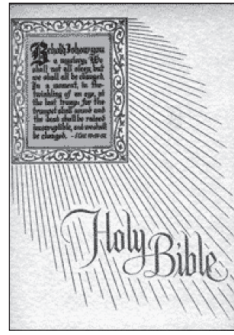


# BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY



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**About the Front Cover:** It has been claimed that the symbol used on this front cover was used by some of the Waldensians to demonstrate that they believed they represented the fourth of the Seven Churches of Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Artwork developed for the Continuing Church of God.

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## Brief Comments on the World' Holidays

The biblical Feast of Tabernacles through Last Great Day runs until October 7th in 2023.

Yet, many, including in nations that believe a major amount of their residents are Christians, do not know about it.

Without going into a lot of detail, let me just state that the Last Great Day is the last holy day in the biblical year that begins every Spring. It also pictures the beauty of God's plan of salvation as it helps show that our loving God does have a plan to invite all that ever lived to salvation.

But what about the world's holidays?

Many who profess Jesus keep them.

Let's look at some that occur in the Fall and early Winter.

### Halloween/All Saints' Day

What about All Saint's Day?

While the idea of honoring the memory of the life and death of a person like a saint is not opposed to scripture (cf. Judges 11:38-40), veneration of saints, praying to dead ones, and sacrificing to them is opposed to apostolic teachings.

Satan wanted Christ to bow down and worship him (Matthew 4:9), but Jesus refused (Matthew 4:10). Simon Magus (Acts 8:9-23) reportedly encouraged his followers to venerate/worship him (Irenaeus. Adversus haereses, Book 1, Chapter 23, Verses 1-5).

The Apostle Peter not only denounced Simon Magus, he forbade a Gentile from bowing down or paying homage to him (Acts 10:25-26). The Apostle Paul forbade Gentiles from sacrificing to him and Barnabas (Acts 14:11-18). The Apostles basically both argued that they were men, and this should not be done. Early Christians understood this and did not do such. Over time, however, some heretics began to venerate various relics in the late second century.

The veneration of claimed saints began to be a significant problem with the Greco-Roman churches in the fourth and later centuries, despite the fact it was not an apostolic practice.

Notice the following:

By incorporating familiar Pagan images, such as Celtic gods, the Green Man, and bicephalic heads within churches and cathedrals, church officials encouraged the populace to intermingle the two spiritual traditions in their mind supposedly easing their acceptance of the new religion and smoothing the transition from the old ways to the new. (Pesznecker S. Gargoyles: From the Archives of the Grey School of Wizardry. Career Press, 2006, p. 85)

In a book, the above statement preceded a truncated version of the following that Pope "Gregory "the Great" wrote around 600 A.D.:

Tell Augustine that he should be no means destroy the temples of the gods but rather the idols within those temples. Let him, after he has purified them with holy water, place altars and relics of the saints in them. For, if those temples are well built, they should be converted **from the worship of demons** to the service of the true God. ... Let them therefore, on the day of the dedication of their churches, or on the feast of the martyrs whose relics are preserved in them, build themselves huts around their one-time temples and celebrate the occasion with religious feasting. **They will sacrifice and eat the animals not any more as an offering to the devil, but for the glory of God** to whom, as the giver of all things, they will give thanks for having been satiated. (Gregory I: Letter to Abbot Mellitus. Epsitola 76, PL 77: 1215-1216)

Pope Gregory advocated the incorporation on pagan practices. Yet, the Bible opposes this and these type of sacrifices as demonic (1 Corinthians 10:20-21).

Furthermore, the Bible teaches that after the sacrifice of Jesus that there is no need for animal sacrifices (Hebrews 10:1-10). Allowing the above for 'saints days' shows that this is also relic of paganism and that they are truly demonic holidays.

Many dress biblically inappropriately (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9) and sometimes also as witches (which the Bible condemns — Exodus 22:8) on Halloween — which is the evening at the start of All Saints' Day. This is not a biblically appropriate celebration and certainly was not an early Christian one.

All Saints' Day was officially declared in the seventh century, and later moved to November 1st and the evening before became known as Halloween (Mershman F. All Saints' Day. The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vol. I. Nihil Obstat. March 1, 1907).

Why pick that date?

Well, October 31 was a date the ancient Druids observed:

The Druids, and order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain, believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches, and elves came out to harm people. ... From these Druid beliefs come the present-day use of witches, ghosts, and cats in Halloween festivities. ... The custom of using leaves, pumpkins, and corn stalks as Halloween decorations comes from the Druids. The early peoples of Europe also had a festival similar to the Druid holiday. ... In the 700s, the Roman Catholic Church named November 1 as *All Saints' Day*. **The old pagan customs and the Christian feast day were combined into the Halloween festival.** (Halloween. World Book Encyclopedia, vol 9. Chicago, 1966: 25-26)

Notice what a Roman Catholic writer wrote:

**Why would a pope put the Catholic celebration of the dead on top of the pagans' celebrations of the dead? Because the Catholic feasts are in continuity and fulfill the meaning of the pagan ones.** (Killian Brian. Halloween, as autumn celebration, reminder God's name is hallowed. Catholic Online International News. 10/31/06)

It is a fact that many associated with the Church of Rome relish and boast about pagan connections for their faith. It is the Bible that they, and all, should look to as the source of doctrine (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16) and it

condemns using pagan forms of worship (Deuteronomy 12:29-32; Jeremiah 10:2-6; 1 Corinthians 10:21; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

## Thanksgiving

Some nations, such as the United States of America and Canada have a national holiday called Thanksgiving.

While the Bible repeatedly teaches to thank God (such as in many of the Psalms), and even that it is good to thank God (cf. Psalm 92:1) there is no specific date that God says just to do this. However, since the New Testament teaches that Christians should always give thanks to God (e.g., Ephesians 5:20), it is certainly not wrong to thank God on national holidays intended for giving God thanks.

From a biblical perspective, it is not wrong to observe national holidays as long as they are not honoring paganism or other demonic entities. In John 10:22 we find that Christ attended the "Feast or Dedication," which was established by the Jews as a national holiday years before to commemorate the purification of the temple at Jerusalem. It is not a biblically mandated observance.

Anyway, giving thanks to God is biblical. But, no, Christians do not need to observe or avoid the observance of national holidays like Thanksgiving.

## Christmas

The biggest of the world's holidays is normally Christmas (the Muslim Ramadan is probably a close second).

Yet, the Bible never endorses the celebration of birthdays, including that of Jesus. The early Church of Rome did not celebrate Christmas nor any other birthday. Birthday observances were still condemned in the late 3rd century by the Greco-Roman Catholic Arnobius (*Against the Heathen*, Book I, Chapter 64).

Furthermore, Tertullian warned that to participate in the winter celebrations with wreaths and gift-giving made one behold to pagan gods. There was one such celebration known as the Saturnalia that was celebrated by the heathen in late December.

The claimed "father of Latin theology," Tertullian, denounced winter celebrations, such as Saturnalia (from a pagan deity whose name meant plentiful) which morphed into Christmas as he wrote:

The Minervalia are as much Minerva's, as

the Saturnalia Saturn's; Saturn's, which must necessarily be celebrated even by little slaves at the time of the Saturnalia. New-year's gifts likewise must be caught at, and the Septimontium kept; and all the presents of Midwinter and the feast of Dear Kinsmanship must be exacted; the schools must be wreathed with flowers; the flamens' wives and the aediles sacrifice; the school is honoured on the appointed holy-days. The same thing takes place on an idol's birthday; every pomp of the devil is frequented. Who will think that these things are befitting to a Christian master, unless it be he who shall think them suitable likewise to one who is not a master? (Tertullian. On Idolatry, Chapter X)

Around the time of Tertullian, the Roman Bishops Zephyrinus (199-217) and Callistus (217-222) had a reputation of compromise and corruption (and this is confirmed by such Roman Catholic saints such as Hippolytus (Hippolytus. Refutation of All Heresies, Book IX, Chapter VI) and allowed people in their church that compromised with paganism, etc.

The Roman Saturnalia and the Persian Mithraism themselves were adaptations of an even earlier pagan religion — that of the ancient Babylonian mystery cult. The ancient Babylonians celebrated the reborn Nimrod as the newborn Tammuz by worshipping an evergreen tree. The Bible condemns worship involving evergreen trees (Deuteronomy 12:2-3; Jeremiah 3:13; 10:2-6).

The Babylonians also celebrated a rebirth of the sun during the season of the winter solstice. December 25th was eventually chosen as the date of Jesus' birthday, because of the Saturnalia and other sun god worship fell at that time of the year:

In 354 A.D., Bishop Liberius of Rome ordered the people to celebrate on December 25. He probably chose this date because the people of Rome already observed it as the Feast of Saturn, celebrating the birthday of the sun. (Sechrist EH. Christmas. World Book Encyclopedia, Volume 3. Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, Chicago, 1966, pp. 408-417)

Helios Mithras is one god ... Sunday was kept holy in honour of Mithra, and the sixteenth of each month was sacred to him as mediator. **The 25 December was observed as his birthday, the natalis invicti, the rebirth of the winter-sun, unconquered by the rigours of the season.** (Arendzen J.

Mithraism. The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume X. Nihil Obstat, October 1, 1911)

Emperor Constantine had been the follower of the sun-god Mithras, who was considered to be the unconquered sun and was one born from a rock in a below ground cave. Perhaps because of this, his mother Helena decide to believe the myth that Jesus was born in a below ground rocky cave.

Rome now teaches this (and this author has seen that 'nativity' displayed multiple times in Vatican City), but in the third century one of its supporters, Commodianus, condemned the rock deity:

The unconquered one was born from a rock, if he is regarded as a god. Now tell us, then, on the other hand, which is the first of these two. The rock has overcome the god: then the creator of the rock has to be sought after. Moreover, you still depict him also as a thief; although, if he were a god, he certainly did not live by theft. Assuredly he was of earth, and of a monstrous nature. And he turned other people's oxen into his caves; just as did Cacus, that son of Vulcan. (Commodianus. On Christian Discipline)

Jesus was not born from a rock, yet that is partially how His birth is now portrayed. It is also not true to teach that He was born on December 25th. Scholars recognize that shepherds would not have been out with their flocks in the field (like the Bible shows in Luke 2:8) as late as December 25th and that the biblically mentioned (Luke 2:1-5) "census would have been impossible in winter" (Christmas. The Catholic Encyclopedia, 1908).

Many of the practices and customs associated with Christmas come from paganism as real scholars will admit. Neither Jesus' apostles nor their early followers observed Christmas.

The focus on Christmas has taken the focus from God's true plan of salvation and has resulted in many not understanding how great God's plan really is.

### **New Year's Day Honored Janus (god of time) and Strenua (goddess of purification and wellbeing)**

The Bible begins the year in the Spring (Exodus 12:2), but what is commonly called New Year's Day is observed on January 1st on modern calendars. In the late 2nd century A.D., Greco-Roman theologian



Tertullian condemned those who professed Christ who were celebrating a version of it. But that did not stop many who wanted to celebrate.

*The Catholic Encyclopedia* reports:

Christian writers and councils condemned the heathen orgies and excesses connected with the festival ... celebrated at the beginning of the year: Tertullian blames Christians who regarded the customary presents — called *strenae* (Fr. *étrennes*) from the goddess *Strenia*, who presided over New Year's Day (cf. Ovid, *Fasti*, 185-90) — as mere tokens of friendly intercourse (*De Idol.* xiv). (Tierney J. *New Year's Day*. *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. II, 1911)

Around 487 A.D., the Greco-Romans seemed to adopt the “Feast of the Circumcision” on January 1st. This, however, did not stop all heathen activity.

*The Catholic Encyclopedia* notes:

Even in our own day the secular features of the opening of the New Year interfere with the religious observance of the Circumcision, and tend to make a mere holiday of that which should have the sacred character of a Holy Day. St. Augustine points out the difference between the pagan and the Christian manner of celebrating the day: pagan feasting and excesses were to be expiated by Christian fasting and prayer (P. L., XXXVIII, 1024 sqq.; *Serm.* cxcvii, cxcviii). (*Ibid*)

So, it also states:

... towards the end of the sixth century the Council of Auxerre (can. I) forbade Christians *strenas diabolicas observare*.

The expression *strenas diabolicas observare* roughly translates from Latin to English as “observing the new time of the Devil.” It is likely that New Year's resolutions are related to prayers and practices once given for the pagan goddess.

January 1st is not a biblical holiday, and even the Church of Rome has forbidden some of its attributes as demonic.

By keeping it, the world has tended to overlook God's calendar and His holy days.

## **Repackaged Pagan Holidays**

While the Bible does not prohibit secular holidays (like

sober Independence Day observances), early Christians did NOT pray to dead saints nor observe anything like All Saint's Day nor Christmas. Many pagan deities were essentially changed from being the ‘god of something’ to being called the ‘saint of something.’

Some of the pagan practices may have changed, but the repackaged demonic holidays are still not Christian, nor are they those that Jesus and His early followers kept. Many holidays that people keep came from paganism, and even have ties to the ancient Babylonian mystery religion. When God sent Nehemiah to help the children of Israel who had been influenced by Babylon, notice what Nehemiah said he did:

30 I cleansed them of everything pagan.  
(Nehemiah 13:30)

Christians should also avoid mixing pagan practices. Notice the following warning from the Apostle Paul:

20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? (1 Corinthians 10:20-22)

Did not try to kid yourself that your faith is strong enough to not be influenced by your participation in pagan practices.

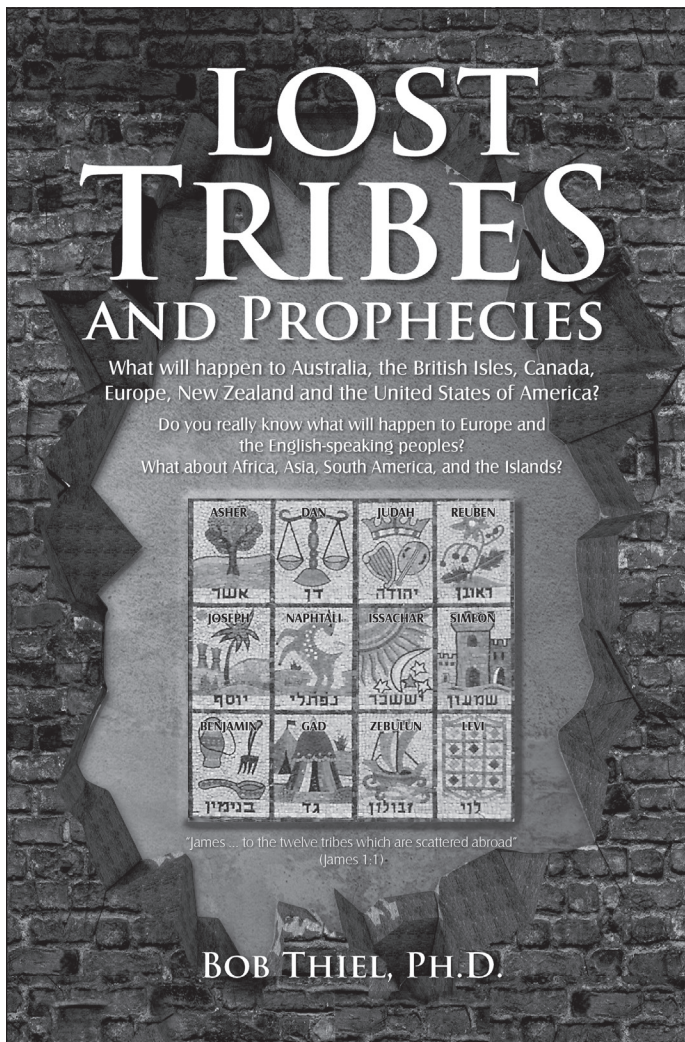
The New Testament further warns of a compromised faith and “Mystery Babylon the Great” (Revelation 17:5). Notice what the Bible teaches that God's people should do in regard to “Babylon the Great”:

4 Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.  
(Revelation 18:4)

Christians should flee temptation and sin (1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:22), not embrace it nor promote it. They should not combine pagan practices in with the worship of the true God (1 Corinthians 10:19-21; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18), even it is a tradition (Matthew 15:3-9). Those practices push our minds away from the true God and His real plan.

That said, to better understand God's holy days and their meaning related to His plan of salvation, check out our free booklet, online at [www.ccog.org](http://www.ccog.org), titled *Should You Keep God's Holy Days or Demonic Holidays?*

# When Will the End of This Age Come?



By Bob Thiel

Since the time of Jesus, His followers have wondered when the end of this age would come (cf. Matthew 24:1-3).

Since the deal of Daniel 9:27 has not yet been confirmed, the Great Tribulation cannot begin until at least 2027.

Because of biblical prophecy (like Jeremiah 30:7), the fact that the Bible teaches that “everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required” (Luke 12:48), and national hypocrisy (Isaiah 10:5-6, KJV), the U.S.A. and its British-descended allies are expected to be amongst the first to suffer from the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21) and many taken captive (Amos 6:3-8).

This tribulation period is also called the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7). It looks to first hit those Jacob wanted his name to be upon (Genesis 48:16) — which would be the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh.

Although some may object because they believe that the U.S.A. and its Anglo-Saxon-Celtic allies are more “righteous” than those that will destroy it, this too is prophesied (Habakkuk 1:13; 2:5-8; Isaiah 10:5-19).

When the Great Tribulation starts, it will not be a good time for the U.S.A., nor for its Anglo-Saxon-Celtic allies (nor the nation of Israel). Biblical (“sudden destruction” | Thessalonians 5:3; Deuteronomy 29:23-28), Hopi (Hopi Civilization. [http://2012wiki.com/index.php?title=Hopi\\_Civilization](http://2012wiki.com/index.php?title=Hopi_Civilization) viewed 01/14/08), and Kenyan (“Visions of the Great Nyasaye, A Study of the Luo Religion in Kenya”, Order of Sorcha Faal, Sister Mary McCrea © 1915; © February 13, 2008) prophecies suggest possible nuclear devastation and/or other high-tech destruction of at least some of their lands.

Notice some of what Jesus Himself taught:

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

Jesus said this will be a terribly horrific time. As far as those days being shortened, it is likely Jesus was referring to a period of days or months, not years. That said, Jesus also taught:

36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:36)

Jesus taught people to watch what was happening in the world and pray to be able to escape the coming tribulation (in Acts 2:38 the Apostle Peter specifically taught people to repent and be baptized, as well).

The Great Tribulation itself is further described in Revelation 6:9-11 (the fifth seal that seems to occur because the faithful church has suffered martyrdom). It is also described in Lamentations, Daniel, and other parts of the Bible. The Great Tribulation will include the destruction of the United States.

Now, notice some destructive prophecies that look to affect the U.S.A. and some of its British-descended allies during that time:

22 Yes, a fire has blazed from my anger, it will burn right down to the depths of Sheol; it will devour the earth and all its produce, it will set fire to the footings of the mountains. 23 I shall hurl disasters on them, on them I shall use up all my arrows. (Deuteronomy 32:22-23, NJB)

33 I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. (Leviticus 26:33)

But it is not just the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh that should be concerned.

All should open their Bibles and practice genuine Christianity, before they are subject to being misled by the modified, ecumenical religion, that many will think is 'Christian' (cf. Matthew 24:5; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15) that will come upon the whole world (cf. Revelation 13:3-4), impose the 'mark of the beast' (Revelation 13:16-17, 14:11), and deceive the many which do not have "the love of the truth" (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

It should also be noted that the Bible itself does NOT teach true Christian unity until after the return of Jesus Christ (Zechariah 2:10-12), but instead warns against the "Babylonian" movement that will precede His return (Zechariah 2:6-9; Revelation 18:2-5).

Of course, God "now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). But a nation that has been blessed by God should take steps to lead the way (cf. Deuteronomy 4:5-6; Luke 12:48) — and, sadly, that is not expected at this stage.

## 6000 Year Plan

There is an old Jewish tradition that the prophet Elijah taught that there would be six thousand years for humans to rule under Satan's kingdom, followed by one thousand years of abundance in the kingdom of God.

That Jewish view is consistent with the views of early Christians, and some associated with them. Some believed that since God made/recreated the world in six days and rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3), that humans would have 6,000 years to live on the earth under Satan's influence (e.g., Irenaeus. *Adversus haereses*, Book V, Chapter 28:2-3). Humans surviving the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord will have a 1,000-year period to be under Christ's reign (the original creation of the universe may have been billions of years earlier c.f. Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 45:18; see also <https://www.cogwriter.com/gap-theory-old-earth->

[long-days-creation.htm](#)). The 6,000 plus 1,000 years equals God's seven-thousand-year plan.

Here are specific traditions related to this from the Jewish Babylonian Talmud:

R. Kattina said: Six thousand years shall the world exist, and one [thousand, the seventh], it shall be desolate, as it is written, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day {Isaiah 2:11}.

Abaye said: it will be desolate two [thousand], as it is said, After two days will he revive us: in the third day, he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight {Hosea 6:2}.

It has been taught in accordance with R. Kattina: Just as the seventh year is one year of release in seven {Leviticus 25:1-7}, so is the world: one thousand years out of seven shall be fallow, as it is written, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day' {Isaiah 2:17}, and it is further said, A Psalm and song for the Sabbath day {Psalm 92:1}, meaning the day that is altogether Sabbath — and it is also said, For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past {Psalm 90:4}.

The Tanna debe Eliyahu teaches: The world is to exist six thousand years. In the first two thousand there was desolation; two thousand years the Torah flourished; and the next two thousand years is the Messianic era ... (Babylonian Talmud: Tractate Sanhedrin Folio 97a)

*Note: I inserted the scriptures quoted or alluded to above within {} as many were in the footnotes associated with the above sources.*

And while there are some errors from a Christian perspective in those quotes, Jewish sages have taught that there is a six-thousand-year plan, that the current two thousand years essentially represents the Messianic/ Church era, and that a one-thousand-year period remains.

In a Jewish Midrash (a term that means "exposition" or "investigation"), Pirke De-Rabbi Eliezer comments:

Six eons for going in and coming out, for war and peace. The seventh eon is entirely Shabbat and rest for life everlasting: (Pirke De Rabbi Eliezer, Gerald Friedlander, Sepher-Hermon Press, New York, 1981, p. 141)

Again, that is consistent with the view that the world as we know it will end after 6,000 years, followed by a



1,000-year millennium.

*Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible* (a Protestant source), related to Leviticus 25:1-7, states:

In the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, v. 4. Jews collect that vulgar tradition that after the world has stood six thousand years (a thousand years being to God as one day) it shall cease, and the eternal sabbath shall succeed ...

Elsewhere, the Bible itself teaches that a thousand years seems to be as one day to God. This is a concept from both the Old and New Testaments:

4 For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past ... 12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:4, 12)

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (2 Peter 3:8)

Is it not interesting that after stating a thousand years is as a day, the Psalmist was inspired to write that our own days are limited, and we should number our days that we may have the heart of wisdom? Understanding approximately where we are in the 6,000 years, thus, looks to be a wise thing to do.

Also notice the following from the Book of Genesis (the first book of the Bible) which supports the view of a day being like a thousand years:

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)

How long was Adam's day before he died?

5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. (Genesis 5:5)

So, Adam died "in the day" — a day that was not too much less than 1,000 years long.

A day is to God as 1,000 years and that looks to be part of His plan.

Now, some may say, don't the Jews say that we are in year 5783 which runs from September 26, 2022 to September 15, 2023?

Yes, the claimed year is 5783 AM (anno mundi) by the Jews.

However, the Jewish year claim confuses many people as the numbers do not add up with scripture nor secular history.

Many Jewish scholars have recognized this error throughout history, and many believe it was intentional (Seligsohn M. Seder Olam. Jewish Encyclopedia of 1906; Berkowitz AE. Scientist Claims Redemption May Be Much Closer Than You Thought. Breaking Israel News, June 28, 2018; First M. Jewish History in Conflict: A Study of the Major Discrepancy between Rabbinic and Conventional Chronology, 1997). The numbers related to the years were changed in the early 2nd century C.E./A.D. and are now off approximately 200+ years.

Jewish rabbis have generally decided to teach that the Messiah would come at/by the end of 6,000 years (as opposed to their earlier view of 4,000 years). Unless they change their view of the chronology, many will believe that when Jesus returns, it will be too early, and thus once again deny Christ.

When the proper biblical chronologies are used, both Christians and Jews should realize that the 6,000 years likely will not extend more than a decade from now.

## **Last Days Fit When 1,000 Year Days are Understood**

Based upon certain calculations that I am currently aware of, it seems that Adam and Eve were created and/or apparently left the garden of Eden between roughly 3963-3970 B.C. Adding the current year to it, plus one-year to account for the B.C. to A.D. shift, points to the 6000 years to end somewhere between 2029 to 2036 — with 2030 to 2033 seeming to be the most likely. It would seem that the 6,000 years began once Adam sinned as Adam had not rebelled before then.

This would mean that when Jesus began to preach (roughly 27 A.D., about four thousand years later) He started preaching late in thousand-year day four and then into day five. Day four is the middle of seven prophetic thousand-year days, hence the fourth day is not one of the "last days."

Interestingly, in the German language, the fourth day of the week is Mittwoch which means mid-full or mid-week — what we call in English Wednesday is not one of the last days of the week, but the middle day.

It is logical that days five, six, and seven could have



been considered as part of the “last days” by the early disciples.

If that is so, this helps explain why some New Testament figures indicated that they were in the last days:

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 *‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh. (Acts 2:14-17)*

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

If there is no 6,000-year plan of human rule followed by a 1,000-year millennial reign, then the New Testament statement above, about then being in the last days, seemingly makes little sense. But, since it looks like God does have a 7,000-year plan, if that is the case, then these statements do seem to make a lot of sense. And that also explains how come the end has not come yet — there is still a little more time in “the last days.”

Since Jesus was preaching into “the last days,” He must have been doing some of that in day five of the seven one-thousand-year days.

Furthermore, since the events in Acts 2 appear to have happened c. 31 A.D. or perhaps as late as 33 A.D., this would suggest that the 6,000 years may well be up near or by 2031 or 2033.

Jesus was, of course, alive before 31 A.D., and perhaps the last days began as early as 30 A.D. Of course, if He was impaled and resurrected after 31 A.D., then there is more time — but not a huge amount of time more (most scholars believe 36 A.D. would have been the latest possible date for His death based on certain historical records; though because of the latest apparent date of the death of Herod — perhaps 31 A.D. - 33 A.D. seems to be the latest date).

Understand that the Bible teaches that “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10). God’s word teaches that prophecy is important (cf. Isaiah 46:9-11). Prophecy should be important to Christians.

In the early second century, Church of God leader Papias of Hierapolis (who was a hearer of the Apostle John and a friend of Polycarp of Smyrna) taught:

... there will be a period of a thousand years after the resurrection of the dead, and that the kingdom of Christ will be set up in material form on this very earth ... (Eusebius. The History of the Church, Book III, Chapter XXIX, Verse 12, p. 69)

The idea of a six/seven-thousand-year plan was taught by early Greco-Roman Catholic saints as well. In the late second century, Irenaeus of Lyon taught:

... that apostasy which has taken place during six thousand years. For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years shall it be concluded. And for this reason the Scripture says: “Thus the heaven and the earth were finished, and all their adornment. And God brought to a conclusion upon the sixth day the works that He had made; and God rested upon the seventh day from all His works.” This is an account of the things formerly created, as also it is a prophecy of what is to come. For the day of the Lord is as a thousand years; and in six days created things were completed: it is evident, therefore, that they will come to an end at the sixth thousand year ... (Irenaeus. Adversus haereses, Book V, Chapter 28:2-3)

But when this Antichrist shall have devastated all things in this world, he will reign for three years and six months, and sit in the temple at Jerusalem; and then the Lord will come from heaven in the clouds, in the glory of the Father, sending this man and those who follow him into the lake of fire; but bringing in for the righteous the times of the kingdom, that is, the rest, the hallowed seventh day; and restoring to Abraham the promised inheritance, in which kingdom the Lord declared. (Irenaeus. Adversus haereses, Book V, Chapter 30:4)

So, Irenaeus claimed that the seven days of creation were a type of the seven-thousand-year plan, that the end of humanity’s rule would end after the 6,000 years ended and would be followed by a type of rest in the Lord’s kingdom.

Hippolytus was, and is still considered to have been, an important Roman Catholic leader and saint according to The Catholic Encyclopedia:

Hippolytus was the most important theologian and the most prolific religious writer of the Roman Church in the pre-Constantinian era ... (St. Hippolytus of Rome, *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1910)

Notice something Hippolytus wrote in the early 3rd century:

And 6,000 years must needs be accomplished, in order that the Sabbath may come, the rest, the holy day "on which God rested from all His works." For the Sabbath is the type and emblem of the future kingdom of the saints, when they "shall reign with Christ," when He comes from heaven, as John says in his Apocalypse: for "a day with the Lord is as a thousand years. "Since, then, in six days God made all things, it follows that 6,000 years must be fulfilled. (Hippolytus. On the Hexaëmeron, Or Six Days' Work. From Fragments from Commentaries on Various Books of Scripture)

Notice therefore that "the most important theologian and the most prolific religious writer of the Roman Church in the pre-Constantinian era" taught the 7,000-year plan (6,000 for humankind, followed by 1,000 from God). According to him and others, the 6,000 years end when Jesus returns.

And presuming that the great tribulation begins (Matthew 24:21-22) 3 ½ years before the end of the 6,000 years, which could be 2031, then that would start no later than 2028 (if the last days began in 33, then no later 2030). Presuming that 'last days' calculation is correct; this is why the end of the U.S.A., and its British-descended allies could occur by then.

It also needs to be understood that there are two types of last days referred to in the New Testament. When some were stating that they were in the last days, this indicates the latter days of the 7,000-year week. However, in other places, New Testament writers sometimes are referring to the time of the final generation before Jesus returns as being the last days, as they indicate that this was not for the same time as they were writing (cf. 2 Peter 3:3).

Getting back to Hippolytus, since he understood the "week" in Daniel 9:26-27 to be a seven-year period (Hippolytus. On Christ and Antichrist, Chapter 43), his calculation would point to the deal of Daniel 9:27 occurring 7 years prior to the end of the 6,000 years. If so, that would have that deal confirmed soon.

In the early 20th century, the late Sabbatarian leader

G.G. Rupert taught the 6,000-year plan followed by a 1,000-year millennium (Rupert G.G. *Time, Tradition, and Truth Concerning the End of the World*, 3rd edition. Union Publishing Company, 1918, pp. 26-30). As did the late Sabbatarian Dr. Herman Hoeh much later in that century (Hoeh H. *The Feast of Tabernacles - Its MEANING for New Testament Christians*. Good News, August 1980).

The idea of 6,000-7,000-year plan is not unique to ancient writers or modern writers who are Sabbath-keepers. According to even Roman Catholics, parts of this view have long been the belief of those who claim to believe at least part of the Bible:

*Emmett Culligan* (20th century): ... the time of the First Resurrection will end ... It is the time when the Seventh Millennium will set in, and will be the day of Sabbath in the plan of creation ... It has been the common opinion among Jews, Gentiles, and Latin and Greek Christians, that the present evil world will last no more than 6,000 years ... Christians and Jews, from the beginning of Christianity, and before, have taught that 6,000 years after the creation of Adam and Eve, the consummation will occur. The period after the consummation is to be the seventh day of creation--the Sabbath ... St. Jerome said, "It is a common belief that the world will last 6,000 years." ... I believe that as the last days come to an end so will the sixth day of creation. (Culligan E. *The Last World War and the End of Time*. The book was blessed by Pope Paul VI, 1966. TAN Books, Rockford (IL), pp. 113-115)

*Priest G. Rossi* (19th century): One day with the Lord, then, is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. It is the common interpretation that each of the six days of creation is equivalent to one thousand years for the future existence of human generations. Now God employed six days in the creation of this world; this world, then, shall last only six thousand years; the Sabbath, or seventh day, representing eternity.

The learned Cornelius A. Lapidé, in his erudite commentaries on the Bible, in the second chapter of Genesis and twentieth chapter of the Apocalypse, attests that it is a common opinion among Jews and Gentiles, among Latin and Greek Christians, that this world shall last only six thousand years.

Christian writers have taught the same opinion

from the beginning of Christianity ... we learn, then, that the six mystic days of creation are intended to signify the six thousand years of the world's duration. The seventh day, which, to the exclusion of the other six days, God has in a special manner blessed and sanctified, must be taken for the happy eternity of the blessed saints, for the holy sabbath of everlasting rest, for the blissful duration of perpetual peace, and perfect happiness to the elect of God, who will behold him face to face, praise, love, adore, and glorify him forevermore. ...

For those who desire to examine many more Fathers and doctors of the Church, we will here supply a pretty long list of them: St. Cyprian, Lib. IV. Epist. 5; St. Ambrose, Comment. 2 Thess. 11; the famous book of St. Hypolitus, De Antichristo; St. Hilary, Can. in 17 Matt.; St. Augustine, De Civit Dei, Lib. XX. chap. 17; Lactantius Firmianus, Lib. VII. chaps. 14 and 15; St. Anastatius Sinaita, Lib. XVII. in Hexamerum; St. Justin ad orthodoxos, Quest. 71; St. Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople, St. Cyril; the ancient writer, Q. Julius Hilarion; Cassiodorus, St. Isidore, Victorinus, Rabanus, Bellarmine, Genebrardus, etc., and many others, who, to use the words of Q. Julius Hilarion, unanimously affirm: Summa completa annorum sex millium fiet resurrectio. At the end of six thousand years shall take place the general resurrection. Our kind critics will please pay some attention to these numerous and grave authorities before they disapprove what we here state.

From all the above-mentioned authorities we learn, then, that the six mystic days of creation are intended to signify the six thousand years of the world's duration. The seventh day, which, to the exclusion of the other six days, God has in a special manner blessed and sanctified, must be taken for the happy eternity of the blessed saints, for the holy sabbath of everlasting rest, for the blissful duration of perpetual peace, and perfect happiness to the elect of God, who will behold him face to face, praise, love, adore, and glorify him forevermore. Amen!

Assuming now as pretty certain that this world shall last only about six thousand years, because such is the common opinion and expectation of humanity, how many years more, it may

be asked, still remain to the end of this world. (Rossi, Gaudentius. The Christian Trumpet: Or, Previsions and Predictions about Impending General Calamities, the Universal Triumph of the Church, the Coming of the Anti-Christ, the Last Judgment, and the End of the World; Divided Into Three Parts, 4th edition. Patrick Donahoe, 1875, pp. 233-238)

While some Roman Catholics may point out that their church does not currently teach that, the truth is that early leaders it considers to be saints did. Furthermore, the book by Emmett Culligan (also once known as "the Culligan man") "was blessed by Pope Paul VI, 1966," and the book by priest Rossi was approved by his theological superior for publication.

That being said, time is getting short.

## Hindu Writings?

Now, you might be a Hindu or otherwise skeptical of biblical prophecies. As it turns out, certain interpretations of Hindu prophecies point to basically the same time (though they use a 5,000-year period, which started about 1,000 years later). Notice the following:

Lord Krishna says that Kali Yuga will end 5,000 years after its beginning, giving way to a Golden Age. ... the Dark Age ... will end in 2025 CE. (Copper28. Kaliyuga Ends by 2025, Mystry. Daily English News, July 4, 2018)

Now, from a biblical perspective this is a bit too early for the new utopian age (Christians would refer to that age as the millennial kingdom of God).

While this author relies on biblical prophecies, those Hindu reports are eerily consistent with Jesus returning in 7 to 12 years. It may well be some of the Kalki prophecies have demonic connections intended to encourage those of the Hindu faith to (temporarily) accept the coming European Beast power.

### Brief Sequential Summary of Selected End-Time Events

As far as certain end-time events go, here is a brief semi-sequential summary of some items:

1. The basic sequence, as Jesus stated, is that along with religious deception, certain sorrows, violence, and food shortages, troubles will continue (Mark 13:6-8). This is happening.
2. The 'peace' deal of Daniel 9:27 is confirmed. Deals



have been proposed, but the biblical one has not yet been made nor confirmed. Because of prophecies related to the destruction of Damascus (Isaiah 17:1) and great damage to be done to Jerusalem (Isaiah 22:8-9), one or both of those events may well precede the deal of Daniel 9:27.

3. A King of the North (who was a 'prince' in Daniel 9:27) and a King of the South (Daniel 11:27) will arise. They will make a lying deal together (Daniel 11:27). Europe will get a "great army," while "a very great and mighty army" will form in the Middle East and North Africa (Daniel 11:25, 40-43). We are seeing the foundations for this now with calls for European and Islamic unity and militaries.
4. Animal sacrifices will begin (cf. Daniel 9:27). (Note: It is possible that the King of the South could arise up prior to Daniel 9:27 or even after the sacrifices resume as could the King of the North). Some Jews would like to start them now, but the Israeli government will not currently allow it.
5. The gospel then will have been preached enough to the world as a witness for the end to come (Matthew 24:14). This seems to be related to the 'short work' of Romans 9:28. As far as God is concerned, Matthew 24:14 has not been sufficiently fulfilled yet.
6. Europe will reorganize into ten 'kingdoms' (not necessarily nations as some have improperly insisted upon) and give power to the Beast per Revelation 17:12-13.
7. The abomination of desolation will then be set up (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14) because of actions of the King of the North and Jewish sacrifices will be stopped (Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11). The most faithful expect to continue to tell what is happening until they are somehow stopped (cf. Amos 8:11-12).
8. A decree is to be issued (Zephaniah 2:1-3), perhaps by one of the two witnesses. Then the most faithful Philadelphians will "fly" to the wilderness (Revelation 12:14-16) and those in Judea will flee (Matthew 24:15-19; Mark 13:15-18). Prior to when the Great Tribulation starts, the two witnesses will support the work and near its start, they will get special power to do their job (Revelation 11:3).
9. Bolstered by the Antichrist/False Prophet, then the Great Tribulation will begin (Matthew 24:21-22; Mark 13:19-20; Daniel 11:39, 12:1b; cf. Habakkuk 2:7-8) and the U.S.A. will be attacked.

This will eliminate the indebted U.S.A. and lead to the end of its Anglo-Saxon-Celtic descended allies as nations (Daniel 11:39; Jeremiah 30:7; Habakkuk 2:7-8).

10. About this time, '666' buying and selling will be controlled and the mark of the Beast implemented (cf. Revelation 13:16-18).
11. The King of the South, shortly after the U.S.A. is attacked, will push against the King of the North and get eliminated (Daniel 11:40-43).
12. About 28-29 months after the Great Tribulation begins, the sixth seal will be opened, there will be a 'blood moon' and a darkened sun (Revelation 6:12; Joel 2:30-31), then the 144,000 of Revelation 7:1-8 will be sealed.
13. Shortly thereafter, the seventh seal will be opened (Revelation 8:1-6) and the year-long Day of the Lord (Isaiah 34:8) will begin with trumpet blasts, plagues, etc. (Revelation 8:7-13; 9:1-21; 11:13-14).
14. The crashing of Wormwood into the earth will occur after the third trumpet blast (Revelation 8:10-11). Some might call this Planet X hitting the earth.
15. The gathering for Armageddon will begin related to the sixth trumpet blast (Revelation 9:13-19; 16:12-16).
16. Then at the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15) Jesus will return to establish the millennial kingdom of God.

The Great Tribulation should begin about 3½ years after the peace deal (Daniel 9:27) is confirmed, and right after the King of the North tries to proclaim peace and safety (1 Thessalonians 5:3) to throw people off (cf. Daniel 11:24) for his invasion plans.

The U.S.A. will need to be further weakened in several ways for its conquering to occur. Rising immorality will weaken the U.S.A., as will debt, "natural" disasters, food shortages & pestilences (Ezekiel 5:11-12) and relying on international agreements (Lamentations 1:1-2). The Europeans will need to be stronger militarily, as well as use deceit, to begin their attack. They are currently working on a variety of military projects.

This article basically comes from the free book, online at ccog.org, titled *Lost Tribes and Prophecies*. More on what will happen to nations, including the USA, can be found in that free book.

# STUDY THE BIBLE COURSE

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.

## LESSON 23C

**Bob Thiel, Editor-in-Chief**

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## FALSE TEACHERS AND THE TRUE CHURCH

### Further Warnings Against False Teachers

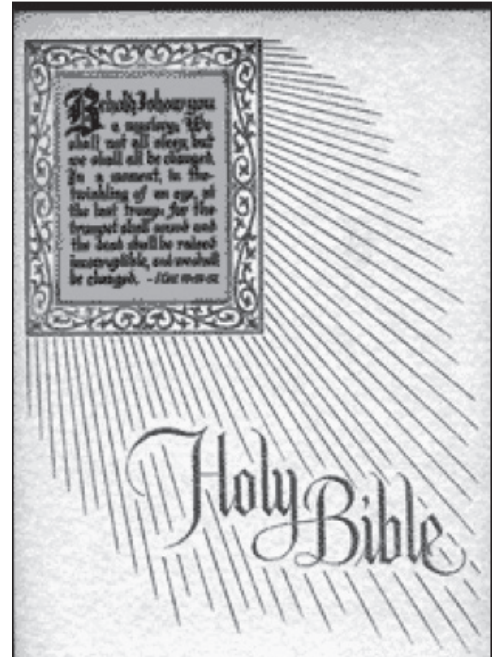
1. What did Jude exhort true Christians to do? Jude 3. Why? Verse 4, KJV

COMMENT: Jude was urging Christians to earnestly strive to maintain the truth they had received from the apostles, for there were already in his day FALSE PREACHERS creeping into the church and PERVERTING the true way to salvation – just as Paul had prophesied they would a few years earlier!

These false teachers were turning the GRACE, or forgiveness, of God into “lasciviousness” – into LICENSE TO DISOBEY GOD! They were twisting the meaning of the Scriptures to excuse their own disobedience to God’s Law. These false preachers were beginning to introduce the idea that God’s Commandments were done away or changed.

There was an original faith, and real Christians should contend for it and practice it. But notice that some slipped in who were not really converted:

- 4 For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who



pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. (Jude 3-4, NIV)

Yes, even before the New Testament was completely written, ungodly men had crept inside the Church to corrupt it – turning GRACE into a LICENSE FOR IMMORALITY!

And what is the “license for immorality” here? It essentially means unrestrained liberty – abuse of privilege. In other words, license to do that which seems right in human eyes – according to human conscience – though it disobeys God’s LAW! And that is exactly what those ungodly men, even in the first century, did – turned GRACE into unrestrained privilege to disobey God’s law and turned to human conscience as a guide! And once introduced, the practice has persisted and spread over the whole world until today!

This is acceptance of lawlessness is one of the FABLES the apostle Paul warned us men would turn to. Paul said:

- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Notice that Paul also wrote:

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned. (2 Timothy 3:13-14)

We need to continue the original faith and not accept what evil men and imposters have pushed.

But one will argue, Jude said these men would deny the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not the people who teach a “no works” doctrine believe in Christ? Do they deny Him?

Yes, they DENY him! God’s word says:

16 They profess that they know God; but IN WORKS they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every GOOD work reprobate. (Titus 1:16)

The way of human reason – that seems RIGHT – is often DISOBEDIENCE to God!

Jesus, Himself, warned:

21 Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ (Matthew 7:21-23)

Those who practice lawlessness are denying Jesus.

Probably starting no later than with Simon Magus (Acts 8:18-24), the “mystery of lawlessness” that the Apostle Paul wrote of was “already at work” (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

In the 2nd century, Irenaeus wrote that followers of Simon Magus felt that the apostles were too influenced by Jewish opinions and that the faith needed to be distant from that (Against Heresies. Book III, Chapter 12, Verses 11-12).

One of the reasons that lawlessness is considered to be a *mystery* is that the supporters of changing the practices of the faithful claimed to be faithful, while they were also distancing themselves from the faithful like John.

In addition to Simon Magus, the Bible specifically

warns about a group called the Nicolaitans whose deeds the Church of God in Ephesus was praised for hating (Revelation 2:6). Scriptural references to the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6;14-15) seem to be referring to a group who wrongly seemed to feel that various of their physical actions/deeds were not of spiritual consequence. The Nicolaitans were seemingly among those “who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality” (Jude 4, NIV) and/or were certain “semi-Gnostics” who instituted anti-biblical practices — they understood a false gospel. (The Apostle Paul warned about this in 2 Corinthians 11:4 and Galatians 1:6-7.)

**THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE HEARING TODAY!** Accepting a false gospel is how many deny Jesus.

2. What does God say about these so-called “ministers” who say they KNOW Him, yet do NOT keep His Commandments? 1 John 2:4.

**COMMENT:** God says they are LIARS!! YOU can’t trust a LIAR to teach you the true way to salvation!

How DIFFERENT the Word of God is from the teachings of men! God makes it very plain that to be a true Christian, one has to follow Jesus and obey GOD’S COMMANDMENTS!

You were born into a world that fills the minds of people with FALSE EDUCATION from early childhood. And because we like to be well thought of, to be “liked,” and to be “accepted,” people are trapped into conforming – into following the false teachings of this world like BLIND sheep!

But through these lessons and His Word, God is calling you out of the corrupt system of this world to learn and follow the truth – BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE! You don’t have to be like those of whom Christ said: “This people honors Me with their lips, But THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME.” (Mark 7:6)

Yes, through this Course and the Bible, you ARE GETTING back to the “faith once delivered”!

## How to Recognize God’s Church

1. Is the Bible to be the SOURCE of our doctrine? 2 Timothy 3:16. Does God’s true Church KEEP His commandments? Revelation 12:17.

**COMMENT:** Jesus promised He would build HIS



Church (John 16:18). He prayed that His Church would be ONE (John 17:11), not many divided and confused denominations. But He also WARNED there would arise MANY FALSE teachers and ministers who would found many DIFFERENT churches which would PROFESS TO BE THE TRUE CHURCHES OF GOD, and through their leaders would deceive the MANY. (Matthew 7:15-20; 24:5).

The CHURCH JESUS PROMISED to build is COMPOSED OF THOSE WHO ARE FILLED WITH AND LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus has guided it into His truth THROUGH ALL AGES despite enemies from without who try to creep within, PROFESSING to teach the truth.

It is a Commandment-keeping Church, NOT a POLITICAL organization. This Church faithfully retains the “testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 19:10) recorded in inspired scripture. This Church recognizes Christ as its Living Head and it is subject to His government.

Do you realize the one BASIC DIFFERENCE between God’s true Church and all others – the difference between it and THE WORLD? That difference is the SOURCE of its religion. The true Church of God really believes THE BIBLE!

But in order to appear “acceptable” in the eyes of others – in order to avoid the uncomfortable feeling of INFERIORITY – people BY NATURE would rather accept the beliefs and practices of the WORLD ABOUT THEM.

The CHURCHES OF THE WORLD PROFESS to believe in God. They even claim to believe and FOLLOW the Bible – BUT by reading their OWN meaning into it. They seem to believe that God speaks to man through his CONSCIENCE, and then carelessly ASSUME this squares with the Bible.

But believe it or not, the actual source of the beliefs and practices of nearly all people is SOCIETY – this world! And, realize it or not, this is the very essence of “WORLDLINESS”!

### **There Are Basically Two Groups**

The Continuing Church of God traces its history from the Apostles Peter, Paul, James, John and others through leaders such as Polycarp and Polycrates and others sometimes called Nazarenes.

We assert, based upon Jesus’ teachings (Matthew 16:18, 28:20), other New Testament scriptures, and historical records, that there was a true faithful church that has existed through the ages that basically kept the same doctrines as the Bible teaches and the original apostles practiced.

We also teach that God has a plan of salvation wherein God will ultimately offer salvation to all that ever lived. A concept fully supported by the Bible. For more details, please see the free book, online at [cccog.org](http://cccog.org), titled: Universal OFFER of Salvation, Apokatastasis: Can God save the lost in an age to come? Hundreds of scriptures reveal God’s plan of salvation.

The Continuing Church of God additionally teaches that at the time of the end, there will be a clash between the faithful church and the one that has compromised with biblical principles throughout the ages. And that while the compromising group will temporarily appear to win, that ultimately, Jesus will return and establish His kingdom, His way of life that the other, the true original church, has been advocating through all the centuries since He ascended into heaven c. 31 A.D.

We continually strive to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

Outside the straight Gnostics, there were two major groups that professed Christ in the second, third and fourth centuries.

One group included claimed Greco-Roman (Orthodox and Roman Catholic) non-allegorist saints, such as Polycarp of Smyrna, Thraxas of Eumenia, Apollonius of Ephesus, and Apollinaris of Hierapolis, Serapion of Antioch, and Nepos of North Africa. Those in this group claimed such doctrines/practices such as Passover on the 14th, the avoidance of unclean meats, the Sabbath, the millennium, the correct New Testament canon, avoidance of military participation, and the belief in the scriptures. They understood and promoted the full gospel.

The other group included many who later killed and ordered persecutions. This group included those who blended Gnostic thought, allegory, Mithraism, and a disregard for certain biblical prophecies with their version of “Christianity.” They tended to endorse a different gospel.

Both groups existed in the second, third, and fourth

centuries. In the second century, the first group was apparently the largest at first. Then after compromise and persecutions, the second group gained predominance in the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D.

Both groups (with their numerous parts) have existed throughout the ages.

Both groups exist today.

One (the Greco-Romans) teaches that that both of the major early groups were part of it. The other (the true Church of God) teaches that only one of the early two groups was faithful, and it traces itself through that one only.

Jesus Himself taught that there would be two groups and the real group would be small:

13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

32 Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

So, the majority, according to Jesus, would end up in the wrong group and only a relative few to the actual Christian group. Almost all have been affected by the wrong group.

Jesus told people how to be free from the wrong group:

31 “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

Basically, all scholars who claim to believe in Jesus accept that the original Church of God in Jerusalem was faithful. Yet nearly all, sadly, have accepted a faith that the original Church of God did not hold to.

It is the genuine Church of God, as represented by the *Continuing Church of God*, that claims ties to the Apostle Peter and then later succession through the Apostle John which holds to a long list of original doctrines that the Greco-Roman faiths no longer teach.

Most other groups claiming to be Christian, directly or indirectly, claim to have ties to the early allegorists and have accepted many, though not all, of the decisions of human church councils prior to 700 A.D. There are also those who basically wish to act like they are somehow faithful even though they did not come from either of the major early two churches.

Notice something else that Jesus said:

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (John 4:23)

The group that the Father wants are willing to worship Him in truth. Do you really do this?

Sadly, throughout church history, we see two groups.

Since Jesus made it clear that His faithful church would be a “little flock” (Luke 12:32) that could never die out (Matthew 16:18), only a small group that came from the original group could be the true church today.

That church today is best represented by the *Continuing Church of God*. It believes the truth and is set apart by its devotion to the word of God.

A free booklet, online at [ccog.org](http://ccog.org), may be of additional interest: *Continuing History of the Church of God*.

2. Does the Bible also say the Scriptures are for our reproof and correction? 2 Timothy 3:16.

COMMENT: Have you ever heard someone say to a friend: “I’m terribly upset – I believe I have been wrong about my beliefs, and I think I made a mistake in forming most of my opinions.” Have you? It’s highly doubtful! The carnal mind doesn’t like to be corrected and admit mistakes. But the repentant mind will take correction and ADMIT ERROR!

Notice this scripture says the Bible is profitable for reproof and correction. And for instruction in “righteousness” – our obedience to God. The Bible, then, becomes our BASIC GUIDE for living, once we turn around and go the other way – once we repent and begin OBEYING God!

*To be continued in the next edition of this magazine*

# Did the Waldensians Keep the Sabbath?

By Bob Thiel

Did any of the Waldensians keep the seventh-day Sabbath?

Did all of them?

What about Peter Waldo?

Some have asserted that those who have called themselves some version of the term Waldensian always kept Sunday.

Seventh-day Adventist scholar Gerard Damsteegt has stated:

Although there is no record that Waldo and his followers observed the seventh-day Sabbath, we know that several movements related to the Waldenses were reported to observe this custom. (Damsteegt PG. DECODING ANCIENT WALDENSIAN NAMES: NEW DISCOVERIES. Andrews University Seminary Studies, Vol. 54, 2016, No. 2, Autumn 2016, p. 254)

Actually, the above scholar actually provided evidence that Peter Waldo and his followers kept the Sabbath in the same article, more of which will be cited later.

Let it be made clear that multiple scholars who looked into the Waldensians have concluded that at least some of them kept the seventh-day Sabbath.

Here is an old report from old English (where what looks like our letter 'f' was often used instead of the letter 's,' so it is changed below) from a Baptist historian in the 18th century:

Some of the inhabitants of the Pyrenees, and of the adjacent states, and not those of the vallies of Piedmont, were the true original Waldenses, ... Some of these christians were called Sabbati, Sabbatati, and Insabbatati, and more frequently Inzabbatati. Led astray by found without attending to facts, one says, they were so named from the hebrew word sabbath, because they kept the saturday for the Lord's day. Another says, they were so called because they rejected all the festivals, or sabbaths, in the low latin sense of the word, which the catholick church religiously



*Statue purported to be Peter Waldo (photo by Alexander Hoernigk via Wikipedia)*

observed. (Robinson R. Ecclesiastical Researches. Francis Hodson, publisher. 1792, pp. 299-304)

So, there were multiple types of Waldensians, and many kept the seventh-day Sabbath.

Notice the following:

One of the primary sources of evidence of Waldensian Sabbathkeeping during the first half of the thirteenth century comes from a collection of five books written against the Cathars and Waldensians about 1241-1244 by Dominican inquisitor Father Moneta of Cremona in northern Italy.

Moneta passionately defended himself against criticism from Waldensians and Cathars that



Catholics were transgressors of the Sabbath commandment. In the chapter *De Sabbato, et De Die Dominico* he discussed the significance of the seventh-day Sabbath of Exodus 20:8, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy,” and contrasted it with the value of the Lord’s day, his term for the first day of the week. ...

Sabbathkeeping among Waldensians was most widespread in Bohemia and Moravia, places to which they fled during papal persecution.

A fifteenth-century manuscript, published by church historian Johann Döllinger in *History of the Sects* {*Beiträge zur Sektengeschichte des Mittelalters* (Munich: Beck, 1890), Vol. II, p. 662} reports that Waldensians in Bohemia “do not celebrate the feasts of the blessed virgin Mary and the Apostles, except the Lord’s day. Not a few celebrate the Sabbath with the Jews.” (Damsteegt PG. Were Waldensians Sabbath-keepers? *Adventist World*, September 6, 2017).

Here is a report from the Lutheran historian Johann Mosheim concerning a group in the 12th century and two of their tenets:

the denomination of the *Pasaginians* ... The first was a notion, that the observance of the law of Moses, in everything except the offering of sacrifices, was obligatory upon Christians; in consequence of which they circumcised their followers, abstained from those meats, the use of which was prohibited under the Mosaic economy, and celebrated the Jewish sabbath. The second tenet that distinguished this sect was advanced in opposition to the doctrine of three persons in the divine nature. (Mosheim JL, Coote C, Gleig G. *An Ecclesiastical History, Ancient and Modern: In which the Rise, Progress, and Variations of Church Power, are Considered in Their Connexion with the State of Learning and Philosophy, and the Political History of Europe During that Period, Volume I. Translated by Archibald Maclaine.* Plaskitt & Cugle, 1840, p. 333)

So, they kept the Sabbath, abstained from unclean meats, and were opposed to the trinitarian view. While not all the views that Mosheim had about the Pasaginians were Church of God views, apparently some called by that name were Church of God Christians. It should also be noted that **Mosheim believed that there were two types of Waldenesians. One considered that**

**the Church of Rome was a real Christian church, whereas the other considered the Church of Rome to be the harlot of Revelation 17** (Mosheim, p. 333). Others have also written that one type of Waldensian was fairly close to the Greco-Romans, whereas the other type was much more independent of them (Froom LE. *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers, Volume I. Review and Herald, 1950, p. 831*).

In the seventeenth century, Peter Allix reported about beliefs of the early Waldensians from a critic and then made his own comments:

That the Law of Moses is to be kept according to the letter, and that the keeping of the Sabbath, Circumcision, and other legal observances, ought to take place. They hold also, that Christ the Son of God is not equal with the Father, and that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, these three Persons, are not one God and one substance; and, as a surplus to these their errors, - they judge and condemn all the doctors of the Church, and universally the whole Roman Church. Now, since they endeavour to defend this their error by testimonies drawn from the New Testament and Prophets, I shall, with assistance of the grace of Christ, stop their mouths, as David did Goliath’s, with their own sword. (Allix P. *Some Remarks upon the Ecclesiastical History of the Ancient churches of Piedmont.* originally published 1690, Oxford reprint 1831, p. 169)

But here, first of all, we are to take notice, that the Waldenses and Albigenses had both of them the same belief ... the difference between the Waldenses and the Church of Rome was not so small, that they could be looked upon only as schismatics, as the Bishop of Meaux has been pleased to imagine ... the Waldenses, or disciples of Waldo, having been particularly famous for their refusing to swear, ... Peter Waldo’s translating of the Bible, which must have been done before the year 1180, shews, that in France there was already a language different from the Latin tongue, (Ibid, pp. 173, 183, 184)

The above suggests that they held several Church of God doctrines, including binitarianism, non-swearing of oaths, and Sabbath-keeping.

The Petrobrusians (considered related to the Waldenses) kept the Sabbath and were condemned for it by the Roman Catholic saint Bernard in the 12th

century (Andrews J. History of the Sabbath and First Day of the Week. Reprint by Teach Services, 1998, p. 421). Notice the following from a Sunday-keeping writer (where I have typed it as originally written – knowing that now, the “f” appearing characters below would have been an “s” in modern writing):

the feventh day Sabbath ... In S. Bernard's dayes it was condemned in the *Petrobufiani*. (In: White F, Bifhop of Ely. A Treatise on the Sabbath Day .... Richard Badger, 1635, p. 8)

So, yes, some of the immediate predecessors of Peter Waldo and the Waldensians kept the seventh-day Sabbath and were condemned for it. Peter Waldo likely was in contact with some considered Petrobrusians.

The Patarenes (considered related to the Waldenses) kept the Sabbath and were condemned for it by Cardinal Damian around the same time (Wilkinson B. Reprint by Teach Services, 1994, pp. 234-235).

Now what about Peter Waldo himself?

Here is more from SDA scholar Gerard Damsteegt:

With few exceptions, Waldensians today deny that the ancient Waldenses kept the seventh-day Sabbath. However, historical evidence indicates that many did observe Sabbath during the Middle Ages. During the early part of the seventeenth century, the Swiss historian Melchior Goldastus (1576–1635) commented on Emperor Frederic II's Constitution of 1220 against heretics. He reasoned that the label *insabbatati* was used to describe heretics during the thirteenth century “because they judaize on the Sabbath,” that is, they kept the Sabbath like the Jews. He mentioned that the “Waldenses” were often called “*Insabbatati*,”<sup>14</sup> indicating that during that time there were Waldenses who kept the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) as a day of rest. ...

Primary sources show that, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, there were two groups of Waldenses – one group that observed Sunday as the Lord's day, the other that kept the seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible. Our research reveals that the title *insabbatati* could apply to (1) Waldenses who rejected Catholic festivals and holy days, or sabbaths, and observed only Sunday as the Lord's day and (2) Waldenses who, in addition, rejected Sunday as a Catholic institution and kept the seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible. The title

*sabbatati*, as applied to heretics, was used to characterize Waldenses who stood out because of their observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. (Damsteegt PG. The ancient Waldenses: Did the Reformation predate Luther? Ministry, October 2017, pp. 23,24)

The Waldensian historian, Emilio Comba, admits that northern Italy was a stronghold of various dissident groups associated with the Waldenses, some of which kept the Sabbath and often influenced and merged with the various groups of the Poor of Lyon and Poor Lombards. Sabbath keeping among the Waldenses was most widespread in Bohemia and Moravia. An inquisitor's manuscript from the fifteenth century reports that Waldenses in Bohemia “do not celebrate the feasts of the blessed virgin Mary and the Apostles, except the Lord's day. Not a few celebrate the Sabbath with the Jews.” ... Most historians identify Turlupins with the Picardian branch of Waldenses. A company of them was arrested in 1420. Well-preserved manuscripts mention that they “upheld that the Saturday must be celebrated instead of Sunday.”

From the end of the twelfth century, opponents of the Waldenses called them *insabbatati*, *insabbatatis*, *xabatati*, *xabatenses*, *sabbatati*, *sabatatos*, *inzabattati*, *insabbatatorum*, and *insabbatatos*. These words can be traced back to the time the word *insabbatati* appeared in the existing Latin literature in an edict issued in 1192 against heretics by Alfonso II, King of Aragon, (1152–1196), Count of Barcelona, and Count of Provence. This edict warned against the Valdenses (Waldenses) and identified them as *Insabbatatos* and *Pauperes de Lugduno* (Poor of Lyon). The edict, however, did not explain why Waldenses were called *Insabbatatos*. The next use of this term was in an 1197 edict issued by the son of Alfonso II, Peter II, King of Aragon, (1174–1213) and Count of Provence. This document called them *Sabatati and Pauperes de Lugduno*. ...

From the various accounts of Waldenses rejecting holy days, festivals or sabbaths, it is not surprising that, as late as the time of archbishop James Usher (1581–1656), there were many who believed that *insabbatati* referred to those Waldenses who worshiped by judaizing on the Sabbath. Concerning the word *insabbatati*, Jesuit Inquisitor Pegne also admitted that “many used

to think it came from Sabbath, and that they [Waldenses] observed the Sabbath according to the custom of the Jews.” ...

Since the Middle Ages, historians have characterized the Waldenses by the uncomplimentary names *insabbatati* and *sabbatati* to indicate their unique attire by the type of shoes they wore, or their unique belief in rejecting Catholic holy days or festivals and practices. The research underlying this article has tried to decode the confusion surrounding these names. This has led to the following insights for historiography, previously unnoticed. From the analysis of the shoe theory, the research brought out that the wearing of perforated shoes was not introduced by or was not the custom of the Waldenses or the Poor of Lyon, but it was a custom introduced by the Poor Catholics and the Reconciled Poor. ...

The term *sabbatati* also could have been used to describe some groups of Waldenses who followed the Jewish practice of resting on the Sabbath. This fits the meaning of both *Insabbatati* as depicting the rejection of Catholic holy days, Sabbaths, and teachings, and *sabbatati* describing the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. Primary sources show that one inquisitor in the thirteenth century wrote a book against the Waldenses and Cathars in which he refuted their criticism that Roman Catholics observed Sunday instead of the seventh-day Sabbath. This is evidence that there were Waldenses and Cathars who kept the seventh-day Sabbath during the high Middle Ages. Additional evidence shows that several groups closely associated and considered part of the Waldensian movement did indeed keep the seventh-day Sabbath as early as the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. (Damsteegt PG. DECODING ANCIENT WALDENSIAN NAMES: NEW DISCOVERIES. Andrews University Seminary Studies, Vol. 54, 2016, No. 2, 237–258)

While there may be debate regarding the precise year of Alphonso's decree, notice the following:

Again to the South-West, about AD. 1190, we read of a public discussion between certain Valdenses and Catholics near Narbonne: and in 1194 of a Decree of Alphonzo II of Arragon against them ...

[596] “Waldenses sive Insabbatatos, qui alio nomine se vocant Pauperes de Lugduno,...ab omni regno nostro, tanquam inimicos crucis Christi,...et regni publicos hostes, exire ac fugere praecipimus.” (Elliot EB, ed. *The Horae Apocalypticae*. Originally finished in 1860. Cross The Border Publishing, reprint 2018, Chapter VII and reference 596)

I have translated the above as follows:

“The Waldenses, or the Insabbatatos, who call themselves the Poor of Lyons by another name, ... from all our kingdom, as enemies of the cross of Christ, ... and the public enemies of the kingdom, to go forth and flee from the headlands.”

The fact that the followers of Peter Waldo may not have been publicly accused of keeping the seventh-day Sabbath until the late 12th century could possibly suggest that some who were earlier categorized as Waldensians did not then do so.

Yet, since Peter Waldo lived until 1205 in the 13th century, the fact that his people were called *insabbatati* by the end of the 12th century provides evidence that Peter Waldo and his followers were keeping the seventh-day Sabbath by then.

As far as Peter Waldo goes, it is my view that he initially (c. 1160-1179) may or may not have been a Sabbath-keeper, but became one, probably no later than 1180, after exposure to some in his region who held Church of God type doctrines.

That said, scholars are basically unanimous that original Christians did keep the Sabbath on Saturday, and that there have been groups of Sabbath-keepers that have professed Christianity throughout the centuries. We in the Continuing Church of God, of course, also do so in the 21st century.



# Could You Be Caught Off Guard?

## **Introduction and Conclusion by Bob Thiel in italics**

*On February 24, 2022, Russia's President Vladimir Putin announced his 'Special Military Operation' into Ukraine. This took most Ukrainians by surprise as they never thought this would actually happen.*

*On March 10, 2023, Silicon Valley Bank failed. A few weeks before, a famous financial advisor had encouraged his television audience to buy its stock. Nearly all the depositors were shocked and surprised by its collapse.*

*There are more shocking and surprising headlines, but the reality is that things can change quickly.*

*If you ever have doubts about that, consider that weather changes can have dramatic affects with droughts, floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Then there are earthquakes, volcanoes, solar flares, and other events that can result in sudden changes. And over the next year, we may well see conflict in the Middle East, as well as certain international developments, that will be unexpected by most.*

*With that in mind, consider the following that was written by Eugene M. Walter and published by the old Radio Church of God in the March 1963 edition of the old Good News magazine.*

## **God Punishes SUDDENLY**

God is infinitely patient with mankind but once man has filled the cup of sin and lawlessness to the brim, God intervenes SWIFTLY and SURELY in meting out justice and punishment. God inspired Solomon to write: "Therefore shall his [the wicked's] calamity come suddenly; SUDDENLY shall he be broken without remedy" (Prov. 6:15). "For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth SUDDENLY upon them" (Eccl. 9:12).

The flood at the time of Noah and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are two outstanding examples of this living principle. Jesus Christ Himself used these examples as types of the destruction that will come in our day. He said: "And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were



given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and DESTROYED them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the SAME DAY that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30).

Destruction came QUICKLY when God intervened in those days — and it will come quickly again when He intervenes in our day. Just as God warned ancient Israel that if they sinned their punishment would be SUDDEN AND SURE (Deut. 7:4), so God warns modern Israel that if we continue to sin, we, too, will be destroyed SWIFTLY AND SUDDENLY.

"Take heed to yourselves," God says to modern Israel, "that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them. And then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and He shut up the

heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye PERISH QUICKLY from off the good land which the Lord giveth you” (Deut. 11:16-17). Today modern Israel has broken this command and now this punishment — this CURSE — is beginning to be carried out. “The Lord shall send upon thee CURSING, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, UNTIL THOU be destroyed, and until thou PERISH QUICKLY; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me” (Deut. 28:20).

This IS PROMISED by God Almighty to come on modern Israel today wherever Israel may be. And on Israel’s captor — modern Babylon — punishment at the hand of God will also come quickly and surely (Jer. 51:8; Isa. 47:11). Yes, the WHOLE WORLD — Israelite and Gentile nations alike — are going to be taken by complete surprise — totally caught off guard — by the catastrophic events which will soon come crashing down on it.

Destruction... falls SUDDENLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY on an unsuspecting and God-rejecting world.

How About YOU?

But what about YOU? Will YOU be “caught off guard”? What is YOUR reaction to world news and the events you see taking place about you daily? Does it seem unlikely or highly improbable that anything sudden and drastic could happen to YOU? Is sudden death of a heart attack or in an automobile accident something you’ve always thought of as happening to the other fellow? The fellow in the “world”? Do you think none of these things could happen to YOU, because you’re a “member” in God’s Church?

God says, “Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1). God has not made ANY of His children immune from sudden death! Any one of us — and that includes YOU — could be called to give an account of our lives at any moment!

But beyond the possibility of personal disaster striking you in the normal routine of your life, what about the CERTAIN disaster which is coming in a few years when the prophecies of your Bible are fulfilled? Will YOU have God’s protection then? Do you “think you stand?” (1 Cor. 10:12).

It’s very easy to “forget” about these unpleasant things which are coming — to throw them out of your mind.

But that won’t keep them from happening! It’s easy to trust in a chronological date — a date which gives a false sense of security because it’s a number of years in the future. But the date may be WRONG — and the “future” may suddenly be here — sooner than you expected! It’s easy to “kid yourself” that there is “plenty of time” — that you can settle down to the serious business of OVERCOMING YOURSELF “just a little later.” But “plenty of time” will suddenly be “NO TIME” — and “just a little later” will never arrive!

Change NOW!

These thoughts and attitudes are all very NATURAL. But they are also gravely DANGEROUS! If YOU have any such thought or attitude, TAKE HEED! The Bible soberly warns of just such an attitude. It is a warning directed NOT to the world, but to GOD’S OWN PEOPLE!

Christ Himself gave the most serious of these warnings: “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you [members in God’s Church] UNAWARES. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. WATCH ye [Christ’s own disciples] therefore, and PRAY ALWAYS, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that SHALL COME TO PASS, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:34-36). Mark also records this warning given by Christ: “WATCH YE therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find YOU SLEEPING. And what I say unto you I say unto ALL, WATCH!!!” (Mark 13:35-37).

Christ KNEW the tendencies of human nature and He warned against becoming entangled in the cares of this life — against going to sleep spiritually. But He also showed how to counteract this tendency and to overcome it. His solution was simple, yet sure. He said to be alert and awake, to be on guard, to WATCH, TO PRAY ALWAYS.

The Apostle Paul gave this same identical warning to God’s people. He said: “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves [God’s own people] know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they [the world] shall say: Peace and safety; then SUDDEN DESTRUCTION cometh upon

them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But YE, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake YOU as a thief. YE are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us NOT SLEEP, as do others; but let us WATCH and BE SOBER” (I Thess. 5:1-6).

Those living in the darkness of Satan’s world WILL be overtaken by the Day of the Lord. But there will be NO EXCUSE if WE are caught off guard. To us God says: “... knowing the time, that now it is high time to AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light” (Rom. 13:11-12). In other words, WAKE UP! BE spiritually PREPARED for what lies ahead for YOU!

World events are snowballing ... the world — unknowingly — stands on the brink of SUDDEN DESTRUCTION. Very soon now Jesus Christ will return QUICKLY (Rev. 3:11; 22:7, 20) — “as a thief” (Rev. 16:15) — bringing His reward with Him (Rev. 22:12). Only those who are spiritually awake and alert — WATCHING AND PRAYING — will be prepared to meet Him.

Will YOU be ready?

We are much closer to the end of the 6000 years God has granted humanity to rule itself than when that article originally came out over 60 years ago.

The Apostle Peter wrote:

*1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God*

*the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

*8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

*10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

*14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; (2 Peter 3:1-14)*

Yes, the idea of sudden change is biblical.

Jesus said:

*34 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:34-36)*

*37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13:37)*

Please do so.



## ***Continuing Church of God Radio Log***



In addition to being online around the world at [www.biblenewsprophecy.net](http://www.biblenewsprophecy.net), there are numerous radio stations the Bible News Prophecy radio program is on.

### **Europe, Middle East, & North Africa: Via European Gospel Radio**

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### **Kenya**

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### **Ghana**

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Sunsum 98.7 FM, Kumasi – Tuesdays at 6:00 am

### **Philippines**

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### **USA**

KKIM AM 1000 Albuquerque – Saturday 9:15 am

KGMS AM 940 Tucson – Saturday 1:15 am

KCNW AM 1380 & FM 96.1 Kansas City – Saturday 2:30 pm

KERI AM 1410 Bakersfield – Saturday 11:45 am

WWNL AM 1080 & FM 103.9 Pittsburgh – Saturday 11:30 am

WSKY AM 1230 Asheville – Saturday 7:45 pm

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This life is a training ground for the coming Kingdom of God! What we do here and now determines the

reward we will receive when Christ comes. We are told in Revelation 3:21,

“To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” We all must overcome temptations of Satan the Devil, the world around us, and our own human nature!

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

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

## **What Women Should Learn**

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

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

Is it any wonder there is divorce, illegitimacy, and desertion, running rampant in our nation? Anyone who positively follows God’s laws and instruction

on these matters is bound to have a happy marriage, obedient children, good health, and every ingredient for happiness in this life.

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

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

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

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

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



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

Here is a picture of a woman whose aim in life — physically speaking — is the welfare of her family. SHE IS BUSY! SHE WORKS! She has CONCERN FOR OTHERS!

Think about these responsibilities! Are YOU fulfilling them?

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

## **Sewing and Shopping**

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

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

Another illustration from this chapter is grocery shopping. The woman is the one who is free during the shopping hours. It is her job to purchase the groceries for the week. Men are held responsible for providing a living for the family. They are called the “bread winners.” But they do not directly bring home the bread. They should provide the grocery allotment for the family which is generally about 20% of the average

family's income. It is up to her to make it last through the week or month.

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

## **Rising Early and Gardening**

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

Another fine opportunity many women pass up is the planting of a garden.

If you have the property where you could even have a small garden and if you have never planted one, think of all the better tasting foods you have passed up. There are any number of books available on organic gardening which will help you learn to garden if you never have. This is a way not only to break the routine of housework, but a good way to get out of doors for exercise and sunshine which are such a vital part of good health.

We could go on and on with examples of a truly industrious woman who is happy and who is developing godly character, but time and space do not permit it. But what God has given a woman to do is certainly not an insignificant job! If she properly handles these responsibilities, she does gain in many ways.

Notice how Solomon concludes this chapter of Proverbs in verses 30 and 31: “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall

be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works PRAISE HER IN THE GATES.” In verse 10 he says of this woman, “Who can find a virtuous woman? FOR HER PRICE IS FAR ABOVE RUBIES.”

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

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

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

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

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

What sex we were born has no bearing on whether or not we will enter the Kingdom. Each of us has been given responsibilities to perform, whether male or female. As we overcome we will receive a reward.

The Sadducees tried to trick Christ asking Him questions about the resurrection from the dead. The trick question was about who was going to be married to whom at the time of the resurrection. Here is the plain answer in the Scripture Christ gave them, “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection THEY NEITHER MARRY, NOR ARE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE, but are as the angels of God in heaven” (Matt. 22:29-30). At that time there will be no difference of sex in the spirit world.

God’s angels do not marry. Neither will those born into the Family of God. Paul said in I Corinthians 15:51-52,

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

## **What YOU Will Look Like**

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

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

*Those elect Christians that are women, as well as those who are men, will be Kings and Priests in the Kingdom of God (Revelation 5:10). Furthermore, both women and men who accept God’s ways and are resurrected to life will be able to give love in a unique manner to make eternity better for themselves and everyone else. All that you have gone through in this life will help prepare YOU for such a fantastic eternity.*