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# BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY



*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

**Revelation 13:1**

## The European Beast is Rising Up

**Did the Apostles  
Teach the  
Kingdom of God?**

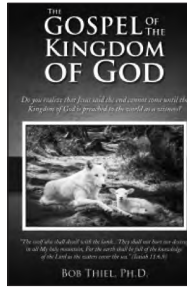
**JESUS, JOSHUA, or YASHUA?**

**Must you use Hebrew words  
for the Father and the Son?**

# BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY



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**About the Front Cover:** This is an artist's representation, by James Erwin Estoque, of the Beast of the Sea as described in Revelation 13:1-2.

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## JESUS, JOSHUA, OR YASHUA?

A heresy that has popped up from time to time has to do with the pronunciation of our Savior's name.

It is generally understood that the name of the son of God was some version of Joshua, like Yeshua or Y'shua or Yashua. However, some say that Christians MUST use a supposed Hebrew pronunciation today, and not use the name Jesus. Some falsely claim that Jesus is a variant of Zeus.

Sacred name people tend to insist on also using Yahweh (YHWH), Yahveh (YHVH), or some variant instead of 'Lord.'

Biblically, there are two strong arguments against those who insist on what are called 'sacred names.'

The first is that Jesus did not teach that doctrine.

The second is that neither did others in the New Testament nor faithful Christians shortly after the New Testament was written.

Further consider that when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He did NOT use 'sacred names.' Notice what Jesus taught:

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither

will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:9-15)

Notice what Jesus said in a prayer after His final Passover on earth:

5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. 9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. (John 17:5-12, NKJV)

6 I revealed Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. (John 17:6a, Berean Literal Bible)

Jesus did not come to manifest a name like YHVH/ YHWH as that had been known since at least the time of Moses (cf. Exodus 3:14-15).

So, what name to Jesus manifest/reveal to men?

FATHER!

Furthermore, when Jesus was dying and He prayed,

He did NOT refer to His Father as Yahveh or Yahweh:

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46)

Notice that the biblical translation was that Jesus was calling out to God. And Jesus DID NOT use the “sacred names” that various ones falsely claim Christians should. Jesus NEVER commanded that “sacred names” be used. In the NT, when Jesus is either praying or giving instructions to pray (including in the Aramaic), it is NEVER recorded that He used what are commonly called “sacred names” to address the Father.

What about variants of Joshua?

That name was not sacred. Joshua was simply a man. And while the name means “God/Yah saves,” that does not make the name itself sacred. Many in the Old Testament had versions of the deity as part of their name as well (e.g. Isaiah, which basically also means that ‘Yah has saved’).

The New Testament was written in Greek. It never uses the names that ‘sacred name’ groups insist on.

Therefore, those promoting the false doctrine of sacred names then must insist that the New Testament was written in Aramaic or Hebrew—which is also false. The writing style, grammar, syntax, etc. of the New Testament demonstrates that nearly all of it was written in Greek originally.

Furthermore, in early post-New Testament writings, the bulk of which were also written in Greek, they do not employ sacred names either.

Now, even if one or more books of the New Testament were initially written in Hebrew, as long as one or more were written in Greek, passages such as Matthew 6:9-15 and 27:46 dispel the myth that God expected certain Hebrew words to be used to address Him. Also, there is no historical evidence that early faithful Christians felt that they had to use Hebrew names for deity. Therefore, those who stick to the ‘sacred name’ doctrines are not contending earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

Let me add that I have NEVER seen a ‘sacred name’ group that has been successful in meaningfully fulfilling Matthew 24:14 nor really Matthew 28:19-20. To use a modified American expression: ‘they miss the forest,’ while they look for twigs that are not really part of trees—the Books of the Bible.

I once had a ‘sacred name’ person inform me that if we use a term like Jesus or God that the Creator will not understand us. When I asked about the variations on YHWH and Yashua, I was told that God did somehow understand them if mispronounced. The sacred name movement has also had the wrong priorities, as well as a misunderstanding of scripture.

As far as mispronunciations, etc. go, the point of communications is to be understood. While the original Hebrew for the name of Jesus was probably apparently a version of the English name Joshua, what was recorded in the Greek NT was not that.

## Greek and English

The New Testament as well as many post New Testament writings use the Greek term Ἰησοῦ (or Ἰησοῦς as the nominative form on the name as found in Matthew 4:10) for our Savior. Transliterated into English, it would be something like leesoú or leesoús.

But because of translations of that, the name commonly became Jesus in English. Since English-speaking people understand Jesus is supposed to be the Son of God, but do not normally understand leesoú or leesoús, we in the Continuing Church of God. will normally use the term Jesus when speaking in the English language.

It should be pointed out that there are many words in English that differ from the original. For example, while most English-speaking adults have probably heard of Venice, Italy, many probably do not know that the city’s actual name is Venezia--this is also true of many place names in other parts of the world.

We tend use the term Venice, not Venezia, in English to convey that city as that is a term that most would understand. That is also why we tend to use the term Jesus. The point of communication is to be understood.

The reason that leesoú became pronounced as 'Jesus' mainly has to do with changes with how Greek is translated as well as with pronunciation changes in the English language.

Greek nouns indicate case, number, and gender by their spelling. This is called declension. Depending on its use as subject or object in a sentence, the same noun has a different ending. In Greek, leesoús is in the nominative case and leesoú is in the genitive case, etc. The name in the nominative case carries an "s" so that it may be properly declined in the other cases.

As far as the claimed connection to Zeus, etc. goes, notice the following:

In Greek, the name of "Zeus" is really just "Ze", because the "us" is there for grammar. "Ze" is the root of the name. Thus it would be Zayin, Hey in Hebrew (which, BTW, means "this"). Like every other name in Greek, it's spelling changes with grammar (It might be Zeus, Zeu, etc) depending on whether "Ze" is the subject, object, direct object, etc., of a sentence. So depending on how it's used in Greek Grammar, for the nominative, genitive, dative, accusative and vocative cases respectively, it becomes...

- "Ze" becomes Zeus, Zeos, Zei, Zea, or Zeu - for that silly Greek "god"
- "leso" becomes Iesus, Iesou (both G&D cases), Ieson, Iese - for Y'shua, our Saviour

...Since "Jesus" or "Y'shua" has a name that is most properly rooted as "leso" in Greek, not "Iesus". "Iesus" is just a grammatical variant of the root "leso". Note that..

1. The root for Y'shua (Ieso) has nothing in common with the root for "Ze". Even the "e" here is transliterated from a different Greek letter (eta for "leso" and epsilon for "Ze").
2. The declension is different. For "Ze", it's -us, -os, -ei, -a, -u. For Y'shua/Ieso, it's -us, -u, -n, -e. The declension is the same only in the nominative case - not in any others.

So what's similar about these two names? Well, ... how they are pronounced in our tongue

has some similarities. So silly English speaking people who don't know Greek and are too lazy to do research can come up with some strange ideas on what the Greeks were thinking. But this idea that "Jesus" is rooted in "Zeus" doesn't hold water when you really examine the roots and declensions in Greek from a scholarly manner. It has as much credibility as saying it originated from "Dr. Seuss". (A Greek Analysis of the Name "Iesus" or "Jesus." <http://messiahalive.com/Iesus.htm> accessed 02/13/18)

What about the first letter of our Savior's name?

For a long time "i" and "j" were used interchangeably, and both forms represented the same letter. Notice what Dictionary.com states:

"J" is a bit of a late bloomer; after all, it was the last letter added to the alphabet. It is no coincidence that /i/ and /j/ stand side by side – they actually started out as the same character. The letter /j/ began as a swash, a typographical embellishment for the already existing /i/.

In time, the pronunciation changed, and j became a consonant instead of a vowel. Hence, English speakers now pronounce "Jesus" differently than Greek speakers would pronounce leesoús.

Does that mean we must use a Hebrew variant of Joshua?

No.

If that is what our Creator wanted, He would have insisted on it, plus would not have inspired the New Testament to use the word leesoú/leesoús instead of a Hebrew name. Therefore, it should be obvious that God does allow for differences in the pronunciation of the names of deity.

Our Creator has allowed words to be changed to fit the language. That is the same, now, with the word Jesus in English.

Those who insist otherwise are not being faithful to the Bible nor the practices of early Christian writers.

# STUDY THE BIBLE COURSE



## LESSON 14A: ARE HUMANS IMMORTAL?

**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, Catholic-approved translations such as the New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) are sometimes used as are other translations.

*Note: This particular lesson was so long in the original, it was needful to break it into three parts as it was longer than an entire edition of this magazine. The next part, 14b, is planned for the next issue.*

Death is a stark reality for humanity. Some die by war, others by starvation, still others by old age. Everyone must face it.

What happens after death? Is there life beyond the grave? This lesson answers these and many other vital questions about man.

## WHAT IS MAN?

WHAT IS man?" asked the psalmist David in Psalm 8:4. Is man an immortal soul in a material body? Is death the separation of body and soul? What really happens to a person at death?

And what about the atheist who believes that there is no HOPE OF LIFE AFTER DEATH?

These questions have puzzled – yes, frightened – millions since the beginning of time! How can we PROVE – how can we really be SURE – what happens to a human being at death?

## Death a Reality

Death is a reality! – a TERRIBLE reality for many religious people. Death is often pictured as the inescapable FINAL PLUNGE into the unknown – into the “next world” with its heaven, its hell or its purgatory.

But to the average man-on-the-street, death is a vague, far-off, UNREAL something that happens to someone else – a hazy, distant possibility which he feels he can worry about LATER.

Though many today like to shove it from their minds, like to escape having to think about it, death is REAL! It is the inevitable consequence of being ALIVE. Every living organism follows the pattern of birth, growth, senility and death. Death befalls thousands every hour – through sickness, accidents, starvation, murder and war.

Isn't it about time we examined what is called life and death? Isn't it about time we finally learned WHAT MAN IS? – and what hope there is of life after death?

## No Immortal Soul!

Nearly every ancient pagan philosopher, heathen tribe, and nation from antiquity have believed that a human is essentially a spiritual being – some kind of vague immortal spiritual soul housed in a body of flesh – that the human body is merely the house we dwell in, or the cloak put around us temporarily – that the REAL person is not the body, but an invisible, immaterial, immortal soul that thinks, that hears, that sees and that will live on consciously forever.

At death, according to the speculation of the ancient pagan philosophers, the SOUL – the real you – leaves the body and journeys to a heaven, to a purgatory or to a place of punishment. The BODY, they observed, went to the grave.

A few philosophers speculated that the souls of the departed are reborn in other kinds of bodies after death and live on earth again in the form of monkeys, cattle, serpents, or perhaps as human beings. This doctrine is called “transmigration of souls.”

What about the widespread belief among many who profess Christ that humans have (or are) an immortal soul?

Consider this candid admission from the “Jewish Encyclopedia”:

“The belief that the soul continues its existence after the dissolution of the body” – after death – “is a matter of philosophical or theological SPECULATION rather than of simple faith, and is accordingly NOWHERE EXPRESSLY TAUGHT IN HOLY SCRIPTURE” (from article, “Immortality of the Soul”).

Nowhere does the Bible say God created an “immortal soul” in man!

Then where DID the Jews, Catholics, and Protestants acquire their present belief about the immortality of the soul?

## The Immortal Soul Idea Originated with Satan and the Pagans

So where did the idea of the immortal soul come from?

According to the Bible it came from Satan and was part of the first lie to humans! Notice this account:

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ...” (Genesis 3:1-4).

In time, variants of this popped up around the world.

The Jews were affected as well.

Here are words from the same Jewish article explaining where the doctrine of the immortality of the soul DID originate:

“The belief in the immortality of the soul came to the Jews from contact with Greek thought and chiefly through the philosophy of Plato, its principle exponent, who was led to it through Orphic and Eleusinian mysteries in which Babylonian and Egyptian views were strangely blended.”

Here are the words from a more recent source:

Plato, most influentially, separated the soul, or psyche, from the material body and argued that this reasoning part of our being was immortal. His idea was so powerful and attractive that



it has kept philosophers intimately engaged with it to this day. Then, too, because so many influential Christian theologians were part of this philosophical tradition, Platonic ideas have left a lasting imprint on Christian beliefs. The body may die, many Christians hold, but the soul lives on, presumably extending into eternity those qualities that we associate with our conscious minds and our sense of selfhood...

Malcolm Jeeves, an honorary professor of psychology at the University of St. Andrews, is one of many believing scientists..."The immortality of the soul is so often talked about that it is easy to miss that the Jewish view did not support it," Jeeves says. "Furthermore, the original Christian view was not the immortality of the soul but the resurrection of the body." But Platonism did creep in, Jeeves acknowledges, winning over such influential Christian theologians as Augustine and John Calvin. (Tolson J. Is There Room for the Soul? New challenges to our most cherished beliefs about self and the human spirit. US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, October 23, 2006).

It came from the PAGAN GREEK PHILOSOPHERS who acquired it from Egypt and Babylon – NOT FROM THE BIBLE! It is now a widely accepted tradition by those in the Greco-Roman-Protestant faiths, but not those that believe the Bible over tradition, like the Continuing Church of God.

The speculations about the soul appear to have entered the western world FROM EGYPT. Herodotus, the famous Greek historian, who lived in the fifth century before Jesus, admitted:

[T]he Egyptians are also the first who reported the doctrine that the soul of man is immortal, .... This doctrine certain Hellenes adopted, some earlier and some later, as if it were of their own invention (Herodotus Book 2: Euterpe, see 123).

Hellenes means Greeks. The Greeks adopted the immortality doctrine from the pagan Egyptians, not from the Bible!

It was Socrates, the Greek philosopher, who travelled to Egypt and consulted the Egyptians on this very

teaching. After his return to Greece, he imparted the error to Plato, his most famous pupil. Now compare the present-day doctrine of the churches with what Plato wrote in his book, "The Phaedo." Plato wrote:

And in like manner, not only does life exclude death, but the soul, of which life is the inseparable attribute, also excludes death. And that of which life is the inseparable attribute is by the force of the terms imperishable. ... But the immortal is imperishable; and therefore the soul on the approach of death does not perish but removes. ...

What is the nature of that death which he desires? Death is the separation of soul and body—and the philosopher desires such a separation.

Sounds like an ordinary church catechism, doesn't it? Of course! Yet, the DOCTRINE was formulated by Plato! – not the apostle Paul!

To Plato, the student and intimate acquaintance of Socrates, death did not really mean death! Rather, he conceived it to be the separation of the "soul" from the body.

You, too, were probably taught to assume this same doctrine. You were probably told it came straight from the Bible – but it did not! It came out of pagan speculation!

After Plato came Aristotle who perpetuated the theory. Then the Roman poet Virgil (70-19 B.C.) popularized it throughout the Roman world.

## **Paganism Falsely Labeled "Christian"**

The introduction of this pagan superstition into the churches was a gradual process lasting centuries. As the great conspiracy spread, the early Catholic "fathers" became divided on this subject.

The EARLY Catholics KNEW they DID NOT HAVE immortality within themselves! It was something they expected to receive.

In the 2nd century A.D., the Roman church supporting



Justin (often called Justin Martyr) wrote:

Justin also stated, “For I choose to follow not men or men’s doctrines, but God and the doctrines [delivered] by Him. For if you have fallen in with **some who are called Christians**, but who do not admit this [truth], and venture to blaspheme the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; **who say there is no resurrection of the dead, and that their souls, when they die, are taken to heaven; do not imagine that they are Christians**” (Dialogue. Chapter 80).

It may be of interest to note that the false idea that humans could not die as they possessed immortality was, according to Justin, believed by false Christians who descended from Simon Magus:

“To Simon the holy God.” And almost all the Samaritans, and a few even of other nations, worship him, and acknowledge him as the first god; and a woman, Helena, who went about with him at that time, and had formerly been a prostitute, they say is the first idea generated by him. And a man, Meander, also a Samaritan, of the town Capparetaea, a disciple of Simon, and inspired by devils, we know to have deceived many while he was in Antioch by his magical art. He persuaded those who adhered to him that they should never die, and even now there are some living who hold this opinion of his...All who take their opinions from these men, are, as we before said, called Christians; just as also those who do not agree with the philosophers in their doctrines, have yet in common with them the name of philosophers given to them...But I have a treatise against all the heresies that have existed already composed, which, if you wish to read it, I will give you (Justin. First Apology, Chapter XXVI)

But Catholic doctrine gradually changed.

Here is what John Nelson Darby, leader among the “Plymouth Brethren” Church later confesses:

“I cannot show from Scripture that man is naturally immortal. I can only deduce it. The idea of the immortality of the soul has no source

in the gospel; it comes, on the contrary, from the Platonists, and it is just when the second coming of Christ was denied in the Church, or at least began to be lost sight of, that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul came in to replace that of the resurrection. This was about the time of Origen” (from “Lectures”, Vol. IV).

And who was Origen?

A Catholic teacher in Alexandria, Egypt! He joined the speculations of Plato with certain Bible doctrines and called his philosophy NEO-PLATONISM. Here is what Origen wrote around 200 A.D.: “Souls that are immortal, as God Himself is eternal and immortal”!

He professed to be a true “Platonist, who believed in the immortality of the soul” (“Ante-Nicene Fathers”, Vol. IV, pp. 314, 402).

A spurious document apparently from the second or early third century, called The Recognitions of Clement, may have been used to introduce the immortality heresy into the Alexandrian Orthodox:

Now, the proof that the soul is immortal will be put past doubt, not from what it says, or from what I hear, but from what I see: for seeing it with my eyes, I shall ever after hold the surest conviction of its immortality; and no fallacy of words or uncertainty of hearing shall ever be able to disturb the persuasion produced by sight. (The Recognitions of Clement, 1.5. In the Ante-Nicene Fathers, Rev. Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson, editors, Vol. VIII. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B Eerdmans Publishing Company, Note: This text is considered to have been spurious and probably not written by Clement of Alexandria.)

Notice that the claim for immortality above is NOT based on the Bible, but what the author claims to see. The Bible teaches that we are to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)--yet perhaps the first “pro-immortality” Greco-Roman writing does not appeal to scripture, unlike the future immortality writers generally did.

Since it is believed that Origen referred to this Recognition work c. 231, he would have been familiar with it, though some believe passages may have

been added to it in the fourth or even later centuries (Smith T. Introductory Notice to The Recognitions of Clement. ANTE-NICENE FATHERS VOLUME 8).

In the mid-late 3rd century, a mystic often now referred to as Gregory the Wonder Worker, claimed the soul was immortal. Gregory studied under Origen in Alexandria Egypt. Gregory was also the first to claim to see "Mary," he helped introduce heretical doctrines, and he may have been the first of the Greco-Roman bishops to teach that the soul was immortal:

We prove, then, that the soul is simple ... that what is simple is immortal ... If, therefore, the soul is not corrupted by the evil proper to itself, and the evil of the soul is cowardice, intemperance, envy, and the like, and all these things do not despoil it of its powers of life and action, it follows that it is immortal. (Gregory Thaumaturgus. On the Soul, Chapters 5, 6)

Sand is simple, but that does not make it immortal, yet the simplicity argument is supposedly proof of the false doctrine. Bacterial life is simpler than human life, but bacteria are not immortal.

While this doctrine was not commonly accepted for a while, Gregory's change did get accepted (though to a significant degree because of others, but also likely some he at least indirectly affected). But it never should have been accepted.

In Ezekiel 18:4 the Douay-Rheims Bible (a well known Roman Catholic rendition of scripture into the English language) teaches " the soul that sinneth, the same shall die" and "The soul that sinneth, the same shall die" in Ezekiel 18:20.

But a few Catholic writers and teachers as late as the time of Constantine condemned the change in doctrine from Christ to Plato. Here is the clear testimony of Arnobius against those who were being "carried away with an extravagant opinion of themselves that souls are immortal .... Will you lay aside your habitual arrogance, O men, who claim God as your Father, and maintain that you are immortal just as He is?" (Vol. LV, p. 440).

Thus even into the 4th century, the immortality of humans was not taught as is now accepted by

Catholics and Protestants. But this seemed to change as many who professed Catholicism ended coming from a background in Mithraism (such as Emperor Constantine).

## Mithraism Taught the Immortality of the Soul

In the fourth century, there was a sort of merging between the Greco-Roman churches and many who had been followers of the sun-god Mithras. And while the Greco-Romans did not adopt everything associated with Mithraism, they did adopt some practices and beliefs that those who followed Mithras had.

While many Roman emperors had been followers of Mithras, they tended to disdain forms of Christianity. However this changed with Emperor Constantine.

The Catholic Encyclopedia reports:

...it was especially in the western part of the empire that the veneration of Mithras predominated. Would it not be possible to gather all the different nationalities around his altars? Could not Sol Deus Invictus, to whom even Constantine dedicated his coins for a long time, or Sol Mithras Deus Invictus, venerated by Diocletian and Galerius, become the supreme god of the empire? Constantine may have pondered over this.

Nor had he absolutely rejected the thought even after a miraculous event had strongly influenced him in favour of the God of the Christians...As pontifex maximus he watched over the heathen worship and protected its rights...It is true that the believers in Mithras also observed Sunday as well as Christmas. Consequently Constantine speaks not of the day of the Lord, but of the everlasting day of the sun.

(Herbermann, Charles, and Georg Grupp. "Constantine the Great." The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vol. 4. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1908. 1 Sept. 2008 <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04295c.htm>>)

It should be mentioned that the coins dedicated to Mithras still were produced for years after Constantines' alleged acceptance of "Christianity".

Mithraism taught the immortality of the soul. And though that was not the original position of the Greco-Roman churches, scholars recognize that both Mithraism and mainstream Christianity ended up with a similar teaching on this subject:

The resemblances between Mithraism and Christianity may be quickly summed up,—belief in the immortality of the soul (Aiken C.F., Mithraism and Christianity. The Catholic University bulletin, Volume 19, 1913. Original from the University of Michigan, Digitized Dec 19, 2008, p. 380)

They both admitted the existence of a Heaven inhabited by beatified ones, situate in the upper regions...they both, finally, believed in the immortality of the soul.

(Cumont, Franz. Translated from the second revised French edition by Thomas J. McCormack. The Mysteries of Mithra. Chicago, The Catholic University bulletin Author Catholic University of America Publisher Catholic University of America., 1913 Item notes v. 19 Original from the University of Michigan Digitized Dec 19, 2008pen Court [1903] p. 193)

Because of Emperor Constantine's strong influence (perhaps also combined with Gregory the Wonder Worker's writings), it should be little surprise that the Greco-Romans began to change to accept a teaching that they originally taught against. But for a while, the "immortality of the soul" view was in the minority.

The immortality of the soul was a prominent view within Mithraism and the Greco-Romans adopted it for their form of "Christianity."

After the time of Emperor Constantine — who essentially forced the Catholic/Orthodox Church on the Roman Empire — Augustine of North Africa "sanctified" the doctrine of the immortality of the soul in his book, "The City of God". Along came other writers — all under the influence of Plato, Aristotle and Virgil — who dominated the philosophy of Western "Christian" theology during the early Middle Ages.

## Fully Developed in the 13th Century, But With Questions

Although it took some time from its introduction, by the end of 13th century, the immortality of the soul view was clearly predominant.

The Catholic Encyclopedia states:

**Immortality...**The doctrine received its complete philosophical elaboration from St. Thomas. Accepting the Aristotelean theory that the soul is the form of the body, Aquinas still insists that, possessing spiritual faculties of intellect and will, it belongs to an altogether higher plane of existence than other animal forms...St. Thomas holds that we can prove the fact of the soul's conscious life when separate from the body (Michael Maher. Transcribed by Douglas J. Potter. Immortality. The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume VII. Published 1910. New York: Robert Appleton Company. Nihil Obstat, June 1, 1910. Remy Lafort, S.T.D., Censor. Imprimatur. John Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York).

Thomas Aquinas wrote:

It would seem that no souls are conveyed to heaven...immediately after death...**On the contrary,** It is written: "If our earthly house of this habitation be dissolved, that we have . . . a house not made with hands, but reserved in heaven" (Aquinas Thomas. Summa Theologica. Question 69. Matters concerning the resurrection, and first of the place where souls are after death).

It should be pointed out that "St. Thomas" (Aquinas) died in 1274 A.D. Hence, the Roman Catholic Church admits that the doctrine of immortality as now understood by the Roman Catholics was a relatively late development.

However, it should be pointed out that Thomas tended to base his position on early writings and traditions. And the idea of the immortality of the soul did not come just from Aristotle, it also was part of Mithraism-- a religion that shared many doctrines that the Church of Rome (as well as many other churches) adopted.



From 1308 to 1320, Durante Alighieri, popularly known as Dante, wrote the immensely famous poem, "The Divine Comedy." In which he pictured for the common people the PAGAN CONCEPT OF PARADISE, PURGATORY, AND THE NON-DESTROYING INFERNO. Such FALSE DOCTRINES have been widely believed since that time.

## False Idea Imposed by Roman Church

Just before the Protestant Reformation broke out in Europe, the Catholic Church imposed the death penalty on all who refused to believe the pagan doctrine of the soul's immortality. At the Lateran Council, held in 1513, this decree was issued:

"Whereas some have dared to assert concerning the nature of the reasonable soul that it is mortal ... We, with the approbation of the Sacred Council, do condemn and reprobate all those who assert that the intellectual soul is mortal, or one and the same in all men, and those who call these things in question; seeing that the soul is not only truly, and of itself, and essentially the form of the human body, as is expressed in the canon of Pope Clement the Fifth, ... is infused ... immortal; ... and we decree that all who adhere to like erroneous assertions shall be shunned and PUNISHED AS HERETICS."

Little wonder that the Protestant reformers found the people unwilling to change their doctrines. The reformers quickly took the popular road, rejected "the faith once delivered for all time to the saints" (Jude 3), and began to follow tradition – Catholic tradition which has its roots in pagan philosophy and doctrines of demons!

And THAT IS WHY MOST OF YOU were reared to BELIEVE in the IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL!

Now we give you the startling Catholic admission about the doctrine of the immortality of the soul: "It enshrines the principles of ancient SPECULATION" ("The Catholic Encyclopedia", from article "Soul," p. 157

Notice! The belief that man is essentially a spiritual

soul housed in a material body is derived from ANCIENT PAGAN SPECULATION!

The apostle Paul wrote about this very kind of speculation: "BEWARE lest any man spoil you through PHILOSOPHY and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments" – or fundamental concepts – "of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8, KJV).

The BIBLE CONDEMNS the philosophic errors of the pagans! – AND THAT INCLUDES THEIR DOCTRINE THAT MAN IS AN IMMORTAL SOUL!

## The Original Protestant View

Even the ORIGINAL leaders of the Protestant Reformation recognized that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul did not come from the Bible. Martin Luther declared that it was the Pope, not the Bible, who taught that "the soul is immortal" ("Defense", proposition section 27).

The Catholic Cardinal Du Perron charged specifically that "Luther held that the soul died with the body, and that God would hereafter raise both the one and the other" ("Historical View", p. 344).

How different were Luther's first teachings from the Protestant doctrine today. Here are Luther's early views as expressed 13 January 1522:

"It is probable, in my opinion, that, with very few exceptions, indeed, the DEAD SLEEP IN UTTER INSENSIBILITY TILL THE DAY OF JUDGMENT ... On what authority can it be said that the souls of the dead may not sleep ... in the same way that the living pass in profound slumber the interval between their downlying at night and their uprising in the morning?" (From "Michelet's Life of Luther", Bohn's edition, p. 133.)

The Bible teaches "the dead know nothing" (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

Yet, both Catholics and Protestants now almost universally claim that the soul is immortal--and many condemn the biblical idea of "soul sleep."

Others also noticed some of this. Here is some of

what the late Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote about it in a paper dated November 23, 1949:

In Avesta, Mithra was the genius of celestial light ... The doctrine of the immortality of the soul was another view which was very prominent in Mithraism ... Of all the mystery cults, Mithraism was the greatest competitor of Christianity ... That Christians did copy and borrow from Mithraism cannot be denied (King ML. The papers of Martin Luther King, Jr, Volume 4. Clayborne Carson, Ralph Luker, Penny A. Russell editors/compliers. University of California Press, 1992, pp. 213-214, 217, 222, 224).

William Tyndale, the printer of the first New Testament in English, and one of the reformers, wrote:

In putting [departed souls] in heaven, hell, or purgatory you destroy the arguments wherewith Christ and Paul prove the resurrection .... The true faith putteth the resurrection; the HEATHEN philosophers, denying that, did put that souls did ever live. And the Pope joineth the spiritual doctrine of Christ and the fleshly doctrine of the philosophers together -- things so contrary that they cannot agree .... And because the fleshly minded Pope consenteth to heathen doctrine, therefore he corrupteth the Scripture to establish it. If the soul be in heaven, tell me what cause is there for the resurrection?

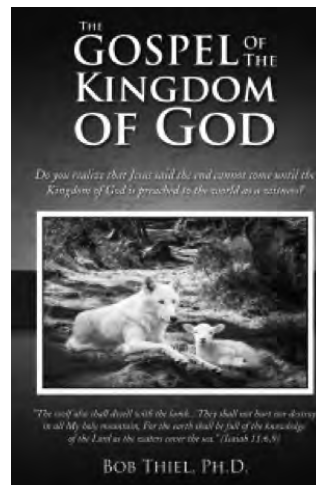
Even “Lange’s Commentary” admits:

“The doctrine of the immortality of the soul, and the name, are alike unknown to the entire Bible” (Olshausen’s comment on 1 Corinthians 15:19, 20).

Then why do most Protestants today believe the doctrine of the immortality of the soul? Because they, too, have been deceived by the speculations of the ancient pagan philosophers! The Bible is not the source of the religion of Protestants any more than of Catholics or Jews!

In the next part, with your own Bible we will go into what the Word of God has to say ABOUT THE SOUL –about what humans really are!

## Did the Apostles teach the Gospel of the Kingdom?



### By Bob Thiel

While many act like the gospel is just the good news about the person of Jesus, the reality is that Jesus’ followers taught the gospel of the Kingdom of God. That is the message that Jesus brought.

### Paul Taught the Kingdom of God

The Apostle Paul wrote about the Kingdom of God and Jesus:

8 And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God (Acts 19:8).

25 And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God (Acts 20:25).

23 So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening... 31 **preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ** with all confidence, no one forbidding him (Acts 28:23,31).

Notice that the Kingdom of God is not just about Jesus (though He is a major part of it), as Paul also taught about Jesus separately from what he taught about the Kingdom of God.

Paul also called it the gospel of God, but that was still the gospel of the Kingdom of God:

9 ... we preached to you the gospel of God ...  
12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. (1 Thessalonians 2:9,12)

Paul also called it the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16). The “good message” of Jesus, the message that He taught.

Consider that it was not simply a gospel about the person of Jesus Christ or just about personal salvation. Paul said the gospel of Christ included obeying Jesus, His return, and God’s judgment:

6 ... God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10).

The New Testament shows that the kingdom is something that we shall receive, not that we now fully possess it:

28 we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28).

We can grasp and look forward to being part of the Kingdom of God now, but have not fully entered it.

Paul specifically confirmed that one does not fully enter the Kingdom of God as a mortal human, as it

happens after the resurrection:

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (1 Corinthians 15:50-52).

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom (2 Timothy 4:1).

Paul not only taught that, but that Jesus would deliver the Kingdom to God the Father:

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. (1 Corinthians 15:20-25).

Paul also taught that unrighteous (commandment breakers) will not inherit the Kingdom of God:

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath,



selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21).

5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God (Ephesians 5:5).

God has standards and demands repentance from sin in order to be able to enter His kingdom. The Apostle Paul warned that some would not teach that Jesus' gospel is the answer, but another is:

3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:3-9)

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it! (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

What was the “other” and “different,” actually false, gospel?

The false gospel has various parts.

In general, the false gospel is to believe that you do not have to obey God and really strive to live true to His way while claiming to know God (cf. Matthew 7:21-23). It tends to be selfishly-oriented.

The serpent beguiled Eve to fall for a false gospel nearly 6000 years ago (Genesis 3)—and humans have believed that they know better than God and should decide good and evil for themselves. Yes, after Jesus came, His name was often attached to various false gospels—and this has been continuing and will continue into the time of the final Antichrist.

Now back in the Apostle Paul's time, the false gospel was essentially a Gnostic/Mystic mix of truth and error. Gnostics basically believed that special knowledge was what was needed to attain spiritual insight, including salvation. Gnostics tended to believe that what the flesh did was of no particular consequence and they were opposed to obeying God in matters like the seventh-day Sabbath. One such false leader was Simon Magus, who was warned by the Apostle Peter (Acts 8:18-21).

## But it is not Easy

The New Testament shows that Philip taught Kingdom of God:

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ... 12 they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God ... (Acts 8:5,12).

But Jesus, Paul, and the disciples taught that it is not easy to enter the Kingdom of God:

24 And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?”

27 But He said, “The things which are impossible

with men are possible with God.” (Luke 18:24-27)

22 “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, (2 Thessalonians 1:3-7).

Because of the difficulties, only some are now being called and chosen in this age to be part of it (Matthew 22:1-14; John 6:44; Hebrews 6:4-6). Others will be called later, as the Bible shows that those “who erred in spirit will come to understanding, and those who complained will learn doctrine” (Isaiah 29:24).

## Peter Taught the Kingdom

The Apostle Peter taught that the kingdom was everlasting, and that the gospel of God must be diligently obeyed or there would be judgment:

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:10-11).

17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17).

## The Last Books of the Bible and the Kingdom

The Bible teaches that “God is love” (1 John 4:8,16) and Jesus is God (John 1:1,14)—the Kingdom of God will have a King who is love and whose laws support love, not hate (cf. Revelation 22:14-15).

The last book of the Bible specifically discusses the Kingdom of God.

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (Revelation 11:15).

Jesus will reign in the kingdom! And the Bible reveals two of His titles:

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 19:16).

But is Jesus the only one who will reign? Notice this passage:

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years . . . 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years (Revelation 20:4,6).

True Christians will be resurrected to reign with Christ for a thousand years! Because the kingdom will last forever (Revelation 11:15), but that reign mentioned was only one thousand years. This is why I referred to this earlier as the first phase of the kingdom—the physical, the millennial, phase as opposed to the final, more spiritual, phase.

A few events are listed in the Book of Revelation as occurring between the millennial and final phases of the Kingdom of God:

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ... 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-8, 11-15).

The Book of Revelation shows that there will be a later phase that comes after the thousand year reign and after the second death:

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)

1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne

of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-5)

Notice that this reign, which is after the thousand years, includes the servants of God and lasts forever. The Holy City, which was prepared in heaven, will leave heaven and will come down to the earth. This is the beginning of the final phase of the Kingdom of God. A time of NO MORE PAIN OR SUFFERING!

The meek will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5) and all things (Revelation 21:7). The earth, including the Holy City which will be on it, will be better because God's ways will be implemented. Realize that:

7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end (Isaiah 9:7).

Clearly there will be growth after the final phase of the Kingdom of God has begun as all will obey God's government.

This will be a most glorious time:

9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

It is a time of love, joy, and everlasting comfort. It will be a fantastic time!

Don't you want to have your part in it?



# The EUROPEAN BEAST is Rising Up



*10-Horned Beast of Revelation 13*

**By Raymond McNair**

*Originally published in the Tomorrow's World magazine, February 1970 by the old Worldwide Church of God. Portions removed for dating purposes.*

Millenniums ago Bible prophecy foretold a powerful United Europe ... The world little realizes the awesome outcome of the present drive to unite Europe into one economic, political and religious bloc! Yet, you can know the long-prophesied outcome, and recognize ahead of time the effect it will have on you.

## Importance of Bible Prophecy

Will the long-dreamed-of "United States of Europe" become a reality in our time? Will a strong, United Europe be a good thing? Will it help bring greater peace, prosperity and stability to Europe and to the world — as its architects envision?

You need to know the prophetic answers to these crucial questions.

The Bible reveals the startling answers to these vital questions. You need to really understand the full significance of where today's drive to UNITE EUROPE,

and turn this long-divided continent into a strong superpower, is leading.

Does it seem incredible to you that the very God who created and sustains the seemingly boundless universe is able to foretell the destiny of today's nations? We can understand the real meaning behind today's news, because we understand God's Word. And in His Word He has a lot to say about the destiny of today's major nations. Yet, so many cut themselves out from this vital revelator source of knowledge — through prejudice and ignorance!

Even though the Bible is still the world's best-seller — and is owned by more people than any other book — very few of those who profess to believe in it really believe what it says. As an example, how few Christians even know that the Bible gives many specific, detailed prophecies regarding today's modern nations — prophecies which at this very moment are being fulfilled.

## God Reveals the Future

Do you realize that approximately one third of your Bible is prophecy? And perhaps as much as ninety percent of that prophecy will have its fulfillment in the very age in which you ... are living! ...

Notice how the Apostle Peter explained the importance of prophecy — and of the necessity for allowing God to interpret it: "We have also a more SURE WORD OF PROPHECY; where-unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (II Peter 1:19).

This "sure word of prophecy" — this "fresh confirmation of the Prophetic Word" as Moffatt translates the same Greek phrase — gives us the all-important "light" which reveals the future. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:20, 21).

We can never rightly understand the prophecies of the Bible unless and until we learn to let God and God alone interpret His own prophecies. ...

## Where — Lost Tribes of Israel?

Christ commanded His apostles to “go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 10:6, 7). The same applies to God’s true ministers today. They, also, are to go preach the gospel to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

But how many Christian-professing ministers even profess to know where the lost ten tribes of Israel are? The Jews freely acknowledge in their writings that the “lost ten tribes of Israel” are still lost. Many Christian clergymen also believe the “lost ten tribes” are still lost. But why are so few willing to seek out the lost tribes of Israel?

You can know the true identities of such nations as the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-descended peoples — if you are interested! If you want the facts on this thrilling and most important subject — proving that the United States, the British Commonwealth and some of the countries of Northwest Europe are indeed descendants of the lost tribes of Israel ... (Editor: Scriptures showing this, beginning with the Book of Genesis are in the free online article ‘Anglo - America in Prophecy & the Lost Tribes of Israel,’ available at <http://www.cogwriter.com/britishisrael.htm>.)

This can now be proven both from the Bible and secular history.

It is vitally important to know the Biblical identity of nations like the U.S. and Britain. Prophecy reveals that our peoples will — unless we repent — have a head-on economic and military confrontation with a powerful, nuclear-armed United Europe. And it doesn’t look as though we are about to repent.

... we have been saying that a United States of Europe would rise up. ... This pivotal event will occur just before the close of this present age — immediately prior to the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ to this war-torn earth, when at last a “strong hand from somewhere” will put an end to war, poverty, pollution, famine and disease.

But before the formation of the political machinery of this soon-coming United States of Europe, there would be an economic union of the nations of Europe.

This economic union would make possible the laying of the POLITICAL foundation for a powerful U.S. of Europe.

## Britain on the Outside?

Will Britain ever be admitted into the Common Market? And, if she does enter the European Economic Community (EEC), will she remain in this union?

The answer to this first question is not clearly revealed in Bible prophecy. ...

But one thing is certain. Bible prophecy clearly shows that Britain will not be one of the ... NATIONS comprising the final United States of Europe.

Why is this so? How do we know?

Before answering these questions, we need to examine the purpose for which the Common Market was originally created by its European architects.

True, the architects of the Rome Treaty had economic unity in mind, but POLITICAL unity was to be the second and final stage in the development of the Common Market community of nations.

## Common Market’s Final Aim — Political Union

Notice this significant statement: “From the beginning, the final aim of Europeans [referring to the members of the Common Market] has been the creation of a European FEDERATION. From 1950 onwards, the Six members of the existing economic communities entered into the process of economic integration, the end of which was to be A POLITICAL COMMUNITY...” Uniting Europe, a Europe House Publication, published by The Campaign for Europe [emphasis ours]).

This same book continues: “The ‘Relaunching’ of European unity has today become a real possibility.... Most important of all, the age-old suspicions between the people themselves — and especially among the younger generations — are being gradually replaced by a new sense of European identity.... But there is a long way to go towards that ‘ever closer union of

the peoples of Europe' sought in the preamble to the Rome Treaty... to point the way forward in the POLITICAL field is less easy than in the ECONOMIC field.... For this very reason, it is all the more essential to spell out the aims at the beginning, setting a 10-12 year timetable wherein the basic framework of a politically integrated Europe can be achieved."

Not long ago Franz Josef Strauss (former Finance Minister in the Kiesinger government) told me the same thing. When I asked him just how long he thought it would take the Europeans to erect this United States of Europe — this FEDERAL Europe which he continually campaigns for — he said he thought it would take TEN YEARS to bring about political unification in Europe.

Bible prophecy does not usually give exact dates, but it does indicate that it will not take that long. Once the move to unite Europe really gets rolling, it will not take long for it to crystallise.

## Founding Fathers of Common Market

Who were the founding fathers of the Common Market? What were their aims — their main goals? "The founding fathers, such as Monnet, Schuman, Adenauer and De Gasperi, assumed that Economic unity would lead one day to a loose political integration" (Europe's Great Leap Forward, by John Cockcroft).

"The central ultimate aim of the Brussels institutions is not to complete a prosperous, dynamic Common Market, important though that is. It is to use the Market system as the foundation for a European POLITICAL COMMUNITY to prevent war between European countries or between them and Russia" (Britain and the Common Market, published by The Daily Telegraph, art. "A Single European Foreign Policy," by Walter Farr).

"For many of us a political strategic community is the dominant goal; the economic community of rather less vital interest except as the necessary road to a unity of a more general kind" (The Heartfelt Road to Europe, by Maurice Green). He then states: "The truth is that economic, POLITICAL and strategic unity

are deeply interlinked and cannot be considered separately." ...

Certainly, whatever happens, Bible prophecy shows that the coming United States of Europe — referred to in King James' language as the "BEAST" of Revelation 13 and 17 — will have strong religious (or "Christian") connections. Sitting astride a United Europe will be a great Church or Church system — prophesied two thousand years ago (see Rev. 17).

But, who is the "Beast" mentioned in the 13th and 17th chapters of Revelation?

Many Bible commentaries point out that the "Beast" of the 13th and 17th chapters of Revelation is "the Roman Empire." It is also interesting that a Roman Catholic Bible (New Testament, Confraternity edition — published by the Catholic Book Publishing Company) has an interesting footnote comment on Rev. 17:11 as follows: "The beast spoken of here seems to be the Roman Empire, as in chapter 13."

## The Modern Roman Empire

Let's speak plainly, the prophecies of your Bible reveal that in this end-time there would be the ... final revival (or resurrection) of the Roman Empire ... — and the final seventh head is now in the process of being formed right before your very eyes!

In the second chapter of Daniel, we find this same world kingdom depicted as the ten toes of the great image — representing the ten kings ultimately to unite at the very end of this age of man's 6,000-year period of misrule!

This is also depicted as a "Beast" in Revelation 17:8-17. Here we see a "Beast" — picturing the Roman Empire — which is to ascend out of a "bottomless pit." But it will go into perdition or destruction. When the inhabitants of the earth see this "Beast" — this Fascist form of government — come out of a condition of virtual nonexistence, they're going to be dumbfounded. They "shall wonder"! (Verse 8.)

Yes, the whole world will be utterly amazed when they see this "Beast" resurrected or revived — for the last time, thank God!

## Unless We Repent...

Yes, as we have been saying for ... years, a strong United States of Europe is in the making! Europeans are becoming impatient! Economic integration has pretty well been completed. Now, full political union is just around the corner!

How will a U.S. of Europe affect America, Britain and the Commonwealth?

Bible prophecy reveals that — unless our peoples return to God in real, heartrending repentance — God will permit a powerful United States of Europe to confront and destroy us, first economically, and then, as incredible as it sounds today, militarily.

The outcome? If we don't turn from our waywardness — our adulteries, drug-taking, perversions, violence, murder and every evil imaginable — our nations will be humbled in the dust, wasted economically and incinerated militarily — all the work of the very Frankenstein monster which Marshall-Plan dollars created after World War II.

Unless we repent as nations — or individually — these things are certain to come to pass in our lifetime! May God help us to be awake to today's fast moving world conditions — awake to what is happening, almost unnoticed, in Europe.

## 2018 update by Bob Thiel

My family and I met Raymond McNair in Belgium at the Feast of Tabernacles in 1997.

Although Raymond F. McNair died on October 11, 2008 and never saw the final “United States of Europe,” he saw Europe expanding and saw some of its rise.

Since his article was originally published, events have occurred which are consistent with much of what he wrote:

- The Common Market eventually became the European Union.
- The USA, UK, etc. have not repented—instead sinful ways are more publicly advocated.
- Several leaders in Europe have called for a

United States of Europe.

- On May 6, 2016, religious leader Pope Francis received the Charlemagne prize for his promotion of European unity.
- Britain, which entered the Common Market and later approved the Lisbon Treaty to be in the European Union, voted on June 23, 2016 to leave the European Union.
- On December 11, 2017, 25 European nations agreed be part of something called the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). PESCO is essentially intended as an independent Europe-wide military.
- On February 14, 2018, German-Foreign-Policy.com reported there is an ““Army of the Europeans” that the German government ... seeks to establish” and that the USA is concerned about a European military force that is independent of NATO.
- On February 18, 2018, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban stated his understanding that “Christianity is Europe's last hope.”

How could Church of God writers over the years have known these type of things would come about?

Because of various biblical prophecies.

Consider that Revelation 18 shows, that for a time, this Babylonian European power will dominate world trade. Some type of European unity would be needed for this to happen. Hence, the Common Market and now the European Union have been involved in steps to set this up.

The Bible, in Daniel 11:25, teaches that the Europeans would end up with a “great army.” Therefore, Europe needs to somehow develop its own army.

Daniel 2:41-43 shows that Europe, despite problems of getting along, will form a major union. So, when we see “bumps” along the road for European unity, we know that was prophesied.

While the current structure of Europe is not what the Bible prophesies, since Revelation 17:12-13 shows that Europe will reorganize, that does not stop us from



accepting biblical prophecies for Europe and noticing steps that appear to align with what the Bible says to happen. Regarding end time matters, Jesus said to “Watch!” (Mark 13:37).

Revelation 13:1-4 shows that a seemingly defeated European power would rise again and become a military power. Europe has been written off as a major military power, but is working towards having it, consistent with those prophecies.

Christians are not to be like those that walk by sight (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7) and have written off prophecies (or at least do not properly understand them). Christians should be able to discern the season (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:3-6) and signs of the end (Luke 21:31-35).

Revelation 13:11-18 shows that there will be religious involvement with the Beast of the Sea. Revelation 17 shows that the religious involvement will, for a time, include a compromising and persecuting church that has governmental involvement which is connected to the city of seven hills (Rome).

The Vatican’s 2018 betrayal of Chinese bishops more loyal to the Church of Rome than to the Chinese government shows that the false prophet (an apparent ‘antipope’) will put up with the destruction of the Church of Seven Hills (Revelation 17:16-18).

Daniel 11:39 shows, which would coincide with

the start of the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21; Jeremiah 30:7), that Europe will defeat the power with the strongest military. In these end times, that would have to be the USA and its closest military allies, like the United Kingdom and Canada (Australia and New Zealand will also be taken over).

Genesis 48:14-16 shows that Jacob/Israel blessed Joseph’s two sons and placed his name upon them. The descendants of these sons become the British (Ephraim) and USA (Manasseh) peoples. Because these peoples are shown to be defeated by a European power (cf. Isaiah 10:5-12) at the start of the time of Jacob’s troubles (Jeremiah 30:7), this is why Church of God writers long ago concluded that the United Kingdom would not remain an equal member of whatever would form in Europe to become the final Beast.

Deception was prophesied to get worse in the end (cf. 2 Timothy 3:13)—and we have seen that instead of national repentance. “But the Assyrian shall be his king, Because they refused to repent” (Hosea 11:5).

While the end is not yet (cf. Matthew 24:6), we are getting closer and are seeing steps around the world that are aligning with properly understood biblical prophecies.

The European Beast is in the process of rising up.

# WHEN Should You Be Anointed?



A.D. 629 artist's representation of David being anointed.

By David Jon Hill

*Originally published in the Good News magazine, August 1964, by the old Radio Church of God.*

What is YOUR responsibility in asking to be anointed? What extremes should you avoid? How sick should you be before you ask? These — and many more — everyday questions are answered in this article.

HAVE you ever wondered just how sick you should be before you call on the Elders for anointing and prayer to be healed? Have you ever thought you wouldn't "bother" your Elder because he was "too busy"?

How can you know when you should call on God to be forgiven of your physical sins and be healed? If you wonder whether you should ask, how can you have faith in asking? And what if an Elder refuses to anoint you after you have asked — should you go to another for anointing?

You need to understand the answers to these basic questions. You want to do what is right — it is basically a matter of balance and wisdom, a matter of knowing when and for what to apply the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

## What Is Healing?

Healing is one of the great benefits from God. "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Ps. 103:2-3).

Healing is also an office which God holds — an office He has mercifully exercised for thousands of years. "... for I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Ex. 15:26). And this office belongs EXCLUSIVELY TO GOD. "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I HEAL: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand" (Deut. 32:39).

The fakes and charlatans of history who have pretended to heal — who have arrogated to themselves this office which belongs solely to the Creator — the priests and the lord of flies, and the staff entwined with snakes have been singled out for the vengeance of God and have been classified among the greatest of abominations. Our God is a jealous God and He jealously guards this office. "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise" (Jer. 17:14). God is the ONLY One who can provide TRUE HEALING — just as God is the only One who can provide true salvation.

God's true healing is not to be construed as a natural process of mending. It is an outright removal of the affliction — a direct miracle. While it is true that sometimes God heals a person over a period of time, nonetheless it is a direct intervention of God and not a natural, bodily, healing process.

Healing is the forgiveness of sin! "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" (Mark 2:5). Jesus, the Son of God, who came to bear our every sin in His body as a sacrifice for us — Jesus who was so willing to bear our sins (Mark 1:41), made it very plain that the healing of our physical bodies involves the direct forgiveness of sins! "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth TO FORGIVE SINS" (Mark 2:10).

Although the healing of our bodies has a purely physical effect — even though it is a present and temporary thing (because no matter how many times you are healed you must eventually die), this

forgiveness of sin (which is spiritual) which has a direct and tangible physical effect leads us to see how our Loving God can also forgive our spiritual sins and grant us eternal spiritual health and life!

But the application of that forgiveness of sin is spiritual — it is supernatural. Nearly 2000 years ago the man, Jesus Christ, who had lived a perfect life, was beaten, punished and wounded and then immediately put to death on the stake. But that man was resurrected — the first-born Son of God — as a spirit being, of the God family, who sits at His Father's right hand now and still offers the sacrifice of His broken body to be applied for the forgiveness of our sins. Centuries have passed. There is no way other than through our Spiritual, Loving God that this sacrifice that Christ made so long ago could possibly apply to us today. Besides, there is no way within the limits of our physical understanding in which the suffering of one human being can erase the suffering of another. It is beyond natural, physical understanding — it is spiritual.

## Healing Important to God's Church

Healing was always an integral part of the ministry of Jesus Christ — Matthew 4:23; Luke 9:11. It was an integral part of the ministry of the early Church — Acts 4:7-12, 16-17; 10:38 It is a sign of the true ministry of Jesus Christ — Mark 16:15-20.

Although the Church of God today certainly does not make any show of this benefit of healing ... Many are anointed and healed ... Also, ... letters come in from people who have been healed after using an anointed cloth sent to them from Headquarters.

I want to quote some of these thankful comments — these comments are never solicited, but they do show that our Merciful and Loving God — Healer is ACTIVE in performing this office today! Also, I want to show you that when it is necessary for you to request an anointed handkerchief rather than be anointed directly by one of God's ministers that it is every bit as effectual. Some have requested to be anointed personally and when they were asked if they had been anointed before for the particular illness they would state that they had not, that they had only received

an anointed cloth! This is one facet of being anointed that you need to understand with proper balance.

The oil that a minister uses in anointing has no power to heal. There is no healing power resident within the hands of the physical individual who does the anointing — the healing power is not in the particular selection of the audible syllables of the words chosen for the prayer — nor is there any healing power within the threads of the anointed cloth.

God is the Healer! And He heals through the power of His Holy Spirit and by the direct application of the punishment that Jesus Christ suffered.

## Extremes to Avoid

The two extremes regarding the use of an anointed cloth which must be avoided are: 1) Some refer to the anointed cloth as a "healing cloth." This is not true. The reason that Mr. Armstrong in his letter that goes with the anointed cloth requests that you burn the cloth after you have used it, is so that you will NOT IN ANY WAY venerate the cloth! The only reason we send a cloth at all is because of the Biblical example of the Apostle Paul. 2) The other extreme is that some feel the cloth is not good enough — that they must have the minister anoint them directly, personally. This is not true either. The use of a cloth depends upon your inaccessibility to a minister at the time of your illness. Sometimes a minister has to send an anointed cloth even in a local area because he cannot be in many places at once.

If you are sent an anointed cloth, do not feel that you are being slighted, and on the other hand, do not venerate the cloth. Let's notice that what God says about this means that He has been honored for the healing of our bodies in Acts 19:11-12— and then read some of the comments from people who have been healed of various diseases by God through this means today! "And God wrought SPECIAL MIRACLES by the hands of Paul: so that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Note that this is called a special miracle — that God in a sense has to go out of the way because of extenuating circumstances to apply the sacrifice of Christ in these cases.

## Some Thankful Comments

“I thank God that my cataracts are gone. A year ago I was in the hospital to have them removed. They were going to take the right eye first and ten days later the left eye. But every morning when they were ready to operate I would be sick and they couldn’t do so. They told me to go home for a month and I had you pray for my cataracts to be removed. Later the doctors checked and said my cataracts were gone, which surprised them beyond words. They told me cataracts just don’t go without an operation. One doctor said a greater power was dealing with my eyes” (Woman from Detroit, Michigan).

“My husband and I just recently escaped miraculously from a terrible fire which destroyed our trailer home. Had it not been for God’s intervention we would have lost our lives. My husband is in the hospital with his back, left arm and left shin quite badly burned. We sent to Mr. McNair and Mr. Quillen for prayer cloths and my husband is healing twice as fast as the doctor expected him to” (Woman from Utah).

“You prayed for my son and sent me a prayer cloth. He couldn’t walk by himself, but when we prayed he got up and walked for the first time in three months. He had been sick nearly 10 years” (Woman from Cross Plains, Texas).

“I thank God that the cancer in my ear has gone. The doctor who wanted to cut it out looked at my ear a few days ago and wanted to know what I had done to it. So I told him that I had changed doctors. He wanted to know who my doctor was, so I pointed upwards and told him that He was up there, but I don’t think he believed me. But the proof is there for the world to see. Thank God the man who healed by the sea of Galilee heals today” (Man from Florida).

## Not Just a Doctrine

The healing of our physical bodies is not just a doctrine of the Church of God — it is an actual, physical, real benefit and blessing. It is the way to health when we are sick. Don’t be guilty along with some who have said, “My church doesn’t allow me to go to doctors!” This church — the Church of God — DOES allow you

to go to doctors — just as God allows you to go to doctors!

Don’t blame the Church for your not going to doctors — it must be your own personal, real, faithful conviction that you as one individual are going to trust your Living Creator God to forgive your sins and heal your body! You YOURSELF as an individual before God — and apart from “the Church” must choose in faith to put your life in God’s hands, not coerced or forced in any way but free as an individual to pursue your faith! You must realize that whether you live or whether you die — because death is always a possibility as long as we are physical — you belong to Jesus Christ, you are the Lord’s! (Rom. 14:8).

You can go to doctors for your healing if you want to — the Church of God advises you that this is NOT the way to be {truly} healed. It is just not within the power of another human being TO FORGIVE YOUR SIN AND HEAL YOUR BODY! But this must be YOUR OWN PERSONAL DECISION — a matter of you exercising the faith of Jesus Christ — not just something you feel you have to do because you belong to the Church and this is one of the doctrines of the Church.

An exact understanding of how this facet of the Truth should affect our lives has been a problem with God’s people historically. “For he who eats and drinks without a proper sense of the Body, eats and drinks to his own condemnation. That is why many of you are ill and infirm, and a number even dead” (I Cor. 11:29-30, Moffatt Translation).

We partake of the Passover every year. We take the symbol of broken, unleavened bread to represent the broken, sinless body of Jesus Christ sacrificed for our physical sins — sacrificed for our physical healing. Each year as we take this symbol we should be fully assured in OUR OWN MINDS as to its meaning and significance. We should trust completely in God for our physical healing as we trust in Him for our spiritual salvation. We should fully understand the meaning of the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ!

## Christ’s Sacrifice for You

You need to understand what you are asking for when you ask to be anointed — so that you do not regard



it lightly. You are asking for the pain and punishment, the beating that Jesus Christ suffered at the hands of Roman soldiers the night before His death to be applied for YOUR physical sins. “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (I Pet. 2:24). “But he was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for OUR iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:5).

Basically from the waist up, the body of Jesus Christ was torn to shreds. Great chunks of flesh hung down in red ribbons of raw meat. In some places the white bones of the rib-cage could even be seen (read Ps. 22:16-17). As the metal pieces tied to the ends of leather thongs lashed around His body they whipped by His face and tore at His lips and nose and cheeks leaving His face in such a state that He was no longer recognizable — “As many were astounded at thee; his visage {face} was so marred more than any man, and his form [whole body] more than the sons of men” (Isa. 52:14).

Let’s note just briefly so we will realize fully what we’re asking for when we are anointed, the description given in the Encyclopedia Britannica under the article, “Cross and Crucifixion,” in volume 7, page 505 of the 11th edition: “The criminal [being crucified) was first of all usually stripped naked and bound to an upright stake and so cruelly scourged with an implement formed of strips of leather having pieces of iron or some other hard material at the ends that not merely was the flesh often stripped from the bones, but even the entrails partly protruded and the anatomy of the body disclosed. In this pitiable state he was reclothed, and if able to do so, was made to drag the stake to the place of execution where he was either fastened to it or impaled upon it and left to die.”

This gives you some idea of what Jesus Christ went through that night for YOU! It was only because He was in excellent physical condition that He was even able to walk after receiving such a beating. These are the stripes by which YOU are healed! These are the stripes you ask to be applied to the bared back of Christ in YOUR stead when you ask to be anointed.

## But You MUST Ask!

Once we begin to recognize the awesomeness of the sacrifice we’re asking to be applied, we tend to go to the other extreme and suffer through our illnesses considering ourselves righteous because we’re not asking to have the sacrifice of Christ applied to us.

But it is not a matter of choice once we are converted. It is only a matter of deciding when to call for this sacrifice. It is a DIRECT COMMAND — “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and THE LORD SHALL RAISE HIM UP; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” (Jas. 5:14-15). The expression “let him call” is not a suggestion, it is in the command form. The Goodspeed Translation makes it a little clearer “If anyone is sick, he SHOULD CALL in the elders of the church and have them pray over him...” (Jas. 5:14).

Some reason that they do not deserve this sacrifice. This is absolutely true! Neither do we deserve the sacrifice of the life of Jesus Christ to pay for our sins that we might inherit eternal life. Yet we are commanded to repent and be baptized — which means we MUST CLAIM the death of Jesus Christ to be applied in our stead!

Once that death has been claimed you no longer belong to yourself. You are purchased — paid for completely with a price beyond your conception. You are no longer responsible for just yourself — an individual apart. You are a member of the very Body of Jesus Christ. “What? know ye not that YOUR body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (I Cor. 6:19).

You are no longer free to selfishly do with your body as you wish to do. You are now responsible to see to it that you are in health, strength and vigor to use even that human, bodily energy which you have, in the service of the whole Body of Jesus Christ — the Church!

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your BODY” (I Cor. 6:20). You glorify God by allowing Him to live His life in you. You repent of your sins, both spiritual and physical, and ask for the sacrifice

of Christ to pay for both. Then you USE your cleansed body and mind to serve Him one-hundred percent!

## Some Pitfalls to Avoid!

I heard some say that they did not “bother the minister” unless they were very seriously ill. That they just prayed for themselves. These individuals felt that James 5:13 instructed this. “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray.” But that is not what this verse says. The word “afflicted” does not refer in this case to physical ailments, but to mental problems and trials. Again, it is better in the Goodspeed Translation — “If any one of you is in trouble, he should pray.”

There are a number of instructions in the end of James 5. You have to be careful about where one instruction leaves off and another begins. The specific instruction of what to do when you are sick does not begin until Verse 14. You will notice that Verse 13 also tells you what to do if you are merry or happy!

Another common error that is honestly made, is to ask for anointing when you feel a cold or something else “coming on.” If you feel something coming on, then you are not yet sick. What you need to do is immediately analyze your life to see what is causing this feeling of imminent sickness. Anointing is not a rabbit’s foot — not a just-in-case, hocus-pocus — not an abracadabra or an “open sesame” — and as we have seen above, it should be applied only when it midst be applied.

You must avoid using anointing carelessly. You should never be anointed just in case you MIGHT catch something. If some sickness is “going around” you need to be aware of it. Take every precaution you can so that you will not come down with it in the first place. If this fails and you do become sick, THEN is when you should ask for anointing.

This leads us to the next common error regarding anointing. This error has a tendency to crop up more often in those who have been in the Church longer, and those who have been reared in the Church. The error is to begin to consider anointing as a mere ritual. These individuals have been anointed before many times for many things, and rather than facing each situation of the application of the sacrifice of

Christ in its individual seriousness it becomes a mere formalistic matter of conforming to Church doctrine and established habit. Don’t let this happen to YOU!

Another pitfall to avoid — and we shouldn’t even have to mention this one — is planning ahead of time to use the sacrifice of Christ! Taking that sacrifice for granted, and thinking about it in a very careless and light vein, some individuals anticipate needing it — deliberately getting themselves sick, knowingly losing sleep, knowingly eating the wrong foods, knowingly getting in danger of bodily injury! Don’t EVER plan on using the sacrifice of Christ in this way!

Another common error is being anointed as a last resort! Many seem to be trying to copy the pitiful example of the woman in Mark 5:25-26: “And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.”

As you read on in this account you realize that Jesus Christ had compassion on the woman and healed her outright of this illness from which she had sought relief from every quarter for twelve years! But remember, this was the first time she had had opportunity to approach the One who made the sacrifice that makes healing possible! Don’t you make the same mistake this unconverted woman made, and try everything else before you ask for anointing.

This leads automatically to two other common errors, which blend together. They are: 1) Using all the home remedies and old wives’ tales that you have heard of and collected through your history. And, 2) immediately after you have been anointed, and the “ritual” has been accomplished, to ask what physical thing you can now do — as if we should prescribe something for you.

Here again it’s a matter of balance. There are certain physical things that we can do for ourselves. You have heard Mr. Armstrong say many times that he advises people regarding the common-sense laws of physical health to help the individual find out what physical laws he is breaking so that he will cease breaking them. But this is IN NO WAY, SHAPE OR FORM going to heal you of your illness. And it is NOT in any way to be construed as a prescription of any sort. Any advice

that is offered by your minister regarding such things as fasting or the beneficial values of certain foods should certainly be regarded seriously by you. But do not make the TERRIBLE MISTAKE of getting your eyes on the physical and OFF the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

Only that sacrifice of Jesus Christ can heal you. Its application is a spiritual thing that you cannot see. If you get your eyes and mind off Jesus, and on some physical thing — even if that thing be right — then you are missing the point of healing entirely!... Learn the balance which is taught in that article and live it in your life!

## How to Tell When You Are “Sick”

There is no absolute formula which can apply — there is no special pulse-beat or exact degree of temperature at which you become “sick.” However, there is a good general rule of thumb that can be applied to this question so that you call know when you should ask to be anointed. The word “sick” used in James 5:14 is from a Greek word which Strong’s Concordance defines as “to be feeble in any way.”

Since we are to serve God in everything we do — in the employment that we have, in the church activities, in the household duties of the wife — and even in the normal routine of children’s work, play and study — then this rule of thumb can apply. If you (or your child) are rendered unable to carry out your normal, daily routine that life as a Christian requires of you, then you should consider yourself sick.

If you as a housewife cut your finger while preparing the family meal, you would probably just cleanse it, bandage it and continue with your daily routine. If there arose complications, however — say the cut were to become infected — so that your whole hand might be rendered useless, then you would be “sick.” You would not be able to do the job that God called you to do. Now you must ask God to intervene, to forgive your carelessness, to forgive your sins, to cleanse you and make you whole and well and strong so that you can serve Him with that strength and health.

Or you might wake up in the morning with a headache

that would bother you, but that may go away as soon as you eat breakfast, or exercise a little in the work you do. This could not be construed as being “sick.” However, if that headache persisted to the extent that it impaired your ability to do the job you’ve been given to do — to the extent where it distracted you and perhaps endangered you or others if your job requires you to be physically alert — then you are sick and should be anointed!

## Understand Responsibility

But what if you should ask to be anointed after having considered these points and the minister were to refuse?

This situation of calling on the elders to be anointed presents an excellent example of how we can understand authority and responsibility in God’s Church. The first responsibility is YOURS!

You must seriously stop and consider what you are asking God for, realizing at the same time that if you really are sick you MUST ASK — it is your responsibility to decide when to ask. As soon as you have performed this responsibility it becomes the responsibility of the elder whom you have asked.

Realizing more fully than you do the awesome responsibility of applying the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the elder must now make his decision based on the knowledge that you bring to him about the physical situation, and his knowledge of God’s Word. It is no longer YOUR responsibility. Since he is God’s representative and serves you in the name of Jesus Christ, you should not consider it a rebuke or in any way be offended, if an elder refuses to anoint you or your child. In all probability, unless there are unusual, extenuating circumstances — he will explain to you why he is not anointing you.

It would be good to mention here an express command from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong that all of us elders have received regarding the anointing of children. In anointing, as you know, the minister must lay his hands on the head of the individual. Little children are not used to this — and their first reaction is to rebel! You should make it your duty as a parent to explain this to your child even before he becomes sick — to

get him used to having hands on his head — to teach him ultimate respect for his elders in general and the ministry in particular. Mr. Armstrong's instruction to us was that we are to refuse to anoint a rebellious and unruly child. That we are to request the parent to bring the child under control so that all things can be done decently and in order — especially with such a serious request before the very throne of God in heaven!

Finally, when the elder in prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, calls on God the Father in heaven and by the anointing with oil as a symbol of God's Holy Spirit, it becomes GOD'S responsibility! The elder, laying his hands upon the head of the individual to set him apart, puts the responsibility for your healing in God's very hands! Now it is up to Him to decide whether He will apply the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is up to Him to decide when He will apply that sacrifice — and how!

You just be sure that you perform your responsibility! The elder will perform his responsibility and God will perform His!

## **Ask in Faith**

When you have applied the principles in this article you will be able to have absolute faith — the faith of Jesus Christ — that you WILL BE HEALED!

When you do call on God for that sacrifice of His Son's broken body — and when that sacrifice is applied, and you are healed — be sure that you USE that health and strength that you get by a divine miracle from a Merciful and Loving God, TO SERVE HIM AND HIM ONLY!

*In the Continuing Church of God we do anoint the sick. For those not near the ministry, we also do send out anointed cloths. If you do ask for an anointed cloth, please provide a mailing address even if you think the minister already has it as this can expedite the sending of the anointed cloth, especially if the minister is traveling.*

*As far as the medical field goes, everyone is advised to pray and use proper judgment regarding the use of medical, natural, and other treatments. The old Radio Church of God did not forbid seeing medical or other healthcare professionals, nor does the Continuing Church of God. While they do not 'heal,' sometimes they may be able to assist the body repair itself.*



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



*Continuing Church of God* [www.cog.org](http://www.cog.org)  
*Daily Bible News Prophecy* [www.cogwriter.com](http://www.cogwriter.com)

**CCOG.ASIA** This is a website focused on Asia. It has articles in Mandarin Chinese as well as some in English, plus some items in other Asian languages.

**CCOG.EU** This is a website targeted towards Europe. It has materials in many European languages.

**CCOG.IN** This is a website targeted towards those of Indian heritage, and includes materials in Hindi.

**CCOG.NZ** This is a website targeted towards those in New Zealand.

**CCOGCanada.CA** This is a website targeted towards those in Canada.

**CDLIDD.ES** La Continuación de la Iglesia de Dios. This is the Spanish language website for the Continuing Church of God.

**PNIND.PH** Patuloy na Iglesia ng Diyos. This is the Philippines oriented website with items in English and Tagalog.



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***BibleNewsProphecy channel***  
[www.youtube.com/BibleNewsProphecy](http://www.youtube.com/BibleNewsProphecy)

***ContinuingCOG channel***  
[www.youtube.com/continuingcog](http://www.youtube.com/continuingcog)

***ContinuingCOG Africa channel***  
[www.youtube.com/ccogafrica](http://www.youtube.com/ccogafrica)

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The *Continuing Church of God* also uses printed and electronic magazines, books, and weekly letters to the brethren to also support Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19-20.

