY God impresses on every Christian that they must discontinue their relationships with this sinning society!

“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)

In Luke 14:25-33 Jesus sternly warns every prospective Christian to COUNT THE COST of being a true follower of Him! How many people are being told to COUNT THE COST – or even told WHAT THAT COST IS, in today’s great evangelistic efforts which invite people to “make a decision for Christ?”

Are they being told what it really MEANS? Are they being told HOW to GIVE themselves to God – HOW to serve Christ – WHAT to do – WHAT it means – are they being told to COME OUT of this society, and be NOT conformed to the world?

No! They MOST DECIDEDLY ARE NOT! Many people are being led to “accept Jesus” or to “receive Him” today, in a moment of emotional remorse over past



mistakes. But many DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO to really become a Christian!

Remember, Jesus TELLS YOU what you must DO to become a Christian!

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21).

“REPENT” said Jesus! “Do THE WILL of God,” said Jesus!

God’s WILL is expressed in His Word. “Your word is truth.” (John 17:17) It is the TRUTH, the WORD of God that will set you free.

Here, then, is what it really COSTS to become a true Christian, and to become a begotten son of God!

IT COSTS YOUR LIFE!

LITERALLY!

Does that shock you? Perhaps it does, unless you think that statement is a kind of “spiritual phraseology” which is just another way of saying “set your heart on the Lord” or some similar sentiment.

God’s Word tells you that you must LITERALLY LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE for Christ. The Apostle Peter declared:

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

After you have been BROKEN UP, and YOUR OWN HUMAN WILL has been totally SHATTERED, after you are DISGUSTED with yourself – KILLED with ABHORRENCE at your own actions, your own way of life – your own SELF, which is the VANITY within you – THEN YOU should be BAPTIZED!

Immersion into a watery “grave” is a deep spiritual symbolism which signifies the actual, LITERAL BURYING of the OLD SELF – YOU – the way you HAVE BEEN, and the RESURRECTION of a NEW YOU – now CONQUERED by God, SURRENDERED to God, meekly and humbly CHILD-like in your obedience and TRUST

in Him as your Living Saviour.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin [the former “you”] might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (Romans 6:3-6)

Paul explained this principle further when he said:

“I was alive once without the law [without a knowledge of the law], but when the commandment came [to his consciousness – so he became AWARE OF WHAT SIN WAS], sin revived and I died!” (Romans 7:9) Paul said, 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment [being brought to light for what it was by the laws of God], deceived me, and by it killed me. 12 Therefore [because God’s Law had SHOWN HIM he was a sinner] the law is holy, and the commandment HOLY and JUST and GOOD.” (Romans 7:11-12)

The apostle Paul was a true Christian. He had the Spirit of God, which is promised to everyone who will literally LAY DOWN HIS LIFE, and surrender the SELF WILL, performing the ordinance of baptism, and coming to God’s throne of grace as a meek child. Paul said:

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

After REPENTING, and BEING BAPTIZED, which symbolizes the BURYING of the old carnal self, which was formerly HOSTILE toward God – the Holy Spirit is then implanted WITHIN your mind and begins to

CHANGE your mind. Jesus Christ begins to INSPIRE your thoughts, guide and direct your every action – LIVE HIS LIFE over again, WITHIN YOU as you YIELD TO Him!

(More on baptism can be found in our free booklet, available online at ccog.org, titled About Baptism.)

And He does it through the power of God's Holy Spirit! This is a great mystery to most human beings – and yet, the Spirit of God MUST enter our CARNAL minds to help CHANGE those minds, and help make them yielding, humble, and OBEDIENT to God, where they had been hostile, antagonistic, resentful, and bitter toward our Creator!

The receiving of God's Spirit to help us CHANGE our human nature is the receiving of an outside POWER – a BEGETTAL which makes us His spirit-begotten sons!

If you are a true Christian, you WILL NOT CONTINUE to blindly follow the customs and practices of this society any further. Instead, you will begin asking, "What is GOD'S will, what does GOD say about it?" And you will begin to SEARCH THE BIBLE TO GET TO KNOW the will of God.

Your outlook and attitude will gradually become CHRIST-LIKE. YOU will begin saying, with Christ, "Nevertheless not MY WILL, but YOURS, be done!" (Luke 22:42).

Where you formerly "went along with the crowd" in social activities, in customs of dress, in business practices, you will then begin to QUESTION the ways of the crowd. You will want to first ascertain WHAT GOD'S WILL IS concerning these ways of life and do things God's way!

THAT, COMBINED WITH HAVING GOD'S SPIRIT, IS THE DEFINITION OF A CHRISTIAN!

A Christian is a person who strives – with all his own strength and the additional POWER God gives – to actually LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF GOD!

"Man shall not LIVE by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

So said your Saviour! But are most professing Christians really LIVING by every WORD of God?

OBVIOUSLY NOT! MOST PROFESSING CHRISTIANS DO NOT EVEN KNOW A SMALL PORTION OF WHAT THE WORD OF GOD says! It is because they don't STUDY the Bible and begin to DRINK IN of the Word of God that they gullibly swallow and accept whatever others say and believe!

A person who has really repented has been CONQUERED by God. His carnal will is BROKEN! He/she realizes they have SINNED! Sin is any action that is contrary to the LAWS of God (1 John 3:4). He/she then CRIES OUT to God and asks for FORGIVENESS for those sins, and a LIFTING of the eternal death penalty, which every sin brings (Romans 6:23). He/she accepts God's promise of forgiveness, ON FAITH, by accepting the sacrifice OF CHRIST, accepting Jesus' death in PAYMENT for the penalty of his own sins. He/she then takes the ordinance of BAPTISM which shows God HE REALLY MEANS IT.

He expects God to stand back of His promise to give him the Holy Spirit, as a result of the REPENTANCE, belief and the baptism which God demands.

THEN – AND NEVER UNTIL THEN – WILL YOU BECOME A TRUE CHRISTIAN.

Finally, you will begin to PRACTICE as a HABIT, the very life of Christ. "He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." (1 John 2:4). "He who says he abides in Him [IS A CHRISTIAN] ought himself also to walk [LIVE] just as He walked." (1 John 2:6).

The true Christian, who has REALLY repented, will LIVE as Christ lived! He will be striving to keep the LAWS of God with His spiritual help, being obedient to God in every way, and becoming a recipient of the great HAPPINESS and tremendous BLESSINGS that come with that obedience!

"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps." (1 Peter 2:21).

CHECK UP on yourself!

STUDY these scriptures and those of this lesson IN YOUR BIBLE. MANY of you THINK you are already "saved" and that you are already good Christians! But, "Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12).

## GOD WON'T ULTIMATELY ACCEPT YOU "JUST AS YOU ARE"!

NEVER, in all history, have there been times quite like these!

Take a good look at the world for the proof.

Do you see a world BRIMFUL of happiness, productivity, success? Stable, secure homes? Respectful, obedient children? A world full of harmony, joy and beauty?

You most certainly do not! You see, instead, a world filled with jealousy, racial bigotry, religious intolerance, political unrest, divorce, sexual immorality, crime, juvenile delinquency, the constant threat of terrorism, and the potential for NUCLEAR COSMOCIDE!

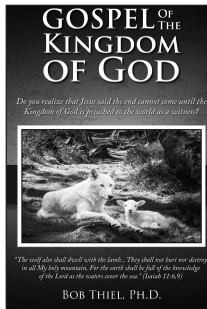
Humanity desperately needs to be completely BROKEN UP in attitude over this vile, filthy, wretched swill – TO TURN AWAY FROM IT ALL IN TRUE REPENTANCE!

Hopefully, you have repented and will repent of any sin you commit.

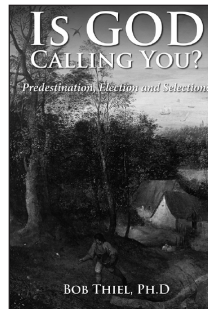
(This lesson is to be continued in the next edition of this magazine.)

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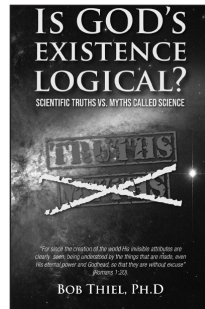
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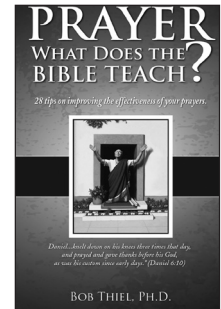
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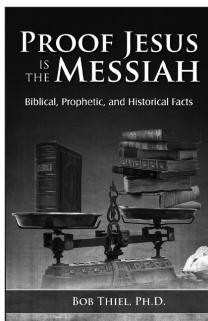
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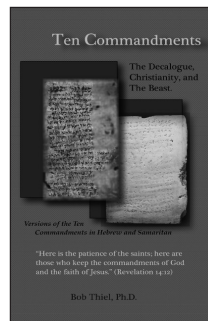
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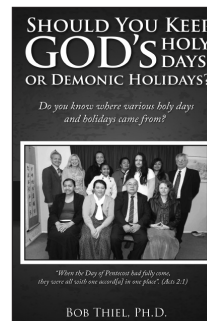
Prayer: What Does the Bible Teach?



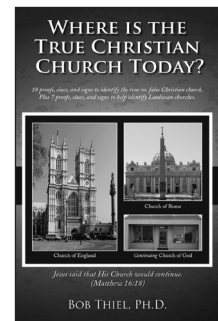
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The Decalogue, Christianity, and the Beast

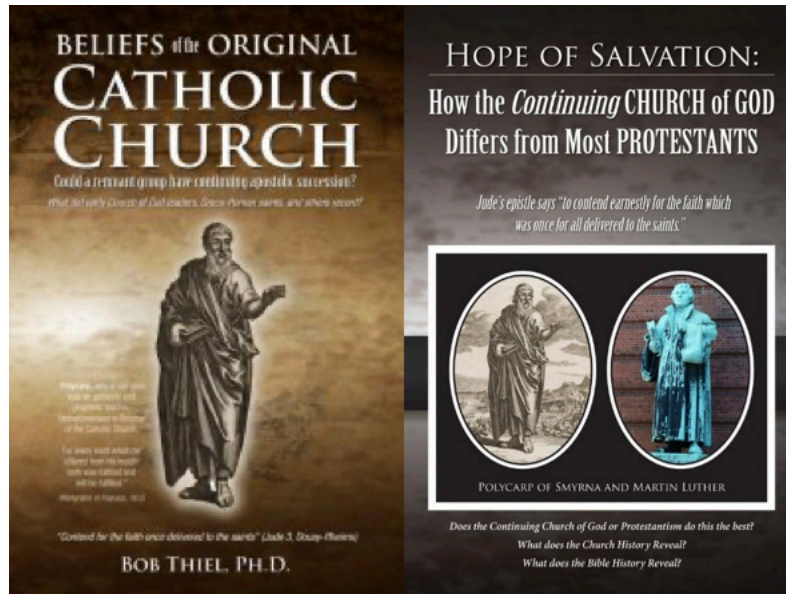


Should You Keep God's Holy Days or Demonic Holidays?



Where Is The True Christian Church Today?

# 'Catholic' Change Sanctions Warfare



Editor's note: I wrote the above scriptural-filled books to demonstrate that the Greco-Roman Catholics and the Protestants do not hold to many of the teachings of the early Christians. Both books also extensively quote from those writers known as "Church fathers." Some do not realize that true Christians have pointed to these writers throughout history to demonstrate that the true Christian faith is not like the modern Greco-Roman Catholic or Protestant faiths.

The following was written by Leroy Neff of the old Radio Church of God in May 1963 (and hence is in the public domain and can be used in this magazine). It was part of a multi-part series, and the following is one installment in that series:

Constantine brought unity to the early Catholic Church. As He molded it in the image of the Roman Empire, bloodshed and warfare were not only permitted but Church sanctioned, even glorified! That Church has not reversed this doctrine since.

"WHAT WOULD happen if everyone believed like you and would not fight? "Have you ever been asked this question? To many people today it is incredible that some Christians will not fight!

In the last installment {of this article series}, we saw many writings by leading churchmen in the first few centuries. These statements showed that many THOUSANDS, and possibly even MILLIONS of people even in the early Catholic Church would not fight! Many of these people were asked, "Why won't you fight? "Historians, as well as church writers, have noted this fact:

"This indolent or even criminal disregard to the public welfare [of not fighting for the empire] exposed them [the Christians] to the contempt and reproaches of the Pagans, who very

frequently asked, what must be the fate of the empire attacked on every side by the barbarians if all mankind should adopt the pusillanimous sentiments of the new sect?" (Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Edward Gibbon, Chapter XV, Volume 1, page 416)

## How About Self-Defense?

It has now been proved conclusively that early Christians, as well as Catholics, would not fight in war. But wouldn't they at least defend themselves from being killed by others? Wouldn't they {kill} in SELF-DEFENSE? No!

"Their simplicity was offended by the use of oaths, by the pomp of magistracy, and by the active contention of public life; nor could their humane ignorance be convinced that it was lawful on ANY OCCASION to shed blood of our fellow creatures either by the sword of justice OR by that of war, even though their criminal or hostile attempts should threaten the peace and safety of the whole community...



But while they inculcated the maxims of passive obedience, they refused to take any active part in the civil administration or the military defense of the empire.”(Ibid.)

With such a start, isn't it strange that the common teaching in religion today is exactly OPPOSITE to the practice of the early Catholic Church! When did the remarkable change take place? In the last installment it became evident that the change had not been made prior to the time of Constantine.

The general teaching of the {Roman} Catholic Church had been against any participation in warfare. However, even though this was the predominantly accepted teaching, there were a few in the latter part of the second century who were beginning to waver from this truth. Signs of COMPROMISE by a few were becoming increasingly evident. A few did not follow the church teaching.

One of the scholars who is a recognized authority on this subject states that there is no record of a Christian enlisting in the army after his conversion UNTIL the reign of Marcus Aurelius (The Early Christian and War, by C. J. Cadoux, page 276). Marcus Aurelius was a Roman emperor who reigned from 161 to 180 A.D. Some began to compromise with the teaching of the church by this time. This was about one hundred years after the fall of Jerusalem and several new generations had been born.

From the time of Marcus Aurelius there was a gradual change of practice by a few of the people. However, there was no widespread teaching by the clergy permitting Christians to enter into the army or to fight in war. The recognized leaders of the church along with the overwhelming majority of the people continued in their refusal to take up arms. At this time the church was being subjected to violence and persecution instead of being violent and persecuting others. It was not until about a century and a half later that the way was paved for a CHANGE in the thinking of the clergy. To give a little background on the reason for this change, it is necessary to give a few details of what was happening in civil and religious affairs.

### **The Cross Became Symbol of War**

In 305 A.D. the Roman emperor Diocletian abdicated his throne. There were four contenders for the

throne, Maxentius and Constantine being the two leading ones. Before this time there had been almost continual persecution against the Catholic and the True Church. But Constantine was friendly towards the {Greco-Roman} Catholic Church. His principal rival represented an element which persecuted them.

About this time Constantine claimed to have seen a heavenly vision of the cross bearing a motto, “By this sign thou shalt conquer.” He immediately adopted this as the new standard for his army. Before this time, the cross had become a symbol of peace and reverence in the {Greco-Roman} Catholic Church. NOW THE SYMBOL BECAME ONE OF WAR. As a result of Constantine's actions many religious leaders and writers have questioned the validity of his claim of this “heavenly vision.” Here is just one comment:

“And so, for the first time the MEEK and PEACEFUL Jesus became a God of battle and the cross, the holy sign of Christian redemption, a banner of BLOODY STRIFE. This irreconcilable incongruity between the symbol of universal peace and the horrors of war, in my judgment, is conclusive against the miraculous or supernatural character of the transaction.” (The History of Christianity, H. H. Millman, page 288)

Constantine had been a man of war and bloodshed. His toleration of the Christian religion at this period in his life did not change him from a pagan to a Christian. He granted many concessions to the Catholic Church, forced the people to OBEY this church, but he still continued in many of his pagan ways. This patron of the church did not even submit to the rite of “baptism” until years later, when he was near death.

The remarkable change of Constantine, concerning the church became apparent in the Edict of Milan in 313 A.D. This edict returned to the church their confiscated lands and properties. As a result, the developing Catholic hierarchy was greatly in the debt of this emperor, and he became a great influence in the thinking and practice of this professing Christian church.

**Constantine accepted the {Greco-Roman} Catholic religion but found that there were many differing doctrines and sects within the church. He wanted to unify the church, to get the clergy to agree**

**on the various doctrines so that there might be one church and not many churches. Prior to this time there had developed many, many sects and divisions - just as it is again today.**

### **Constantine Brought Unity**

Today there is a growing trend toward unity. But before Constantine there was no binding force to hold the various sects together. Constantine was the needed factor to bind these sects together. It was his desire for the clergy to get together and decide the theological issues. Whatever the clergy decided would be FORCED on the whole church! Those who would not obey would be called heretics or “anathema from Christ” and excommunicated. This meant that any person who did not go along with the accepted teaching faced almost certain death if he did not flee for his life.

To unify the church, a series of church councils were held. The first general council of the Western church was the Council of Arles in 314 A.D. It was summoned by Constantine and was attended by thirty-three bishops. Clergymen of lesser rank were not permitted to participate; however, they and the whole church were bound by the decisions rendered.

Ordination of the clergy was one of the principal subjects discussed and decided on in this council. However, other decisions were also made and bound on the church.

### **New Laws Came into Vogue**

Up to this time, the teaching of the church was against participation in war. Now something new happened. This council decided that:

**“They who throw away their weapons in time of peace shall be excommunicated.” (Canon III)**

What is meant by this particular canon law now bound on the whole {Roman} Catholic Church?

Prior to this time there were many severe persecutions against those who espoused the cause of Christianity. All this was now changing. Constantine accepted Christianity as the STATE RELIGION. There was now PEACE between the empire and the Church.

The Apostle Paul taught that true Christians were to try to gain their freedom from slavery (including military service) if at all possible (1 Corinthians 7:21). Now that Christianity was the accepted religion, many pagans in the armies would try to get their release from military service (a type of slavery) as a result of the new religion and its teachings.

Something must be done to stop this trend, which from a physical point of view might leave the whole empire defenseless against foreign invaders. Military strength had to be kept at all cost! Peace had come between the church and the state, the empire was not involved in any major threat of invasion, but armed strength would have to be maintained. Such false reasoning by Constantine is prevalent today. “In order to keep the peace we must remain strong” people say today.

To stop a mass exodus from the army, it was necessary for the church to publish this canon law. New Catholic Christians in military service were now prohibited from throwing away their arms even though peace between church and state had been attained.

There have been other interpretations of this canon of the council, however, this is obviously the right one. Here is one authority, translated from the German to further prove this view.

“Aubespine... reasoned, many Christians under the heathen Kaisers had doubts about military service and refused to render military service, or even deserted it, therefore our Synod [the Council of Arles], spoke out, because of Constantine’s intervention to CHANGE the duty of the Christian towards military service, to be sure for this reason: because the Church now has peace under a prince who is sympathetic to Christians one is not permitted to evade military service under such a prince.” (Conciliengeschichte, by Hefele, page 206)

Here is the first official council of the {Greco-Roman} Catholic Church. Already they began to COMPROMISE with the New Testament Biblical teachings! The practice of the church for almost three hundred years was being changed. The Catholic Church was compromising with Bible teachings. The RESULT of this terrible COMPROMISE will be the subject of later

installments.

In spite of this instruction, some did leave the army in their first love and zeal of the religion. Instead of following the instructions of the council and remaining in the army, they left. Others had already left military service because of their religious convictions, prior to the council. Later that same zeal waned and they reconsidered. In fact, many even paid considerable sums to be accepted back into military service. The next council was held about 11 years later and was called the Council of Nicaea. It dealt with this new problem in the following manner.

“As many as were called by grace, and displayed the first zeal, having cast aside their military girdles, but afterwards returned, like dogs to their own vomit (so that some spent money and by means of gifts regained their military stations): let these, after they have passed the space of three years as hearers, be for ten years prostrators” (Canon XII).

At the Council of Arles, the soldier converted to Christianity was required to stay in service and carry his arms. If in his zeal he left the army after the council, or, if he had left the army before the Council of Arles and then later returned to service, he was excommunicated.

The authorities did not want such a person to suddenly become a “conscientious objector” or “pacifist” again! He would be of no use to the empire! The church and the government wanted such a person to really pay for his mistake of leaving service and to pay for this mistake by penance. They wanted such a person to prove himself faithful for 10 years before being fully accepted back into the church.

### **Eusebius Eulogizes Constantine the Warrior**

At this period of time the principal church writer and historian was Eusebius. This man is well-known for his ecclesiastical and historical writings. Because of his influence on the church, he is named among the principal church fathers.

As we have seen repeatedly, the church writers previously condemned fighting and war-making. The remarkable change of attitude regarding war can be noted in the writings of Eusebius. He wrote about the great military conquests of the emperor in most complimentary terms. Previously it had been

wrong in every sense of the word to fight. NOW IT BECAME AN ACT OF BENEVOLENCE AND HOLINESS TO SUBJUGATE WHOLE NATIONS and the people by the TERRIBLE SCOURGE OF WAR!

“And instructing his army in the mild and sober precepts of godliness, he carried his arms as far as the Britons and the Western Ocean. He subdued likewise all Scythia; though situated in the remotest North, and divided into numberless diverse and barbarous tribes. He even pushed his conquests to the Blemmyans and Ethiopians, on the very confines of the South; nor did he think the acquisition of the Eastern nations unworthy of his care. In short, diffusing the effulgence of his holy light to the ends of the whole world, even to the most distant Indians, the nations dwelling on the extreme circumference of the inhabited earth, he received the submission of all the rulers, governors, and satraps of barbarous nations who cheerfully welcomed and saluted him, sending embassies and presents, and setting the highest value on his acquaintance and friendship; insomuch that they honored him with pictures and statues in their respective countries, and Constantine alone of all emperors was acknowledged and celebrated by all. Notwithstanding, even among these distant nations, he proclaimed the name of his God in his royal edicts with all boldness” (Life of Constantine, Eusebius, Chapter VIII).

Who was the God of Constantine? Was He the Prince of Peace, Jesus, or the god of war?

### **It Now Becomes Praiseworthy to Fight**

The change in attitude and teaching is evident in the writings of other church leaders and teachers of this time. One such man was Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. This clergyman lived from about 296 to 373 A.D. and was attendant at the great Nicaean Council of 325 A.D.

Athanasius was rather outspoken in his beliefs and was not accepted by the majority of the clergy. As a result of his early teachings he was banished several times, but was accepted back in good favor during his later years to be bishop of the church at Alexandria. This man had a great deal of influence over the thinking of the church for the following

centuries. As a result he is sometimes called the father of orthodoxy. His teachings helped to establish and shape the church doctrines of later centuries. One of his teachings was that it was LAWFUL and PRAISEWORTHY to KILL one's adversary in war (The Early Church and the World, C. J. Cadoux, page 589). How low the teaching of the clergy had sunk from that of Jesus, who taught His disciples never to take up the sword against a fellow man!

### Attempts to Harmonize New Testament Theology with War

Augustine was another church leader of this period. He also had great influence on the church. It has been said that he, more than any other leader of the church, molded the doctrines of the church during the time of the Middle Ages. This man lived from about 354 to 430 A.D. and was Bishop of Hippo, North Africa.

He "was one of the first Christian theologians to try and harmonize war with the New Testament" (The New Testament Basis of Pacifism, G. H. C. MacGregor, page 115).

Among the many works of Augustine is a very long and detailed work called "The City of God." In this work he endeavored to describe the desire to make the empire into a church-state system comparable to the Kingdom of God on earth. Among his long comments about many subjects are a few that show his belief and teachings regarding fighting in war.

"For even when we wage a JUST WAR, our adversaries must be sinning; and every victory, even though gained by wicked men, is a result of the first judgment of God, who humbles the vanquished either for the sake of removing or of punishing for their sins." (Book XIX, Chapter 15)

He believed that Christians could fight just or righteous WARS and that it would always be the enemy who sinned! This very idea that Christians could wage a just war led to many of the wars and persecutions to follow.

Another place in this same work gives the reason why people wage war.

"For everyone seeks peace by waging war."

(Chapter 12)

Notice that this is exactly opposite to the Bible teaching as given in James 4:1-4:

1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

*What folly!* Man has always sought peace by the means of war and it has never come. The {Greco-Roman} church was now teaching this same *falsehood!* Just as the Bible says, men, including these false religious leaders, *do not know the way of peace* (Rom. 3: 17).

Instead of realizing the Bible teaching of what causes war, this theologian continues to explain his idea of what forces men to be involved in war.

"For it is the wrongdoing of the opposing party which compels the WISE MAN to wage just wars." (Chapter 7)

It is the "wrongdoing of the opposing party," not lust and greed and vanity that causes war. This is the same excuse that has justified about every war that man has fought. Each war was fought to bring peace and still there is no peace!

### Killing in Defense Is Justified?

Another leader and writer of this time was Basil, Archbishop of Caesarea. He lived from about 330 to 379 A.D. He gave certain rules concerning homicide (murder).

"He that kills another with a sword, or hurls



an axe at his own wife and kills her is guilty of willful murder; NOT HE ... WHO KILLS A MAN IN HIS OWN DEFENSE, when he only designed to hurt him.” (Canon VIII, The First Canonical Epistle of Basil)

A century earlier the church writers stated that it was wrong to kill under any conditions. Now it was right to kill in defense as well as in war!

The teaching of the {Greco-Roman} Catholic Church regarding homicide, or the killing of another human being in defense, is the same now as when taught by Basil.

“For the protection of one’s own or another’s life, limb, chastity, or valuables of some moment, it is agreed on all sides that it is lawful for anyone to repel violence with violence, even to the point of taking away the life of the unjust assailant, provided always that in so doing the limits of a blameless defense be not exceeded.” (Catholic Encyclopedia, article on “Homicide”)

According to this teaching Peter would have been justified in killing the high priest’s servant (Matthew 26: 51-52). Jesus Christ taught differently!

Apparently, Basil of Caesarea did not read what the “fathers” we have quoted said about war because he wrote:

Our fathers did not think that killing in war was murder; yet I think it advisable for such as have been guilty of it to forbear communion three years.” (Canon XII, loc. cit.)

In this quotation he only said what the fathers thought, not what they wrote for posterity to read. Either he didn’t know what the “fathers” said, or he lied, or the fathers were all hypocrites!

### **Church Now Committed to Sanction War**

The unusual situation of the church at this point is aptly described by the historian Cadoux.

“The consequence was that, when the events of the years following 313 A.D. suddenly called upon the Church to come down definitely on

one side of the fence or the other, she found that a free decision was no longer open to her. Her joy at the deliverance Constantinus had wrought for her was so great that it put her off her guard ... Official Christianity was now committed to the sanction of war - so far as the practical conduct of Christian men as citizens was concerned - whenever the State chose to wage it. Further than that the decision not only settled the practical question for the moment and doomed the dissenting voices - many as they still were - to ultimate silence, but it tied up the freedom of Christian thought, and made any unfettered discussion of the problem on its merits next to impossible for centuries to come.” (From the Early Church and the World, C. J. Cadoux, page 592)

The Catholic Church still sanctions warfare by sovereign states today. It teaches that under certain conditions war is just and right! It does presently teach that a Christian should fight in war for his country. This is evident from the following statement:

“The 72-year-old church leader, Cardinal Ottaviani, made this week a sharp anti-communist speech before a group of high officers of the Italian army. At the same time he voiced his opposition to every form of conscientious objection, because ‘every true Christian must fulfill his duty toward the fatherland as a good soldier’. “ (translated from DIE WELT, Hamburg, March 19, 1963)

You may wonder who Cardinal Ottaviani is, and what authority he has to speak for the Church. This question is clearly answered in the following excerpt:

“Just who is this Cardinal Ottaviani? He who ever faced the massive form of this powerful personality would be reminded of the head of the statue of the first Roman Caesar Augustus or Octavian. Can the name and power consciousness of the Roman Cardinal be traced to the Caesar? Ottaviani was born in Trastevere, the Roman quarter of Rome, whose inhabitants claim to be the direct descendants of the

old Romans. Octavian - Ottaviani, a play upon names in the history of Rome.

“Ottaviani, a strong traditionalist, occupies the position of secretary of the Holy Office, whose prefect is the Pope. It, the ‘Holy Duty,’ is responsible for all questions of faith and tradition. It guards against publications and propaganda - books hostile to the traditions. It judges offences against the faith and against the unity of the Church. The Holy Office was established in 1542 by Pope Paul III as the central supreme court of the Inquisition ... which, in concert with the worldly arms, the state, often took strong, hard and even gruesome measures.” (translated from the STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, Dec. 22, 1962)

Modern statements by Catholic leaders in favor of military service are not limited to priests or cardinals, as the following statement appearing in the New York Times, April 15, 1963, shows:

Rome, April 15 “Pope John XXIII said today that the soldier’s mission is a great one because it is his task to safeguard peace for the greater glory of Christ and for the spiritual well-being of the family and of society.’ The Pope’s statement came six days after he signed the encyclical or circular letter ‘Pacem in Terris’ (Peace on Earth) dealing with the problems of peace in the atomic age.”

These statements make it clear that the Catholic Church has not perpetuated the teachings of Christ AGAINST Christians fighting and killing. This church system has not contended for the true faith which was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). It has compromised with Christ’s teachings and even with its own teachings by its founding fathers of the first three centuries.

The result of this terrible compromise by the Catholic Church has brought untold suffering on millions of people. As a result — God prophesies a soon-coming day of reckoning — day of retribution and severe punishment on this false church system!

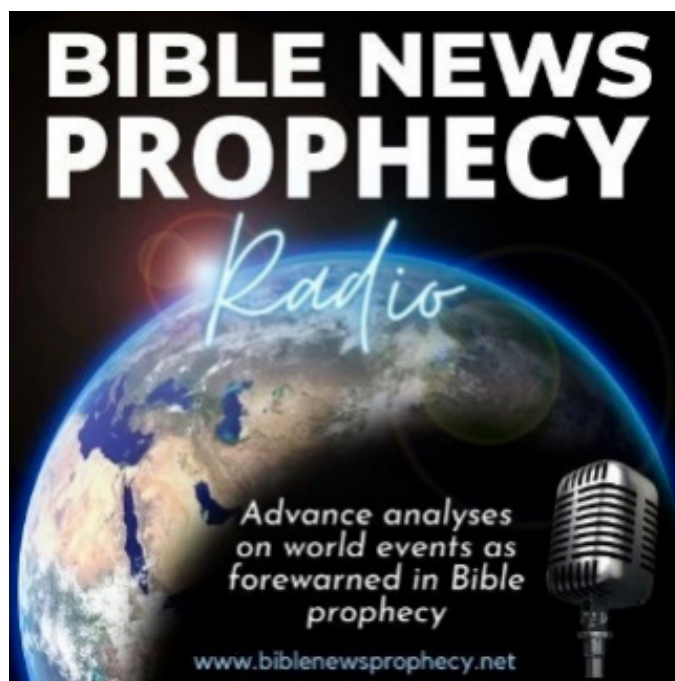
Editors note: Recall also that the Bible says:

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
For they shall be called sons of God.  
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for  
righteousness’ sake,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew  
5:9-10)  
20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good  
evil;  
Who put darkness for light, and light for  
darkness; (Isaiah 5:20)

*Sadly, many call for and promote evil Real Christians do not kill or participate in carnal warfare.*

*To learn more about the practices of the original catholic church, please check out our free book, available online at [ccog.org](http://ccog.org) titled: Beliefs of the Original Catholic Church: Could a remnant group have continuing apostolic succession?*

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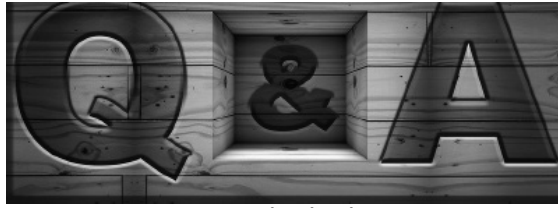
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WELP AM 1360 & FM 104.3 Greenville – Saturday 7:00 pm

WNVY AM 1070 & FM 104.5 Pensacola – Saturday 7:15 pm

# Questions and Answers



By Bob Thiel

## **Q: What Will Women Be In God's Kingdom?**

*The following answer was written by Ronald Kelly and published in the Good News magazine of the old Radio Church of God in July 1963, and hence is in the public domain. While some of the advice is dated, the ultimate goal for women in God's kingdom has not changed.*

**A:** Are women inferior to men in the eyes of God? Is this life a training ground for women as well as men? How can YOU become kings and priests in the Kingdom? ...

RECENTLY a woman came to me with the question, "What will I be able to do when the Kingdom of God is set up?" A teenage girl asked, "What good is it to be a woman? It seems God always favors men in the Bible." Another woman standing nearby wondered, "What does it mean: We will all become Sons of God? Will we women become daughters of God, or what?" Most of you women — and many of you men — have also asked these same questions.

God's ministers have preached scores of sermons on the proper husband and wife relationship. ... Yet, many have misunderstood the entire lesson God intended. You have heard what you are NOT supposed to do — especially you women. You have heard how the husband is to be the HEAD of the wife and the household — and he is!

Many of you have felt because of this, that you had nothing positive TO DO! This is not true! The responsibilities of women are just as much an integral part of God's plan as the responsibilities given a man. Because the wife is told to be in SUBJECTION to her husband does not mean she is totally void of opportunities which develop character necessary to be born into the Kingdom of God. It is God's will for ALL of us to be saved — both men and women.

## **Are Women Inferior to Men?**

In the beginning it was God Who said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: let them have

dominion ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and FEMALE created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27). And Genesis 2:18, "the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an HELP meet [suitable] for him."

This was a perfect physical creation. Throughout time, God intended men and women to marry, to reproduce and populate the earth and to be happy. God created within the woman characteristics which were to complement — to help — to serve her husband. The fact we were created male and female reveals wisdom and love in the plan of God.

A GREAT SPIRITUAL LESSON can be learned from the creation. This lesson is pictured in the New Testament. In the fifth chapter of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul writes concerning the marriage union. At the conclusion of this section, he said, "This is a GREAT MYSTERY: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:32). The entire relationship of a man toward his wife is a TYPE of the love, engagement and marriage of Christ to His Church.

All through the Scriptures we find the analogy that the woman is typical of the Church. The husband is the type of Jesus Christ. Now, can you begin to see the importance God places upon the marriage relationship and why God created us male and female? The part of the female is not one of insignificance at all — rather one that illustrates our relationship as a Church which will ultimately marry Jesus Christ.

## **What Can a Woman Do?**

This life is a training ground for the coming Kingdom of God! What we do here and now determines the reward we will receive when Christ comes. We are told:

"To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame,



and am set down with my Father in his throne.”  
We all must overcome temptations of Satan the Devil, the world around us, and our own human nature! (Revelation 3:21)

The way to overcome is to follow and obey the laws of God and adhere to His instructions in the Bible. Although the Bible generally admonishes all of us in the male gender, this does not mean the female is being excluded. God refers to Himself in the MALE gender. When referring to mankind in general, God often refers to us by the pronoun he — yet all the women are included! But there are particular sections of the Bible devoted specifically to the male — and there are sections devoted specifically to the female!

You will be surprised how often God encourages, instructs, a woman directly. Here are a few positive examples and commands according to God’s standard of what a woman should be doing here and now to qualify for the Kingdom of God.

### **What Women Should Learn**

Unfortunately, as a result of the society in which we have all been brought up, we have not learned these principles. But it is not too late to learn now. You parents of teenage girls should be positively teaching your daughters these principles while they can learn how they can really be happy.

One of the clearest sections of the Bible on the direct responsibilities of a woman is in Paul’s letter to Titus. In this section, he gives clear admonition that women are to be taught the true laws of success for their happiness. Notice this section in Titus 2:4, “That they [the older women] may teach the young women to be sober [or as you find in the margin, WISE].” Why should a woman learn wisdom? The obvious answer is that it is not only a way to be happy now — but it is one of the very characteristics of God we must develop if we ever will inherit the Kingdom of God and rule with Jesus Christ. Next, the young women should be taught “to LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS, to LOVE THEIR CHILDREN.” Here are qualities multiple thousands have never learned in today’s modern society!

Is it any wonder there is divorce, illegitimacy, and desertion, running rampant in our nation? Anyone who positively follows God’s laws and instruction on these matters is bound to have a happy marriage, obedient children, good health, and every ingredient

for happiness in this life.

Women should also learn to be “DISCREET.” Many women totally lack discretion. Have you ever read what Solomon said about a beautiful woman who does not have discretion? Turn to Proverbs 11:22, “As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.” What a vivid comparison! The old saying “beauty is only skin deep” does have a measure of truth. There is nothing wrong with radiant health, a colorful complexion, and those qualities which make a woman beautiful — but if they are not followed up with real wisdom, DISCRETION and love, all that beauty is only skin deep!

Continuing in Titus 2, we find the woman is to be “chaste.” That is, she is to be virtuous and morally pure. She is to be “A KEEPER AT HOME.” Here again is a positive something to do. Articles appear often in leading magazines on the pros and cons of women working. There is no argument in the eyes of God. Certainly, a young girl out of high school or college — before she is married — should be working and should be learning as much as she can to improve herself before she is married. However, once a woman is married, she should be working toward her goal — her calling — to be a homemaker! This does not mean for some ... time a married woman cannot work in order to help out — but it should not be her ultimate goal and she should be taught as a young woman that her responsibility is to be a keeper at home {after children come}.

Women are to be “good,” and “obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed.” Here are lessons in character building which are above and beyond evaluation. For a woman, here are laws — positive laws — which lead to real happiness.

### **The Qualities of a Good Wife!**

The best known chapter in all the Bible for the responsibilities of a woman is Proverbs 31:10-31. Here are many examples which you women can and should be putting into practice in your lives. Notice what some of them are as we skip down through the verses. She seeks wool and flax and works WILLINGLY with her hands. She brings food from far away. She rises before dawn, if necessary, to give food to her household. She considers a piece of property and can buy it.

By the labor of her hands she plants a vineyard or garden. She can work with a spindle or sewing machine. She stretches her hand to the poor to help when she can. She is not afraid of the snow because her family is properly clothed. She makes fine linen. She opens her mouth with wisdom — not flippant, aimless gossip — and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Here is a picture of a woman whose aim in life — physically speaking — is the welfare of her family. SHE IS BUSY! SHE WORKS! She has CONCERN FOR OTHERS! Think about these responsibilities! Are YOU fulfilling them?

And YOU MEN reading this article, are YOU allowing your wife to fulfill all of these? There is hardly a man who would not want his wife to be exactly like this chapter pictures a virtuous woman. She is one who will serve and bring happiness all the days of her life — but are you giving your wife the guidance she needs to fulfill these duties?

### **Sewing and Shopping**

Let's look again at some of these responsibilities. How do they apply to the everyday life of the modern twentieth-century housewife? It is important to understand.

Several of these verses show that a woman is able to make or purchase fine quality cloth or clothing, and she is capable of making clothing for her family. First, however, is a matter of quality. Every mother and housewife should be able to buy the best possible quality the family can afford. Not only does the clothing look better, but it will wear longer. Not every woman has learned to sew, but that does not mean she still cannot learn — or certainly see to it her daughters learn. A woman who is a good seamstress can provide far more, and better clothing for her children and herself with the same amount of money — than the person who must buy everything readymade. So, it is well worth the effort to learn this important skill.

Another illustration from this chapter is grocery shopping. The woman is the one who is free during the shopping hours. It is her job to purchase the groceries for the week. Men are held responsible for providing a living for the family. They are called the "bread winners." But they do not directly bring

home the bread. They should provide the grocery allotment for the family which is generally about 20% of the average family's income. It is up to her to make it last through the week or month.

Notice how the Scripture says she travels afar to purchase her food. With today's modern supermarkets, this may not be necessary in every case. But in many areas, much better milk, eggs, butter, honey, fruits and vegetables can be purchased directly from a small farm right outside of your town! If this is true and you have not been getting certain items this way, you are missing some of the best tasting and BEST QUALITY FOODS. And one of the best parts about it — this is something WOMEN really like to do! A wife can develop a great deal of wisdom and character just by properly handling the grocery items every week.

### **Rising Early and Gardening**

The right example for a woman to set is to be up ahead of the rest of the family in order to get them off to a good, wholesome breakfast every day. How the day starts may well determine how well the husband will do in his job, how the children do their schoolwork — and the joy of the wife as she goes about her daily duties. Many a day has been started by getting out on the wrong side of the bed — or even not getting out of bed at all! If the wife has the clothes all ready for the family to put on and a piping hot breakfast ready in time for the family to really relax and enjoy it, every day can begin with amazing joy. Another fine opportunity many women pass up is the planting of a garden.

If you have the property where you could even have a small garden and if you have never planted one, think of all the better tasting foods you have passed up.

There are any number of books available on organic gardening which will help you learn to garden if you never have. This is a way not only to break the routine of housework, but a good way to get out of doors for exercise and sunshine which are such a vital part of good health. We could go on and on with examples of a truly industrious woman who is happy and who is developing godly character, but time and space do not permit it. But what God has given a woman to do is certainly not an insignificant job! If she properly handles these responsibilities, she does gain in many ways.

Notice how Solomon concludes this chapter of Proverbs in verses 30 and 31: "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works PRAISE HER IN THE GATES." In verse 10 he says of this woman, "Who can find a virtuous woman? FOR HER PRICE IS FAR ABOVE RUBIES."

Caring for the household is not a position to be taken lightly. The added responsibility of rearing children must be taken seriously. If some of the duties have seemed insignificant in the past, the goal of getting them accomplished should encourage you all to strive more toward perfection.

### **Will There Be Male and Female in the Kingdom?**

In all the Bible there is no mention of a secondary promise which would apply only to women. Certainly, there is nothing to indicate women will have to take a lesser position when we are all born again. The promise is given to ALL WHO OVERCOME!

In a section dealing with husband-and-wife relationships, Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:7, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, AND AS BEING HEIRS TOGETHER OF THE GRACE OF LIFE; that your prayers be not hindered."

This clearly shows we are ALL working and striving toward the SAME GOAL!

What sex we were born has no bearing on whether or not we will enter the Kingdom. Each of us has been given responsibilities to perform, whether male or female. As we overcome, we will receive a reward. The Sadducees tried to trick Christ asking Him questions about the resurrection from the dead. The trick question was about who was going to be married to whom at the time of the resurrection. Here is the plain answer in the Scripture Christ gave them, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection THEY NEITHER MARRY, NOR ARE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE, but are as the angels of God in heaven" (Matthew 22:29-30). At that time there will be no difference of sex in the spirit world.

God's angels do not marry. Neither will those born into the Family of God. Paul said in 1Corinthians 15:51-52, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED, In a moment, in the

twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." We will no longer be mortal — but immortal We will all be composed of spirit. Now read 1 John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God [whether we are male or female], and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he [Christ] shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see him as he is." At that time, ALL of us — if we have qualified — will be exactly like Christ!

### **What YOU Will Look Like**

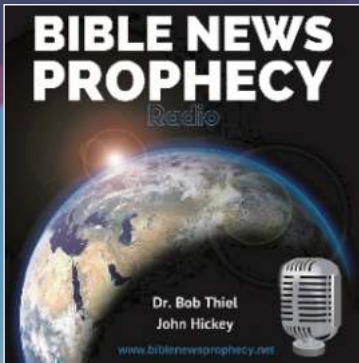
In Revelation 1:13-16 we read how Christ is — He has hair white like wool, eyes like flames of fire, His face shines as the sun in its full strength. This is what it will be like for women to be in God's Kingdom. Their position will not be different from or in any lesser capacity than men. All of us will be spirit beings — no longer "men" and "women" — but all BORN ... {CHILDREN} OF GOD — all of us will be like Christ!

Women as well as men have been placed here to perform a responsibility. This responsibility is different in nature and authority — but one cannot function well without the other. This is the way God intended it. Each fulfilling his proper position is pleasing in the eyes of God and certainly is developing the kind of character God wishes to instill in us. Each one of you should put aside all thoughts which you might have that you could not serve in God's government. Women, rejoice because you have been placed here as a help to your husbands, to fulfill the responsibilities given specifically to women. YOU can be a king or a priest RULING WITH CHRIST IN THE WORLD TOMORROW!

Those elect Christians that are women, as well as those who are men, will be Kings and Priests in the Kingdom of God (Revelation 5:10).

In the Continuing Church of God, women have been essential in assisting with this magazine, putting the Bible News Prophecy on internet radio, and supporting other aspects of the work related to Matthew 24:14, 28:19-2, Romans 9:28, 11:25; and Revelation 7:9. Furthermore, both women and men who accept God's ways and are resurrected to life will be able to give love in a unique manner to make eternity better for themselves and everyone else. All that you have gone through in this life will help prepare YOU for such a fantastic eternity.





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



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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.