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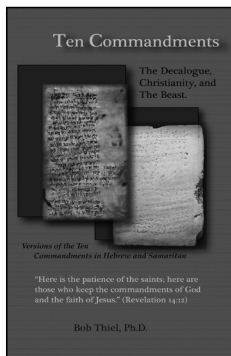
Is This The  
**MYSTERY  
BABYLON?**

Is the Final  
Antichrist Islamic?





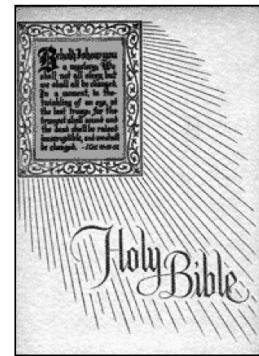
# BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY



11



28



25

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 From the Editor: Is the Final Antichrist Islamic?** Some Protestants are promoting the idea that the final Antichrist is Islamic, but what does the Bible teach?
- 11 The Seventh Commandment** Do not commit adultery or other forms of sexual immorality.
- 16 Does Any Church Have the Pentecost Signs of Acts 2:17-18?** Many overlook a prophecy given on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Does the CCOG have the signs that show God's favour?
- 25 Study the Bible Course Lesson 17a: What is Sin?** What about tithing? What about the Ten Commandments?
- 34 Brief Answer to a Scriptural Question** Does Luke 14:26 mean to hate our relatives?

**Back Cover: Internet and Radio** This shows where people can find the messages from the *Continuing Church of God*.

**About the Front Cover:** James Erwin Estoque put this together using images from sources such as Public Domain, Pixabay and Pexels.com.

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# Is the Final Antichrist Islamic?

Many people wonder about the final Antichrist.

Where will the Antichrist come from?

Some wonder if the rise of Islamic terrorism is a sign that the final Antichrist might be Islamic.

Is there an Islamic Antichrist as opposed to a European one?

## Some Protestants Believe the Final Antichrist is Islamic

While Protestant Reformer Martin Luther taught in the 16th century that the Pope was the Antichrist, in the 21st century, some Protestant leaders have instead pointed to a coming Islamic leader.

These include Joel Richardson (author of *The Islamic Antichrist*), Jack Smith (author of *Islam - the Cloak of Antichrist in Bible Prophecy*), Joseph Farah (editor of *World Net Daily*) and Laurie Cardoza-Moore (television host of *Focus on Israel*).

Essentially, they seem to support the view that the Imam Mahdi of Islamic prophecy has enough similarities to prophecies of the Beast and Antichrist in the New Testament that this means that the final Antichrist will be Islamic (more of their arguments can be found at: <https://www.cogwriter.com/islamic-antichrist.htm>).

## European-Pointing Scriptures

Joel Richardson has stated that the European Union (EU) is unstable, which he believes is another reason that supports his view. Yet, the final Beast was prophesied to be unstable (Daniel 2:41-43). While the EU itself may or may not remain, the Bible teaches that Europe will reorganize and give its power to the Beast (Revelation 17:12-13) who will be supported by the final Antichrist (cf. Revelation 13).

Notice that a false church being involved with the

final Babylonian European power is prophesied in the Bible:

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Revelation 17:1-5)

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. (Revelation 17:9)

Before going further, it should be pointed out that people like Joel Richardson have claimed that Mecca is Mystery Babylon. But note that Mystery Babylon sits on seven mountains. Mecca does not.

Let me also add that ancient Babylon (located in the country called Iraq) is also NOT "Mystery Babylon" as it is part of a plain and is not a city of seven hills/mountains.

Continuing in Revelation 17:

18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth." (Revelation 17:18)

Now, there certainly is a church in a city of seven hills that has ruled over many waters. It ruled over kings and governors in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres of the world. It is not Mecca.

Other than Ammon Jordan and Istanbul, Rome is apparently one of few great cities in the world to anciently have precisely seven hills/mountains--though there may be some less important cities with seven mountains.

Some Protestants have said that the Church of Rome is ruled out because Vatican City is not within the seven hills of ancient Rome.

However, it needs to be pointed out that St. John's Lateran is the Church of Rome's premier cathedral (as it supposedly holds the 'cathedra' of the Church of Rome), not St. Peter's Basilica which is in Vatican City. St. John's Lateran is within the seven hills of ancient Rome and is closest to Caelian Hill (Caelius, Celio).

My wife and I have visited it a few times and noticed that it has the following outside of it in many places:



*(Photo by Joyce Thiel)*

The inscription from Latin above translated into English means, "Sacred Lateran Church Mother and Head of All Churches of the City and the World."

Islam is not in the same league.

The Beast who works with the Antichrist is NOT Islam. Europe is north of Jerusalem and the one that will become the King of the North (Daniel 11:40) will lead an empire that had roots in the old empire of Rome

(Daniel 9:26-27).

This empire is European and has connections to a particular sea. Notice:

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And **I saw a beast rising up out of the sea**, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Revelation 13:1-4)

2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up **the Great Sea**. 3 And four great **beasts came up from the sea**, each different from the other. 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' 6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. (Daniel 7:2-7)

The "Great Sea" that bordered the ancient lands of Israel (Numbers 34:6-7; Joshua 1:4; 9:1; 23:4; Ezekiel 47:13-16) is the Mediterranean Sea--and that is the sea that Daniel was referring to. Despite some false claims by some, the Beast power is not a nation like



Russia, which does not border the Mediterranean Sea, but Europe which does. A comparison of the beasts in Revelation 13 and Daniel 7 shows that they share many of the same characteristics.

Europe is the power that will control the “Great Sea.” And while the southern border of the Mediterranean Sea is currently under Arab control, the Bible shows that the King of the North will take over the confederated power of nations in Africa and the Middle East that are now primarily Islamic (Daniel 11:40-43; Ezekiel 30:1-9).

According to the Bible, it will be a European power that will rise up (Daniel 9:26-27).

While there have been various understandings of Daniel 9:26–27, notice what some older Protestant commentators basically correctly state (bolding/italics in source):

Matthew Henrys Commentary: It is here foretold that the people of the prince that shall come shall be the instruments of this destruction, that is, the Roman armies, belonging to a monarchy yet to come...That the desolation shall be total and final: He shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, that is, he shall make it completely desolate...And when it is made desolate, it should seem, there is something more determined that is to be poured upon the desolate (v. 27), and what should that be but the spirit of slumber...

Wycliffe Bible Commentary: C. F. Keil (Comm., in loco) is correct in asserting that the prince is said to be coming (habba’), because he has already been introduced and discussed in the prophecy of chapter 7...The Romans who destroyed Jerusalem (A.D. 70) were his people because they and he belong to the fourth stage (the Roman) of world empire (chs. 2; 7)...

The two commentaries correctly identified this leader as one who will be part of a “Roman Empire,” and is also the leader warned about in Daniel 7:23–26.

## What About 666?

Also, notice the following prophecy of the Beast who

is supported by the final Antichrist:

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. (Revelation 13:18)

666 is not Muhammad nor Islam.

Some have claimed that “Maometis” is a proper spelling of Muhammed and that adds up to 666. Yet, in the 1923 book *The Number And Names Of The Apocalyptic Beasts*, David Thom rejects that as a valid translation, observing that “of the seven different ways in which Muhammad’s name is written in Euthymius and the Byzantine historians, not one is the orthography in question”. None of the given spellings add up to 666 using Greek gematria (alphanumeric code).

Now, understand that Romulus is considered to have been the founder of ancient Rome. It is from his name Rome and Roman are derived. The Latin name Romvlvs is written in Hebrew as Romiith. In the Hebrew language this also adds up to 666 (resh = 200, vau = 6, mem = 40, yod = 10, yod = 10, tau = 400).

In the 2nd century A.D., Irenaeus, disciple of Polycarp, the Apostle John’s disciple, explained that in Greek the word Lateinos — meaning “Latin man” or Roman — adds up to 666. (L = 30; A = 1; T = 300; E = 5; I = 10; N = 50; O = 70; S = 200) This, he stated, was the intent of the scripture. The number 666 is thus anciently branded on the old Roman Empire and its revivals. (Stump KW. *Just What Do You Mean... ANTICHRIST?* Plain Truth, September 1981)

Lateinos is a Greek term referring to the Romans or the Roman kingdom.

Therefore, in both Greek and Hebrew, the main two languages of the Bible, the number 666 is associated with the kingdom that derived from Rome.

666 will be the leader of the revived Roman Empire—an empire that seemed to suffer from a “deadly wound” (cf. Revelation 13:3) centuries ago, but that is now in process of forming again.

Furthermore, both Protestant and Catholic commentators (Daniel 7:7-8. The Wycliffe Bible

Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1962 by Moody Press) and The Prophecies of Daniel. The Original and True Douay Old Testament Of Anno Domini 1610, Volume 2, p. 732) agree that the last of the four kingdoms in Daniel 7:7–8 is the Roman Empire.

There is another reason to suspect that the area involves the territories of Europe. Millennia ago, Daniel wrote a prophecy that discussed a little horn that would mainly expand to the south and east:

9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. 10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. 11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. 12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground.

He did all this and prospered (Daniel 8:9-12).

And while the above has had a past fulfillment, this prophecy seems to be dual (compare with Daniel 11:27–39)—and seems to be for our time.

What is now called the EU began as a small organization involving three small countries located in the northern and western regions of Europe (Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg, called the Benelux nations)—they then helped form the European Economic Community. This European Economic Community expanded mainly south and east of the Benelux nations, into what had become the expanded European Union. Now, about 450 million people are under a (though not completely united) government headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

While Rome itself was the ruling city of the Western world for several centuries, the Roman Catholic Church, whose headquarters cathedra is completely within the boundaries of Rome, has maintained tremendous influence over kings and governments of the earth for even more centuries.

Roman Catholic scholars, while differing on the timing, do admit that Rome is the city of seven hills in Revelation.

## Kings of the North and South

The Bible predicts that at the appointed time, a King of the North AND a King of the South will rise up. (Daniel 11:27-45).

Consider that the King of the North would be from NORTH of Jerusalem, and while that is possible for an Islamic leader, consider that there is a King of the South that the Bible mentions, with many of the territories south of Jerusalem and all of them dominated by Islam.

Only Europe meets all the biblical criteria for the final King of the North—and the one commonly called Antichrist (although there are many antichrists) is aligned with the King of the North.

Consider that Islam dominates north Africa and the Middle East, and for it to go south and east per Daniel 8:9-12, it only would cover Africa and possibly other regions only in the Southern Hemisphere. Islam cannot be the final Antichrist.

## Mecca?

Could Mecca be Mystery Babylon?

Some think so. Notice one who makes that claim:

Joel Richardson, New York Times bestselling author of “The Islamic Antichrist,” believes he has identified the city of the Antichrist in his ... book, “Mystery Babylon.” ...

Richardson argues there are specific scriptural criteria “Mystery Babylon” must meet, which New York City and America simply doesn’t. The city of the Antichrist must serve as the seat of a great system of idolatry. It must persecute the body of Christ. And Richardson believes there are also references to it being located in a desert, as he argues at length in “Mystery Babylon.”

Richardson believes the city which best meets these and other criteria is Mecca, center of the Islamic faith and what he calls the locus of “Satanic power” in the world today. <http://www.wnd.com/2017/03/is-america-city-on-a-hill-or-septic-tank-for-sin/#2gdTZSXdSojyCGU7.99>

Mecca certainly did not initiate idolatry. Idolatry is



mentioned in Genesis 31, about two thousand years before the birth of Muhammed, who was Islam's founder.

It should also be noted that early, true, Christians did not have idols nor what are often called religious icons. Religious icons and idols started to gain widespread acceptance by the Greco-Romans shortly after the Roman Empire Constantine ordered his soldiers to paint crosses on the outside of their shields to fight the battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 A.D. The acceptance of crosses and other icons spread after that amongst those who embraced the Constantinian faith.

Two cities that, perhaps, could be considered the locus of icons/idols today that also have seven hills/mountains would be Rome and Constantinople (though now known as Istanbul). Rome and Constantinople both have a history of persecuting the true "body of Christ."

Now Joel Richardson's "desert" location comment related to Mecca appears to be based on a misinterpretation of Isaiah 21. Joel Richardson and others who believe that it is Mecca is the seat of Mystery Babylon based on Isaiah 21 is wrong.

1 The burden against the Wilderness of the Sea.  
As whirlwinds in the South pass through,  
So it comes from the desert, from a terrible land.

2 A distressing vision is declared to me;  
The treacherous dealer deals treacherously,  
And the plunderer plunders.

Go up, O Elam!  
Besiege, O Media!  
All its sighing I have made to cease.

3 Therefore my loins are filled with pain;  
Pangs have taken hold of me, like the pangs of a woman in labor.

I was distressed when I heard it;  
I was dismayed when I saw it.

4 My heart wavered, fearfulness frightened me;  
The night for which I longed He turned into fear for me.

5 Prepare the table,  
Set a watchman in the tower,  
Eat and drink.  
Arise, you princes,  
Anoint the shield!

6 For thus has the Lord said to me:

"Go, set a watchman,  
Let him declare what he sees."

7 And he saw a chariot with a pair of horsemen,  
A chariot of donkeys, and a chariot of camels,  
And he listened earnestly with great care.

8 Then he cried, "A lion, my Lord!  
I stand continually on the watchtower in the daytime;

I have sat at my post every night.

9 And look, here comes a chariot of men with a pair of horsemen!"

Then he answered and said,

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen!

And all the carved images of her gods  
He has broken to the ground."

10 Oh, my threshing and the grain of my floor!  
That which I have heard from the Lord of hosts,  
The God of Israel,

I have declared to you. (Isaiah 21:1-10)

What the misinterpreters tend to do here is to try to tie this in with passages that follow, which are warnings to other locations.

If you actually look at Isaiah 21, you will notice that it is a prophesy to the Wilderness of the Sea.

The Bible describes the Beast as being the Beast of the Sea (Revelation 13:1-4) and Europe will end up controlling the Mediterranean Sea (Daniel 11:40-43; Ezekiel 30:1-9).

The Bible also shows that the Kings of the Medes (essentially associated with certain nations once part of the old Soviet Union) will destroy end time Babylon (Jeremiah 51:11).

The city of Mecca is in a small valley surrounded by five hills (Peer B. Modern Mecca. The New Yorker, April 16, 2012), not seven. It is not Mystery Babylon the Great.

The Antichrist is Primarily a Religious, not Political, Figure

Joel Richardson has speculated that Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is either the final Antichrist or essentially his close predecessor.

While I believe that Bible prophecy shows that Turkey will massively turn against the USA (cf. Psalm 83:3-8),

that does not mean that the final Antichrist has to be Turkish (that seems quite unlikely as nearly all Turks are Muslim).

As far as the final Antichrist goes, he will be primarily a religious figure, not a political leader like Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Consider that all of the verses in the Bible that mention the term “antichrist” or “antichrists” are referring to someone in a religious context.

Let’s examine all the “antichrist” verses Here are half of them:

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist (2 John 7).

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. (1 John 4:1-3).

These scriptures say that antichrist is a deceiver who does “not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh.” This situation existed prior to Islam which did not come on the scene until the early 7th century. Notice also that false prophets are called antichrists. And as it turns out, the one in the Bible who meets the criteria to be the final Antichrist is identified as the “false prophet” in the Book of Revelation.

John also mentioned the antichrists in the following:

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made

manifest, that none of them were of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. (1 John 2:18-22).

So, we see that there are MANY antichrists. And there is also indicated that there is a particular, final Antichrist. John is also warning that the Antichrist will be one who claims to have been part of the true Christian church. That is not how Islam sees itself.

While it can be safely assumed that a coming Islamic leader will be anti-Christ, the prophesied final singular Antichrist that many expect is NOT Islamic, but will have European ties.

The second beast in Revelation 13 (called the Beast from the earth) is primarily a religious leader (even though he has political influence). He promotes religious worship and is also referred to in other scriptures as “the false prophet” (Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10). He is the final Antichrist.

This Antichrist, for at least a time, will claim to be some type of Christian (in my view, he will claim to accept some changed version of Roman Catholicism and likely be a type of antipope).

## **The King of the South and the Mahdi**

The Imam Mahdi of Islamic prophecy better meets the geographic criteria to possibly be the final King of the South, not the King of the North of biblical prophecy (many Protestants and Catholics consider that the King of the North will be the final Antichrist).

Most of the Arab nations are south of Jerusalem, while nearly all the European nations are basically north of it (there are some small European territories south of Jerusalem).

Some in Islam seem to believe that the reign of the



Beast and Antichrist will happen after the Mahdi's death. Now this is true, to a degree, for the Arab lands. However, the Beast (King of the North) and the final Antichrist (False Prophet) will rule in Europe and in some of the American land, prior to the European reign over Arab lands

Let's look at some scriptures, beginning with Daniel 11:39:

39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain. (Daniel 11:39)

The "he" above is the European "King of the North." Presuming this is a prophecy for the 21st century, he would be taking over the United States of America as it holds the "strongest fortresses."

Then, after that, notice information about the kings of the South and North:

40 "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. 41 He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. 42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. (Daniel 11:40-43)

The one called the King of the South in the above passage may be one with the title "Mahdi." And while Shi'ite (and some other Muslims) consider that he will be a "saviour" and establish an Islamic world, these scriptures clearly show that the King of the North will defeat him.

Note: "Ethiopians" is a mistranslation of Daniel 11:43. The word should be "Cushites." Anyway, the lands and peoples that the King of the South will have lost to the King of the North are all primarily Islamic.

This can also be confirmed by looking at the peoples associated with Egypt in Ezekiel 30:3-8.

While there was a prophesied earlier fulfillment of this by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezekiel 30:10-19), Ezekiel 30:3 has a fulfillment near "the day of the Lord"—which means it still has not been completely fulfilled.

Furthermore, notice the following:

25 ... Then they shall know that I am the Lord, when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt. 26 And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. Then they will know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 30:25-26, ESV)

Please realize that the Egyptians did not learn that the God of the Bible was Lord back then. Ezekiel 30 is referring to a time when after end time King of Babylon, the European King of the North, will destroy Egypt and its allies. Those allies are the predominantly Islamic peoples of North Africa and the Middle East, including the Arabs.

The reality is that while an Islamic leader looks to rise up, he will be the final King of the South, not the final King of the North. It is the Beast power of the King of the North that the final Antichrist will be aligned with.

Perhaps I should mention that the idea of the Mahdi being the biblical King of the South was taught decades ago by the old Worldwide Church of God:

But who is the "king of the south"?...in verse 40 we skip to "the time of the end"...The verse undoubtedly found partial fulfillment in the offensive of 1896...But Mussolini did not finish the prophecy...Just as there is yet to be a final "king of the north"...there may very well emerge in the same manner a final "king of the south"—an overall leader of an Arab-Moslem confederation, possibly bearing the very title Mahdi...a prophetic psalm (Psalm 83) provides additional insight into the Mideast picture. Germany (Assyria in Bible prophecy) and perhaps the rest of Europe will be in league in the future with a union of Arab nations...But in the end, this European-Arab alliance will prove

short-lived...And the king of the north shall come against him [the king of the south]...Daniel 11:40-41...The Arab-Moslem Confederation will, of course, be thrown into chaotic disarray in the fact of invasion. (Stump K. The Arab World in Prophecy. Plain Truth, December 1979, pp. 11-12).

And that is much more biblical than thinking that the Mahdi is the final Antichrist. Most Protestant prophecy watchers seem to misunderstand about the King of the South.

Interestingly, Catholic prophecy tells of the rise of an Islamic/Arabic power that a Catholic leader (sometimes referred to as the "Great Monarch" or "great prince of the North") will put an end to.

Pseudo-Methodius (7th century): This new Muslim invasion will be a punishment without limit and mercy...In France, people of Christians will fight and kill them...At that same time the Muslims will be killed and they will know the tribulation...The Lord will give them to the powers of the Christians whose empire will be elevated above all empires...The Roman King (Great Monarch) will show a great indignation against those who will have denied Christ in Egypt or in Arabia (Araujo, Fabio R. Selected Prophecies and Prophets. BookSurge LLC, Charlestown (SC), 2007, p. 103).

Rudolph Gekner (died 1675). "A great prince of the North with a most powerful army will traverse all Europe, uproot all republics, and exterminate all rebels. His sword moved by Divine power will most valiantly defend the Church of Jesus Christ. He will combat on behalf of the true orthodox faith, and shall subdue to his dominion the Mahometan Empire. A new pastor of the universal church will come from the shore (of Dalmatia) through a celestial prodigy, and in simplicity of heart adorned with the doctrines of Jesus Christ. Peace will come to the world." (Cited in Connor, Edward. Prophecy for Today. Imprimatur + A.J. Willinger, Bishop of Monterey-Fresno; Reprint: Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford (IL), 1984, p.36).

While the Church of God and the Bible warn against

this leader of the North (Daniel 11:36-38), Roman Catholics apparently will embrace him.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that there are many Catholic prophecies that indicate that the Turks will become Catholic and betray an Arab leader. And that although they will probably for a while support Muslim interest, notice the following one about betrayal:

Nostradamus: The Great Arab shall progress well forward, But betrayed shall be by the Byzantines. (Turks).

Comment on above from Catholic writer Yves Dupont: Here, we are told that Turkey will break its faith with the rest of the Arab world. (Dupont, Yves. Catholic Prophecy: The Coming Chastisement. TAN Books, Rockford (IL), 1973, p. 107).

The "Great Arab" is probably supposed to represent the Mahdi. This betrayal is consistent with biblical prophecy:

25...The king of the south will march to war with a huge and powerful army but will not succeed, since he will be outwitted by trickery. 26 Those who shared his food will ruin him...(Daniel 11:25-26)

Some in Islam have taught several things about the Mahdi that suggest that he is the King of the South of the Bible. Notice the following:

Rasaullah [Muhammed] said: "There will be four peace agreements between you and the Romans [Christians]. The fourth agreement will be mediated through a person who will be the progeny of Hadrat Haroon [Honorable Aaron -- Moses' brother] and will be upheld for seven years (Richardson J. Antichrist: Islam's Awaited Messiah. Pleasant Word, 2006, p. 48)

The above sounds similar to the seven year (one week in biblical language) agreement discussed in Daniel 9:27 that involves a "prince" who appears to be the one the Bible warns will become the King of the North and apparently the nation of Israel. It certainly would make sense that there would be Muslim representation in a peace deal.



However, the Bible shows that this deal will be broken (Daniel 9:27) and the King of the North will invade Jerusalem (Daniel 11:31) and ultimately the King of the South (Daniel 11:40-43). Notice that this too, however, seems to be consistent with some Islamic prophecy:

...a life of peace as a result of a peace agreement between you and the Banil Asfaar (Romans) which they will break and attack you (Ibn Zubair Ali, Mohammed Ali. The minor signs of Last Days from: The Signs of Qiyamah. <http://www.islamawareness.net/Prophecies/minor.html> viewed 06/21/09).

The King of the South, who is expected to be an Islamic leader, does not survive in the end. The King of the South does not meet the criteria for the Beast power in the Book of Revelation. The countries of the Middle East are overwhelmed by the King of the North.

Notice the Bible discusses what happens to the final Antichrist, who is referred to as the false prophet below:

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19:19-20)

The Beast and False Prophet (the final Antichrist) get destroyed as shown in Revelation 19. The Islamic leader is destroyed prior to that as Daniel 11:40 shows.

## Summary

While many in the world see Islam as a threat to Catholicism and Protestantism, the final Antichrist will be a religious leader who, for a time, will feign an apostate version of Christianity. He will not say he is Jesus, but he will, for a time, indicate he is here as the “vicar of Christ”—one representing Jesus.

It is not that in no sense would a false religious leader, like the Islamic Mahdi Imam be an Antichrist, but the King of the South is not the final prophesied Antichrist.

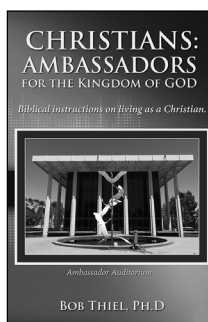
The final Antichrist is associated with the Beast power called the King of the North. Certain Islamic, Catholic, and other improper prophetic views will be factors in people being deceived in the end times.

The one commonly known as the final Antichrist will be supporting a European Beast power. That King of the North will destroy America (Daniel 11:39) and ultimately control much or all of the Middle East (Daniel 11:40-43) as Bible prophecy teaches.

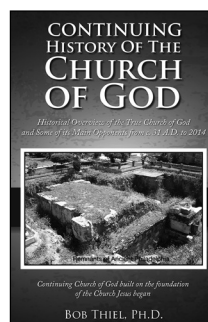
The final Antichrist will not be an Islamic Antichrist. But should there be an Imam Mahdi—and we know that there will be a King of the South, he will an antichrist as he will be against the true Christian religion.

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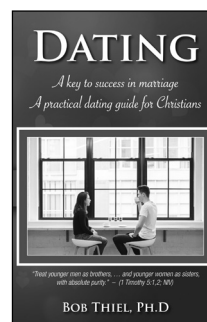
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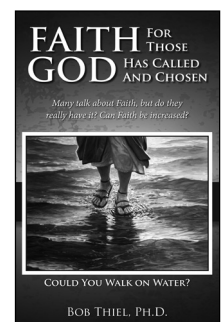
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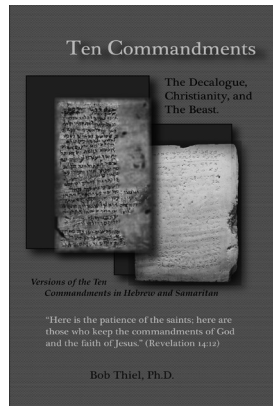


Dating: A Key to Success in Marriage



Faith for Those God has Called and Chosen

# The SEVENTH Commandment



**By Bob Thiel**

Imagine a world that is safe.

Around \$2 trillion dollars per year is spent on militaries worldwide. Massive amounts are also spent on police forces and security services.

Imagine a world where families are intact, people feel safe, and that nearly all couples work to love each other.

Nowadays, however, adultery and other forms of sexual immorality are rampant. Many “have eyes full of adultery” (2 Peter 2:14) and like adulterers in the past do not consider adultery nor fornication to be a sin—they think they “have done no wickedness” (Proverbs 30:20).

With the advent of photography in the 19th century, along with movies in the 20th and 21st centuries, and also the internet, there has been a massive rise in the production and viewing of pornography.

Pornography, especially in this internet age, can become addictive. Research shows it distorts one’s view of the opposite sex as it often displays people in terms of sexual response (especially women) unrealistically. Pornography can play a role in sexual infidelities as well as in societal sexual crimes such as rape and child molestation. Christians need to flee pornography and all other forms of illicit sexual

experimentation (1 Corinthians 6:18; Matthew 5:28).

Satan has managed to get lust and other false sexual messages to spread far and wide. Whether or not you are married, whether you are young or old, Satan wants YOU to be unfaithful.

Centuries before Mt. Sinai, Israel’s son Joseph stated he would not sin by committing adultery (Genesis 39:9). Adultery is also called sin in the New Testament (2 Peter 2:14).

The Bible has many admonitions against adultery, and many passages in the Book of Proverbs provide warnings against it (cf. Proverbs 2:10-20; 5:15-23; 6:23-34; 7:1-27; 23:26-28). They warn that words of an adulteress are deceptive. And of course, any married person involved in adultery has also violated their marriage vows.

The only form of sexual relations that the Bible sanctions is between a male married to a female (cf. Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5). Bestiality (Leviticus 20:15-16), fornication (Galatians 5:19), homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22), incest (Leviticus 18:6-17), prostitution (Deuteronomy 23:17-18), and lesbianism (Romans 1:26) are all condemned.

Fantasy sex is also condemned (Job 31:1,9-11; Matthew 5:28).

Masturbation is either improper lust (1 John 2:16) or else a desire for relief—“but God provided for males, through the means of nocturnal emissions during sleep” (Armstrong HW. Missing Dimension in Sex, 1981) for males, making masturbation always unnecessary. Masturbation itself has a variety of undesirable mental and social affects as studies from the old Soviet Union concluded—flee from it (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:18).

The societal cost for fornication, unwed motherhood, divorce, and sexually-transmitted diseases is high and should never be. There would be less broken homes, less juvenile delinquency, and less disease if people would obey the seventh commandment.

The seventh commandment, from the Book of Exodus, states:

14 “You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)

The sexual and reproductive drives that God made can be quite powerful. This drive was at least partially intended to get many people to look for a spouse (Genesis 2:18; Matthew 19:4-5; Proverbs 18:22, 30:19; 1 Corinthians 7:9) as well as to motivate them to improve their situations so that they could properly raise their own families (cf. Malachi 2:15; Genesis 29:18; 1 Timothy 5:8; Titus 2:3-8). Sexual immorality, such as fornication and masturbation, divert that drive away from God’s intended purposes.

For young men, the sexual/reproductive drive should help motivate them to take steps to be able to provide for a family (cf. 1 Timothy 5:8). For young women, this drive should motivate them to be able to properly raise a family (cf. Titus 2:4).

A major point of marriage is love, not lust. Men are to “love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25). Women are “to love their husbands, to love their children” (Titus 2:4.) But adultery is a hurtful “lust of the flesh” (cf. Galatians 5:16,19) and not love.

Consider also:

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? (2 Corinthians 6:14-15)

A real Christian should not marry one who is not a real Christian nor incorporate paganism into worship practices.

There are clearly spiritual ramifications of marriage.

The Apostle Paul also wrote:

31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the

church. (Ephesians 5:31-32)

So, consider there are not only physical principles involved in the seventh commandment. We are to pursue the truth of God and strive to faithfully be one with God (John 17:11).

### Spiritual Adultery

The Bible also specifically teaches against spiritual adultery:

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

6 And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. (Leviticus 20:6)

3 ... I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 3-7)

The Bible condemns both physical and spiritual adultery, and urges Christians to keep the original faith—a faith which included the observance of the



## Ten Commandments.

Spiritual adultery includes compromising and adding pagan practices and beliefs to what should be the true faith. This was shown in the New Testament and is also prophesied to be a major problem in the end times (Revelation 17).

The Bible also warns that some who claimed to be Christian would not obey:

12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. 15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. (2 Peter 2:12-19)

Those who teach "liberty" from the Ten Commandments are really bringing people into "bondage of corruption" (Romans 8:21).

### Avoid Potentially Compromising Situations

While dating by singles should be fine, be wary of

much physical contact.

The Apostle Paul warned:

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. (1 Corinthians 6:18)

One does not flee sexual immorality by seeing how close one can get to it. (More on dating is included in the free online booklet: Dating: A Key to Success in Marriage, a practical dating guide for Christians.)

The Book of Proverbs teaches:

23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. 25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent. (Proverbs 6:23-29)

Consider that Jesus told His followers to pray:

13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:13)

Nor should Christians lead themselves into temptation. Consider also that the Apostle Paul wrote:

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22, KJV)

Therefore, married people should not flirt, be involved in sexting, or other improper behaviors with those that are not their spouses. Unmarried people should never be involved with sexting (and this author is not advising married people to actually do this either) and compromising situations.

Avoiding fornication is good for marriage:

Federal government statistics show that the prospects for an early divorce are minimal among American couples who have never had any sexual partners other than their spouses, and increases with the number of other partners.

Among couples who have not had other partners, 95% of marriages remain intact through at least the first five years. That number drops to 62% if the woman has had any other partner, and to nearly 50% if she has had two other partners. The numbers also drop, although less sharply, if the man has had other partners. (Statistics show marriages more likely to survive if couples had no other lifetime sexual partners. CNS, 02/13/17).

Society would be so much better off if the seventh commandment were truly kept.

#### Divorce

The Bible shows that marriage is intended to last a lifetime:

10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"

4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses

command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"

8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

11 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: (Matthew 19:3-11).

The disciples saw the limitation Jesus gave as very difficult. It should motivate people to be careful about marriage. While the Bible endorses marriage, nowhere does the Bible teach that marriage will be easy (cf. 1 Corinthians 7:28). It is intended to help build loving character (cf. Ephesians 5:22-33)—and that is not always easy (John 6:33; 1 Corinthians 7:33-34).

Many people will claim something to the effect that their spouse is "impossible," not realizing "that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28) and not having faith that God can work things out. Many do not have enough faith to realize that God knew there would be marital difficulties, but that He expects His people to grow and change through the process. Not having sufficient faith in God, etc. many who profess Christianity trust in themselves (cf. Proverbs 3:6-7) and divorce.

Yet, God hates divorce:

15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 "For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do

not deal treacherously.” (Malachi 2:15-16)

There is a very large church that claims to be the original church, yet it allows its priests to put away their wives so that they can become “bishops.” Priests that do that “deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.” That and other behaviors God hates.

The Bible also speaks of divorce and remarriage as adultery (Matthew 19:9).

We are to keep our marriage vows (Malachi 2:14), even when it is not easy (cf. Psalm 15:4).

While the Bible mentions a couple of exceptions (cf. Matthew 5:32, 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:13-15,39), most who have divorced in the eyes of their government and/or church and then remarried are considered to be adulterers by the God of the Bible (cf. Matthew 19:9). They are not learning the way of love as they should.

Seventh Commandment Before Sinai, from Jesus, and After Jesus’ Death

The Bible shows the seventh commandment was in place before Mt. Sinai:

“his master’s wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, ‘Lie with me.’ But he refused...’How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’” (Genesis 39:7-9). “Moreover, you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor’s wife to defile yourself with her...for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled” (Leviticus 18:20,27). “The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, ‘No one will see me’; and he disguises his face” (Job 24:15). Job, a married man, said, “I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?” (Job 31:1).

Jesus taught and expanded the seventh commandment:

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery’. But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for

her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28). “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery” (Matthew 5:32). “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts... adulteries, fornications...These are the things which defile a man” (Matthew 15:19-20). “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery, and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery” (Matthew 19:9). “You shall not commit adultery” (Matthew 19:18). “...adulteries, fornications...All these evil things come from within and defile a man” (Mark 7:21,23). “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery” (Mark 10:11-12). “Do not commit adultery” (Mark 10:19). “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery” (Luke 16:18). “You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery” (Luke 18:20). “‘Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery’...And Jesus said to her...’sin no more’” (John 8:4,11). “Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation” (Revelation 2:22).

After Jesus was resurrected, the New Testament taught the seventh commandment:

“being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality” (Romans 1:29). “So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress” (Romans 7:3). “You shall not commit adultery” (Romans 13:9). “But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral” (1 Corinthians 5:11). “Neither... adulterers, nor homosexuals...will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). “Nor let us commit sexual immorality as some of them did” (1 Corinthians 10:8). “Now the works of the flesh are evident...adultery, fornication” (Galatians 5:19). “For this you know that no

# Does Any Church Have the Pentecost Signs of Acts 2:17-18?



*Michelangelo's Imagined Depiction of Joel*

The Apostle Peter preached a sermon on the Day of Pentecost in c. 31 A.D. where he quoted the prophet Joel.

Is that relevant today?

Will you believe the word of God?

Does any Church of God (COG) have the confirmed signs of Acts 2:17-18?

Should any?

The late Pastor General of the old Worldwide Church of God (WCG), Herbert W. Armstrong, basically said yes to that in a 1981 sermon:

Joel 2:28-29 And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: (29) And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

So there is a time coming when God will start pouring out His spirit on human beings. ... Day of Pentecost, 3000 were baptized. Peter preached a sermon. They were pricked in their hearts. God began to draw them. God was now... Remember He said, "I will pour out of my spirit on all flesh." All right, there's a duality of that. (Armstrong HW. Building The Temple. Sermon, February 14, 1981)

## *The Seventh Commandment...*

fornicator...has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God" (Ephesians 5:5). "the lawless and insubordinate...fornicators...sodomites" (1 Timothy 1:9,10). "fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). "Do not commit adultery" (James 2:11). "You lust...Adulterers and adulteresses!" (James 4:2,4). "having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin" (2 Peter 2:14). "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes...is not of the Father but is of the world" (1 John 2:16). "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into

great tribulation" (Revelation 2:22). "And they did not repent of ...their sexual immoralities" (Revelation 9:21). "But the...sexually immoral... shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). "But outside are...sexually immoral" (Revelation 22:15).

The Bible teaches that sexual immorality is a much greater problem than society normally acts like it is.

All Christians should look forward to the time when these issues are basically gone.



Herbert W. Armstrong was correct about the time coming when God would pour out His Spirit as well as the duality. There was a duality to what Peter preached in Acts 2—and that duality is for our current time!

On that Day of Pentecost, here is some of what the Apostle Peter taught:

14 ... “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; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. (Acts 2:14b-18)

We are in the last days.

Therefore, dreams and prophesy were expected for our day!

Has this happened in the 21st century?

Yes.

While Herbert W. Armstrong was alive, the Personal Correspondence Department in the old WCG sent out a letter on dreams and stated the Bible showed that future dreams from God to His people were expected. It then had a date change added to it and here is a quote from that one:

Thank you for your question concerning visions or dreams. The Bible reveals that in times past servants of God were given visions and dreams for specific reasons and/or to convey special messages. ...God has used this means of communication in the past and will do so again (Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28) (LO52 Worldwide Church of God, 1989)

As the WCG did not publicly acknowledge any such dreams after that letter was sent, the interpretation must be that God would later use dreams (it should be mentioned that the original date of LO52 was prior to 1986—hence it was not a change by the Tkach Administration).

Yet, despite what the Acts 2:17-18 supports, most Church of God groups (and scattered “independents”) do not seemingly accept that there are any prophets today, nor do they seem to accept that God actually sometimes speaks in dreams in the 21st century.

The Bible records that God often has used dreams to give messages, mainly to men (Genesis 20:3-7, 28:10-17, 31:10-13, 31:24, 37:5-10, 40:5-18, 41:1-32; Numbers 12:6; Judges 7:13-15; 1 Kings 3:5-15; Daniel 2:3-45, 4:4-27, 7:1-28; Matthew 1:20-25, 2:12, 2:13, 2:19, 2:22; Acts 16:9), and possibly at least once to a woman (cf. Numbers 12:6; Judges 4:4-14).

Yes, most dreams are not from God (Deuteronomy 18:22). However, consider that confirmed dreams related to the Christian church would be in a different (and biblically prophesied) category (Matthew 10:41; Acts 2:17-18).

Some seemingly despise prophecies (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:20) and appear indignant/dismissive of the very idea that God would use dreams or prophets. Many do not understand what the Bible or what certain leaders have taught about prophets. Part of the reason for this is pride, but also that the self-proclaimed “prophets” outside of the Continuing Church of God have tended to have proven to be false.

But that does not mean God doesn’t ever use dreams or have any in the office of prophet or ever pour out a “double-portion” of His Spirit (cf. 2 Kings 2:9-15) as happened when an ordained minister so prayed and anointed me (Bob Thiel) on December 15, 2011. In the Old Testament, God gave a sign people could see that showed the mantle of leadership passed to Elisha (2 Kings 2:14-15). And for the last days, the Philadelphian Christians are those who kept God’s word (“kept My word” Revelation 3:7-8), and hence are willing to believe the confirmation signs that were at least partially prophesied in the New Testament in Acts

2:17-18. This was not said of the non-Philadelphians and the mantle does not pass to any of them (“Let Philadelphia continue” Hebrews 13:1, literal).

The Apostle Peter and the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29) taught that there would be some with prophetic dreams in the end times.

Since a dream from a woman (Loma Armstrong) preceded the start of the Philadelphian era of the Church of God (for details, see “Dreams, the Bible, the Radio Church of God, and the Continuing Church of God” at [www.cogwriter.com](http://www.cogwriter.com)), does it not make sense that God would give a dream to another woman (in this case Fesilafa’i Fiso Lea’ana) prior to the formation of the most faithful Philadelphian remnant church, which is the Continuing Church of God?

Yet, many non-Philadelphians have concluded that there are not, cannot be, and/or that no stock should be placed on dreams.

But since Peter said that was a last days prophecy, then THE WORD OF GOD IS CLEAR THAT SOME OF GOD’S MOST FAITHFUL WOULD HAVE TO HAVE DIVINELY-INSPIRED DREAMS and/or prophetic abilities at this time. WILL YOU NOT BELIEVE THAT GOD WOULD BE

DOING WHAT HIS WORD SAID HE WOULD BE DOING IN THE LAST DAYS?

At least seven people associated with the Continuing Church of God have had confirmed prophetic dreams.

Is this happening anywhere else in the COGs?

The Bible shows that God most often works with prophets through a dream:

5 Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. 6 Then He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. (Numbers 12:5-6)

Notice that the above says that God’s plan is that He will speak to His prophets in a dream.

As the Apostle Peter was inspired to speak in Acts 2:17-18, dreams and prophets were prophesied in the New Testament for the last days!

Chart of Some CCOG-Related Dreams

Date	Given to	Dream(s)	Fulfillment
2003	K. Sani Mao	One dream was on the validity of the Sabbath, but the second showed a ‘C’ meaning CCOG or COGwriter to align with.	Became part of the CCOG in November 2018.
c. December 2008	Bob Thiel	The dream showed evangelist Roderick Meredith, who had long called Bob Thiel a friend and who he was on regular speaking terms with, would stop speaking with him. He would drop down as Bob Thiel rose and their lines crossed—seemingly a mantle passing. There was also another dream related to Isaiah 6:8 and apparently the passing of the mantle; the precise year unclear.	Dr. Meredith stopped speaking with Bob Thiel in the Spring of 2012. CCOG formed December 28, 2012. The mantle seemingly passed sometime between 2009-2012.  The passing of the mantle potentially related to Bob Thiel was specifically brought up by Gaylyn Bonjour in 2011 and 2012.

Date	Given to	Dream(s)	Fulfillment
December 8, 2012	Fesilafai Fiso Leaana	Approximately 10 people would separate from the Living Church of God (LCG), including Shirley Gestro and go to a group. A second part was related to the Ark of the Covenant.	The fulfillment related to departure from LCG and 10 people going to CCOG occurred within several weeks of the dream and included Shirley Gestro (CCOG did not form until weeks after the dream). The part related to the Ark of the Covenant was partially fulfilled during September 2013.
c. November 2013	Frederick Ochieng	God wanted Frederick's father Evans to join with Bob Thiel to do the work that would grow. Also, this work would have involvement from New Zealand.	The number of CCOG Africans went from a dozen to the almost three hundred (that had been with Evans) in 2014, to over 4,000 by 2019. Also, Frederick said he was unaware that CCOG had any New Zealand component before having that dream and New Zealand has played important roles in supporting CCOG.
c. March 1, 2014	Senhor Pires	Bob Thiel would be speaking to a large group that would all be black, with him the only white person.	Fulfilled March 17, 2014 when Bob Thiel spoke before church leaders in Nairobi, Kenya.
c. January 2017	Nimrod Ondigo	Bob Thiel would anoint him with oil.	Fulfilled on February 9, 2017. Nimrod did not have any reason to know that he would be ordained by Bob Thiel as a deacon as Bob Thiel did not do any ordinations in his previous trips to Africa. Also Bob Thiel did not learn of his dream until about two weeks later.
January 2019	Premkumar Ninthoujam	Alexsandar Veljic would get to Manipur, despite visa and travel issues that looked to prevent him, plus Sani Mao would be anointed with oil.	Alexsandar Veljic arrived in Manipur on January 10, 2019 and ended up anointing Sani Mao as a deacon on January 12, 2019 as Bob Thiel had tentatively authorized (but had not let Sani Mao know).

*(The above list has dreams that were given to different ones of different ages in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the South Pacific. Even if some who received the dreams do not endure, that does not negate them receiving them nor their fulfillment.)*

While some others outside of CCOG could have dreams from God, if any of the dreams in the above list were from God (and their confirmations suggest that several must be), then they should be considered as God's approval of Him placing Bob Thiel to be in a prophetic role—and we one day expect to end up with one or more additional prophets.

How many dreams or people with confirmed dreams will it take for people to accept that the dreams' prophecy in Acts 2:17-18 is being fulfilled in the Continuing Church of God and, to this degree, in no other church?

Jesus taught that "by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established" (Matthew 18:16).

Isn't seven people with confirmed dreams enough to take them seriously?

Of course, many will discount dreams, their confirmation, and true teachings as proper proof of anything they do not wish to believe. Many want more dramatic signs (Matthew 12:38; 1 Kings 19:11-12), but God does not always do it that way (Matthew 12:39-42; 1 Kings 19:12-14).

It is bizarre that so many people who claim to believe in Bible prophecy are so dismissive of dreams. Laodicea is made up of two Greek words which basically mean "people decide" or "people judge." These are Christian people who ARE NOT deciding by God's biblical criteria, but their own (often as influenced by others). And while divine interventions like healings can occur among all Christian groups consistent with James 5:13-17, in the end times, dreams are listed as signs in the last days.

Yet, though they probably do not consider themselves as Laodicean, those who seem to wish to remain Laodicean (or at least part of Laodicean groups or independents) look to be judging against God by not accepting clear proof of God giving dreams or inspiring prophecies in the 21st century.

The reality, based on Jesus' words in Revelation 3 to the churches, is that most end time Christians will not be Philadelphian—and it is the Philadelphians that

have the work that Jesus praised (Revelation 3:7-13). It is the non-Philadelphians that will not accept dreams from God or listening to His prophets until it is too late (cf. Revelation 3).

The biblical reality is that true prophets have always been rejected by many. Remember what Jesus said:

41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (Matthew 10:41)

Jesus is saying that the prophet will have to tell people that he/she is a prophet. This happened repeatedly with the Old Testament prophets as well. Jesus did NOT say that until YOU see something YOU think is miraculous enough, you should receive the prophet. He said to receive the prophet in the name of the prophet. In other words, Jesus is saying to pay attention to what the prophet says and accept his/her teachings and you will receive a prophet's reward. If the prophet does not claim to be a prophet (and also provide evidence) how else can anyone know if the person is a prophet? Hence, it is needful for a prophet to "defend" and sometime explain, the prophet status.

Now consider something that Jeremiah was inspired to write:

28 The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream. And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. (Jeremiah 23:28)

Some do not want to hear about dreams, but the word of God says that God's prophets, as well as people used for one or more prophetic dreams, should truthfully tell them. Some are critical of me and others in the CCOG telling about them.

Yet, notice the following:

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be



Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” (Acts 5:29-32)

In these times, Christians still ought to obey God and not men. And when it comes to proclamation, also be witnesses of what has happened.

Therefore, that is something we in the Continuing Church of God are doing—and yes, that includes telling about confirmed dreams.

What about prophetic matters beyond dreams?

Here is something that Herbert Armstrong wrote in 1985:

In these last days, according to biblical prophecy, knowledge, spiritual as well as material, was to be increased. The true Church of God was to be set back on the track, restoring the glorious knowledge of the faith once delivered to the saints in the days of the original apostles. (Armstrong HW. Mystery of the Ages, 1985)

Would not spiritual and prophetic knowledge include making predictions inspired by God and having a better understanding of prophecy than the non-Philadelphian COGs?

Look also at the following chart:

## Chart of Some CCOG-Related Dreams

Category	Event	Fulfillment
Prediction	During late August 2008, Bob Thiel told LCG minister Davy Crocket that unless evangelists would implement certain matters they promised to do, that God was about to strike a top LCG leader with something.	LCG’s top evangelist, Roderick C. Meredith, suffered a ministroke on September 19, 2008.
Prayer	On February 4, 2009, Dr. Meredith asked Bob Thiel to pray that he would live another 7 – 15 years, so Bob Thiel did.	Dr. Meredith died on May 18, 2017—a little over 8 years after that prayer.
Predictions	In July 2009, Bob Thiel’s book 2012 and the Rise of the Secret Sect went to press.	By December 22, 2012, 32 predictions in that book were at least partially fulfilled. For details, go to <a href="https://www.cogwriter.com/Confirmed2012BookEvents.htm">https://www.cogwriter.com/Confirmed2012BookEvents.htm</a>
Speculative Prediction	On June 24, 2010, Bob Thiel warned that “Certain biblical, Chinese, and other prophecies ... discuss that how Australia itself may become taken over. By virtue of her timing, Julia Gillard may inadvertently pursue policies that will lead to the fulfillment of various end time prophecies.”	On November 10, 2011, because an agreement with Julia Gillard, US troops were stationed in Darwin, Australia, and by November 18, 2011 China pointed to this as a reason to consider military action against Australia.

Category	Event	Fulfillment
Speculative Predictions	From 2010 to 2015, Bob Thiel made and/or posted speculative predictions related to Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg.	By late 2017, 7-11 predictions (depending on how they are included) related to Herr Guttenberg were at least partially fulfilled. For details, go to <a href="https://www.cogwriter.com/karl-theodor-zu-guttenberg-king-of-the-north.htm">https://www.cogwriter.com/karl-theodor-zu-guttenberg-king-of-the-north.htm</a>
Prayer	Although told by two LCG ministers (Dr. Jeff Fall and Gary Ehman) in the late Fall of 2011 that he did not need to have hands laid on him to be a prophet, Bob Thiel prayed that something would happen related to his “prophet” situation in a planned December 2011 trip to Charlotte, North Carolina.	On December 15, 2011, Gaylyn Bonjour anointed Bob Thiel and prayed that he be granted a double-portion of God’s Spirit. Gaylyn Bonjour said this was reminiscent of the passing of the mantle, that he realized what he may have unintentionally did, and that what he did could not be undone. This answered Bob Thiel’s prayer, as did what later happened with Sheryl Meredith.
Prayer	On December 16, 2011, Richard Ames prayed that Bob Thiel would continue his evangelical/prophetic efforts and LCG evangelists Dr. Meredith and Dr. D. Winnail gave Amen concurrence.	Bob Thiel has continued evangelical/prophetic efforts and has been the human leader of the fastest growing COG group in the 21st century, known as the Continuing Church of God.
Prediction	On December 19, 2011, Bob Thiel tried to meet with Dr. Meredith to tell him that it seemed God was telling him that his wife Sheryl was about to be struck with something serious.	In a letter dated January 12, 2012, Dr. Meredith reported that his wife Sheryl (who was much younger than he) was stricken with stage four cancer. She later died on November 29, 2013.
Prediction	In a book published on January 19, 2017, Bob Thiel listed many predictions related to the upcoming Donald Trump presidency. Plus he published others at <a href="http://cogwriter.com">cogwriter.com</a>	By mid 2019, events aligned with at least 19 predictions related to the Trump Administration. For details go to <a href="https://www.cogwriter.com/donald-trump-prophecy.htm">https://www.cogwriter.com/donald-trump-prophecy.htm</a>

Clearly the above are not all coincidental nor the only result of analytical news skills and biblical knowledge, particularly on those that were related to the health of Dr. and Sheryl Meredith.

Jesus said that fruits were the criteria to determine true vs. false prophets (John 7:15-20). The Continuing Church of God has the true fruits which show God’s favour.

If only two of the confirmed dreams and/or prophetic

fulfilments were the result of something from God (cf. Matthew 18:16), then, as alluded to before, this is Divine validation of Bob Thiel’s prophetic status. And since no other COG has God’s confirmation of a prophetic leader like this, this is something that any claiming to be true Church of God Christians should pay attention to. And, of course, anyone who accepts and truly understands biblical church governance realizes that prophets are only considered second to apostles (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11)—so if there are no accepted apostles today, those outside

of CCOG should consider that they need to properly respond to Philadelphian biblical church governance. Speaking of dreams and governance, back in 1980 Herbert W. Armstrong had a dream and made a statement about governance:

I remember I had said to this man in the dream, 'Well, the REAL QUESTION is whether this is GOD'S Church or the PEOPLE'S Church! If it is GOD'S Church, then GOD is running it, and revealing what we shall believe and teach. GOD has the "say so". God runs it through Jesus Christ, who is the HEAD of the Church. And Jesus Christ runs it through His chosen apostle, whom HE, not men, chose, prepared and now guides and leads. Those men are getting your eyes off of GOD — you are leaving GOD out of the picture — out of the Church. You are looking only at people! (Armstrong HW. Shall We All Leave THE CHURCH OF GOD and Join 'THE CHURCH OF PEOPLE'? Good News, September 1980)

Christians should accept biblical governance and look to the proofs and signs God provides as opposing to look to the approval of humans, which most tend to do.

The Bible shows that part of the final phase of the work is being done by God's Spirit through His people (with God and angels directly handling other parts, e.g. Revelation 14:6-11), but many will not have the faith to believe:

6 This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:  
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'  
Says the Lord of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6)  
7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)  
5 Look among the nations and watch —  
Be utterly astounded!  
For I will work a work in your days  
Which you would not believe, though it were  
told you. (Habakkuk 1:5)

It is God's Spirit that provides the signs of Acts 2:17-18. CCOG has them! Can you believe since it is being told to you?

Most will not believe, but that was prophesied in

places more than just Habakkuk 1:5:

6 "Don't say such things," the people respond.  
"Don't prophesy like that. Such disasters will  
never come our way!" (Micah 2:6, New Living  
Translation)

16 ... You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel,  
And do not spout against the house of Isaac.'  
(Amos 7:16)

People will not want to hear!

Most end time Christians are Laodicean and WILL NOT accept a true prophet of God, including the two witnesses, until it is too late for them to take sufficient action!

Consider the following which will affect God's people:

26 Disaster will come upon disaster,  
And rumor will be upon rumor.  
Then they will seek a vision from a prophet;  
(Ezekiel 7:26)

Will you wait until it is too late (cf. Zephaniah 2:1-3)?  
Will you wait until after prophesied disasters to hit  
before heeding God's messages and messengers?

Would you, instead, follow the lead of one that did  
meet all of the biblical requirements for a prophet  
as he tried to follow Christ? If you heard about one,  
what would you really do?

If you believe in biblical church governance and do  
not accept any self-appointed "apostles," should you  
not consider the Continuing Church of God as its top  
human leader meets the prophetic criteria and that  
the CCOG has the confirmed fruits of Acts 2:17-18?

The Bible shows that with New Testament era  
prophets that God ordains and has humans anoint  
them. I (Bob Thiel) was ordained by God and anointed  
by a COG minister. Oddly, many seem to prefer that  
humans always BOTH ordain and anoint.

Do not be Laodicean (Revelation 3:14-18) about this—  
"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1  
Thessalonians 5:21).

God expects Christians to accept the criteria in His word.

The Laodiceans do not want to hear prophets and even Jesus has to knock to get them to pay even minimal attention:

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (Revelation 3:20)

Jesus did NOT say He would knock the door down to force Laodiceans to change! He said He would knock. Can you accept His knocking?

Jesus also told the Laodiceans to “anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” (Revelation 3:18). The salve is responding to the work of God’s Spirit as His word teaches how it would impact the last days (cf. Revelation 3:22). Jesus “advised the spiritually blind Laodiceans to buy eyesalve of Him that they might have spiritual vision” (The Seven Cities of Asia Minor. Study guide for Ambassador College. Quotes from 1947 book by Taylor Bunch).

Will you answer Jesus’ criteria in the Bible? Do you have the proper spiritual vision to realize that prophetic dreams were to exist in these last days?

Although Jesus gave many signs (John 2:11; 6:2, 26; 7:31; 9:16; 11:47; 12:37), the people apparently wanted different ones:

37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”  
(John 12:37-38)

Jesus denounced those who wanted different signs from Him (Matthew 12:38-39). Non-Philadelphians are unwilling to accept God’s signs—that’s the biblical reality. God does not always show signs the way many seem to think He has to.

In Jeremiah 42, a remnant of the children of Israel approached Jeremiah and said that whatever God told him regarding where they should abide that they would listen. After Jeremiah told them the word of God, they decided that they would not accept it and did things their way.

Those who discount the confirmed signs of Acts 2:17-18 today are unwilling to believe the prophesied word of God, just like those who made excuses to not take the right action in Jeremiah’s day.

The New Testament warns:

40 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:

41 ‘Behold, you despisers,  
Marvel and perish!

For I work a work in your days,  
A work which you will by no means believe,  
Though one were to declare it to you.’ (Acts 13:40-41)

The Laodiceans were prophesied to have the wrong work and were condemned for it (Revelation 3:14-22). They are unwilling to accept the correct work in the end time, even when they are told.

The New Testament further warns Christians:

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom



did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. (Hebrews 3:12-19)

Sadly, many are lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-22) and have a heart of unbelief in the signs that God said He would use in these times.

Make the right decision today. Be a Philadelphian and be able to enter the rest from the coming hour of trial (Revelation 3:7-13). Those who will not believe the signs God provides will not enter in the place of protection from the coming great tribulation (cf. Isaiah 2:10, Isaiah 26:20-21; Revelation 12:14-16).

The apostles were confirmed by signs that followed them (Mark 16:20). God provided signs bearing witness to early Christians according to His Spirit and will (Hebrews 12:2). There have been signs that have confirmed the Continuing Church of God. Plus, consider that the old Radio/Worldwide Church of God pointed to a dream that preceded its formation as part of its confirmation that it had God's blessing.

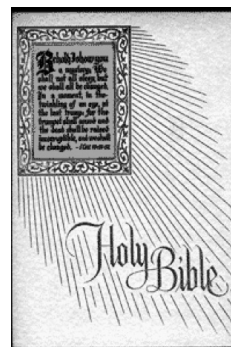
Please accept the criteria that God, not some organization claiming to best represent Him, has set for determining who is a true prophet of God. Do not add non-biblical criteria, which is what most have done.

If you are uncertain about what to do, please be like the Bereans and search "the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11), "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ" (Colossians 4:2-3), and do what God, above what any human, would want you to do (Acts 5:29).

The Continuing Church of God is the only COG organization with so many of the confirmed signs of Acts 2:17-18.

Would not that be expected of the most faithful remnant of the Philadelphian era in the last days? Can you accept the prophetic criteria that God established in the Bible?

# STUDY THE BIBLE COURSE



## LESSON 17A: WHAT IS SIN?

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

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

Many business people admit, that it is very difficult for HONEST people to SUCCEED in business. Especially in these increasingly foreboding days. But do YOU have to be dishonest, cheat and lie, to be able to adequately provide for YOUR family? – YOU who are learning more and more about God and His ways each day?

Here is the PLAIN TRUTH about financial security for YOU, written in HUMAN EXPERIENCE.

It was late in 1933 – the very depth of the great depression. Ed Smith was a well driller by profession,

but nobody seemed able to afford to have wells drilled.

Ed and his wife, Emma, attended services Herbert W. Armstrong was then holding in a one-room country schoolhouse twelve miles west of Eugene, Oregon. Ed made no profession of Christianity until later. But he attended services, and went up and down the countryside discussing Bible doctrines with his professing Christian neighbors.

"You've got to pay tithes and obey God," he insisted. "The Bible says so. It's PLAIN!"

One of his neighbors became irritated. "Look here, Ed," the neighbor exploded, "why do you come around here trying to talk me into these things, when you don't obey the Bible and pay tithes yourself?"

"Because," came Ed's quick and ready answer, "I don't profess to be a Christian, and you do. Besides," he added, "I can't afford to tithe, anyway."

There are millions who, like Ed Smith, reason in their own minds that they can't afford to tithe, even though, like Ed Smith, they realize the Bible commands it.

Herbert Armstrong heard about the above conversation, and preached a sermon on the question of whether the unconverted should obey the Ten Commandments and pay tithes, or whether, as Ed had reasoned, these things were only for Christians. He pointed out that God's law was put in motion for humanity's good – it is THE WAY of life that brings peace, happiness, prosperity, the full, abundant, interesting life; success, joy, HERE AND NOW, as well as eternal life through Christ for the saved.

He showed that it PAYS, and is the only sensible way of life, entirely apart from the matter of salvation. He pointed out God's promises to PROSPER the tithe-payer, and that this is a definite LAW God has set in motion, which operates inexorably and automatically on the just and the unjust alike.

Ed began to obey the Bible. At the very next service where Herbert Armstrong was holding services at this little schoolhouse three times a week, and three other nights a week in a hall in downtown Eugene at the time Mrs. Smith smilingly handed him a one dollar bill.

"That's Ed's first tithe," she said triumphantly. "We are now down to \$10, and Ed decided to start tithing with what we have on hand."

The very next service she came to Herbert Armstrong with another happy smile.

"Here's a five dollar bill," she said. "The very next day after Ed gave God's Work a tenth of all he had, a customer who had owed him \$50 for a year came and paid up. So here's the tithe of that \$50. After paying the total \$6 tithe, we now have \$54 on hand instead of the \$10 we had the other day."

It was beginning to PAY! But only BEGINNING! By the next service, as Herbert Armstrong remembered it, Ed had received his first order in one or two years to drill a new well, for which he received cash payment. Before he finished that job, another was contracted. Soon he had three or four jobs coming in at once, and was forced to begin employing men to work for him.

Ed Smith was only one of MANY Herbert Armstrong had known who learned by EXPERIENCE that one cannot afford NOT to pay God the tithe that BELONGS TO GOD! Herbert Armstrong remembered that Ed Smith did encounter some troubles of a different nature later, and his wife and son were sent to the state tuberculosis hospital, and he finally broke down in real repentance, accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. He came to Herbert Armstrong, according to the command of James 5:14, and both his wife and son were completely healed and returned home.

This is a true story, and the name is not fictitious. Ed Smith died many years ago, but Herbert Armstrong said he was happy to remember these incidents in his life in the hope they may start many others on the right and profitable, as well as the Christian way of life.

Why did God ordain tithing? Was it to place increased burden and taxation upon us? Let us not misunderstand God's love and wisdom!

It isn't that God really NEEDS your first tenth. He could have established some different system for carrying on His Work. But to have done so would have robbed us of the blessing that flows back to us if we are faithful in TITHES AND OFFERINGS!

The tither is invariably a prosperous one. Herbert

Armstrong said he did not mean WEALTHY – but one whose actual needs are always supplied. Tithers, if faithful and obedient to the Eternal, are not often found in want. “Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit THAT MAY ABOUND TO YOUR ACCOUNT” (Philippians 4:17, KJV).

God promises His children shall always have something to give (Deuteronomy 16:16,17). It is only when they withhold and misappropriate the tithe and OFFERINGS that He fails to prosper them. For through John He tells us “I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health” (3 John 2).

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the FIRSTFRUITS of all your increase; SO YOUR BARNs WILL BE FILLED WITH PLENTY, And your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

“PROVE ME now herewith,” challenges the Eternal to us, in a prophecy for OUR day (Malachi 3:10, KJV), “if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it” – financial blessings!

William Colgate, of soap fame, left home when a very small boy. He soon met a prosperous old sea captain. He asked the boy what he could do, and the boy replied he knew only how to make soap and candles.

“Yield yourself to God,” advised the old sea captain, “and pay Him a tenth of your income. Some day there is going to be a man at the head of the great soap industries in New York, and there is no reason why you should not be the man.” The boy took the advice, got a job, earned a dollar and paid a dime.

Very soon he earned two dollars and paid twenty cents. Soon he got a job in a soap factory and he continued to pay a tenth and to prosper. He rose from the common laborer to foreman. Later to manager, and then to president of the company, and finally he owned the entire establishment. As he continued to prosper, Colgate paid two tenths. He prospered still more and paid three tenths. Still he prospered, and he paid four. His prosperity kept increasing and he decided to give HALF of all his income. AND STILL HE PROSPERED!

Herbert Armstrong reported that he knew a man who started a small grocery business in a small city in

the state of Oregon during the great depression. He had practically no capital, had the poorest location in town, and refused to sell tobacco. Others said he could never succeed. Thus handicapped, starting in the beginning of the worst depression the world ever knew, not many would have dared pay a whole tenth.

This man decided he would be a faithful steward, take God into partnership, and trust the Lord with his business. He prospered from the start and was the only grocer in his town who weathered the storm of depression successfully.

When God receives His portion of all your income, God becomes your partner, sharing in your profits. He causes His partners to prosper, and if you are in debt, take God into partnership FIRST, and watch Him prosper you until finally you are out of debt! Remember the debt you owe God comes FIRST.

Yet so many say: “I don’t think it would be right for me to tithe while I’m in debt.” Yes, it is right, and not to tithe is WRONG, but it is also wrong not to pay your debts. “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” (Proverb 14:12.) God’s Word tells us what is RIGHT, and God tells us to pay His Work the FIRST fruits of all our income. Regarding our material and financial needs, even debts, God says “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33).

THE TITHE IS THE DEBT THAT YOU OWE GOD. This debt is FIRST in time and principle. Pay your debts to God, make Him your PARTNER in your finances, and receive His blessing in temporal affairs. This will enable you to pay your debts, or to get a job, or to have your needs supplied more quickly than if you evade His debt.

Remember your ALL belongs to Him, not to you (Deuteronomy 10:14). You are in the position of steward handling that which BELONGS TO ANOTHER. God is your silent partner, and the first tenth, in ADDITION TO OFFERINGS, is His share. The rest He gives freely to you. But if you appropriate for yourself His share, God says you are STEALING, and ROBBING GOD (Malachi 3:8).

The only SURE WAY to know you have God as partner and that He is taking care of your interests is to obey

Him in tithing.

God has graciously blessed you as you have YIELDED to Him according to the light He has revealed to you, from His Word! While you have the light, WALK in it, lest darkness come upon you! (John 12:35-36.) "GROW in the grace and KNOWLEDGE of our Lord ..." (2 Peter 3:18). See also Romans 11:22.

Seek FIRST the Kingdom, and your material needs shall be ADDED (Matthew 6:33). Try it! Take God at His Word! PROVE HIM! (Malachi 3:10, KJV.) SEE HOW YOU BEGIN TO PROSPER! Be a faithful steward; make God your PARTNER and receive His BLESSING!

If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from God, honoring HIM instead of themselves with their substance, Christ's true gospel would go forth with such mighty power that the world would be SHAKEN TO ITS FOUNDATIONS!

## **IS OBEDIENCE TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS NECESSARY TODAY?**

The Bible teaches that "sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4) or as the KJV put it "sin is the transgression of the law."

What law?

God's.

WOULD YOU like to be given eternal inheritance in the Kingdom of God? – and have ETERNAL LIFE so you could CLAIM this inheritance?

"Yes, but what must I DO," you might ask, "to receive eternal life?"

When the young rich man asked Jesus Christ: "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I DO that I may have eternal life?"— Jesus replied, "if you want to enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS." (Matthew 19:16-17)

What?

KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS? That's what Jesus said!! Does that SURPRISE YOU?

## **False Concepts Today**

You've probably heard that obedience to the Ten Commandments is NOT NECESSARY today. That God's law was ABOLISHED – "NAILED to the cross" by Jesus Christ!

But is this assumption really true? This is no mere irrelevant theological or religious question. This is the very ESSENCE of your life – your home life, your social life, your business life.

It's the very CRUX QUESTION behind ALL world troubles today! Strange as it may seem, the Ten Commandments did not begin at Sinai. Yet, the law was in effect since no later than Adam. The reason that we say "no later" is that Lucifer and his followers also would have known about it. DISOBEDIENCE to the Ten Commandments has produced all the wars, SUFFERING and DEATH the world has experienced SINCE Adam!

The common FALSE teaching of much of modern Protestantism holds that the old covenant WAS the Ten Commandment law. That Jesus Christ came to establish a NEW covenant containing only grace and promises – liberty to do WHATEVER YOU PLEASE, but certainly NO LAW! "Grace ALONE IS what saves you now," they say. "NO COMMANDMENT KEEPING IS necessary today."

The basic arguments against the Ten Commandments are that they are burdensome (though the Bible teaches otherwise in 1 John 5:3), they were nailed to the cross, and that Christians are to love which fulfils all the commandments.

This diabolical teaching would lead you to believe that the law of God is harsh, CRUEL, ENSLAVING – that the fault of the old covenant was with the law, and since GOD gave the law, the fault must have been HIS!

Then there are those who believe the Ten Commandments are either the SAME as, or PART of, the RITUALISTIC LAW of Moses. That the Ten Commandments didn't exist until Moses and that they lasted only UNTIL Christ.

What MISUNDERSTANDING! What DISTORTION of the plain truth about God's law!

DO YOU realize that those who believe and teach

these false concepts are actually worshipping God IN VAIN – worshipping Him WITHOUT any prospect of receiving eternal inheritance in the Kingdom of God?

Listen to what Jesus Christ says to them: “Howbeit IN VAIN do ye worship me, teaching for doctrines the COMMANDMENTS OF MEN. For laying aside the COMMANDMENT OF GOD, ye hold the tradition of men ... [and now note the following especially] ... Full well ye REJECT the Commandment of God, that ye may keep your OWN TRADITION.” (Mark 7:7-9, KJV.)

Jesus plainly taught OBEDIENCE to the Father’s law: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who DOES the WILL of My Father in heaven”! (Matthew 7:21.)

(More information this can be found in our free book available via ccog.org titled: The Ten Commandments: The Decalogue, Christianity, and the Beast.)

## Back to the Faith Once Delivered

God warns us in the book of Jude: “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the COMMON SALVATION, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was ONCE DELIVERED unto the saints. For there are certain men who crept in unawares ... ungodly men, turning the GRACE of our God into LASCIVIOUSNESS, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 3-4).

Even before the New Testament was completely written, ungodly men had crept into the Church in an attempt to corrupt it by turning GRACE into LASCIVIOUSNESS.

And what is “lasciviousness”? It means “license” – unrestrained liberty – abuse of privilege. In other words, license to do what seems RIGHT in your OWN eyes – according to HUMAN CONSCIENCE – though it disobeys God’s law!

Notice two other translations which uses more common language:

3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s

holy people. 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)

3 Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. 4 I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvellous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Jude 3-4, NLT)

That change is exactly what some of the ungodly men in the first century were beginning to do – turning God’s GRACE into unrestrained privilege to DISOBEY His law! Turning to HUMAN conscience as a guide! We find this very SAME ATTITUDE permeating modern Protestantism today! (For more on that, check out the free book, online via ccog.org titled: Hope of Salvation: How the Continuing Church of God differs from most Protestants.)

That being said, early Christians DID believe that the Ten Commandments were part of the original faith.

It is truly bizarre that many people who think that they are Christian do not believe that they actually need to strive to keep the Ten Commandments.

The Apostle Paul kept the Ten Commandments (Acts 21:18-24; 28:17-19) as did the other apostles. There were not true Christians that did not strive to keep them.

The apostate and false apostle Simon Magus (Acts 8:13-23) is believed to have taught against the Ten Commandments (Against Heresies. Book III, Chapter 12, Verses 11-12; cf. Acts 8:23).

A major second century apostate known to have taught against the Ten Commandments and the Sabbath was Marcion of Pontus, who later went to Rome.



Marcion taught “his disciples to believe in some other god greater than the Creator” (Justin. First Apology, Chapter XXVI). Despite being a major apostate, he has been called “the first Protestant” (Harnack A. Marcion and his impact on church history Volume 150 of Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literature).

It should be noted that there was no faith like the type of Protestantism currently seen in many parts of the world in the beginning of the Christian church (check out also the free online booklets, Continuing History of the Church of God and Hope of Salvation: How the Continuing Church of God Differs from Protestantism). All early true Christians believed in keeping the Ten Commandments.

Those, like, Marcion and Simon Magus would be in categories that the Apostle Paul warned against:

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. (Romans 16:17-18)

Christians were not lawless like Marcion and Simon Magus (2 Thessalonians 2:7), but obedient (Romans 16:19). Sadly, many have followed their ways. Marcion, himself, was condemned by Church of God Bishop/Pastor Polycarp of Smyrna as “the first-born of Satan” (Against Heresies. Book III, Chapter 3, Verse 4).

## **Church of God Leaders Taught the Ten Commandments**

Polycarp of Smyrna was appointed bishop/pastor by the original apostles (Against Heresies. Book III, Chapter 3, Verse 4). “Polycarp related all things in harmony with the Scriptures” (Eusebius. The History of the Church. Book V, Chapter XX, verse 5).

Like the Apostle Paul (Acts 17:2; 18:4 see also 13:14,27,42,44), Polycarp’s custom was to preach the word of God on the Sabbath (Pionius. Life of Polycarp, Chapter 22). Unlike the Apostle Paul (Acts 21:39), Polycarp was a Gentile.

In his Letter to the Philippians, Polycarp repeatedly taught that Christians should keep the commandments (chapters 2,4,5, & 11). He also warned about following the “vanity of many and their false doctrines” (chapter 7), who were following false forms of Christianity.

This is consistent with what the Gentile Ignatius of Antioch wrote as he warned against false Christians that would not respond to the “law of Moses” (Ignatius. Letter to the Smyrnaeans, Chapters IV-V). Let it be understood that Ignatius did NOT replace the Sabbath with Sunday as people who have relied on mistranslations of one of his writings have claimed—the Greek basically teaches that Christians are to keep the Sabbath the way Jesus did, and not follow the way of the Pharisaical (Thiel B. Ignatius and the Sabbath. Sabbath Sentinel, May-June 2016; Thiel B. More on Ignatius and the Sabbath. The Sabbath Sentinel, Volume 70 (2): 15-17, 2017).

Bishop/Pastor Melito of Sardis was also a Gentile. In his “Discourse Which Was in the Presence of Antoninus Caesar” he taught the commandments and mentioned that it was a sin to break them. Bishop/Pastor Theophilus of Antioch taught that the seventh-day Sabbath was still in effect (To Autolycus, Book 2, Chapters XI, XII, XIX). Regarding the Ten Commandments, which he called “ten heads,” he also wrote:

Of this great and wonderful law, which tends to all righteousness, the ten heads are such as we have already rehearsed. (To Autolycus, Book III, Chapter IX)

Like Polycarp, Theophilus also denounced the lawless Marcion.

Thus, it should be clear that Church of God leaders, who spoke and wrote in Greek, did not believe that the New Testament somehow did away with the Ten Commandments.

An anonymous 2nd century document that has been called “the oldest complete Christian sermon that has survived” (Holmes M. Apostolic Fathers, p. 102) repeatedly teaches that Christians must keep the commandments to be God’s people (2 Clement 3:4, 4:2-5, 6:7, 8:4, 17:3-7).

## Other Leaders

Leaders outside the Church of God, that various Greco-Roman-Protestants consider to be saints, also taught the Ten Commandments.

Bishop Irenaeus of Lyon, taught “all ... the words of the Decalogue ... remain permanently with us” and that since Jesus came, they were increased and extended and not abrogated (Against Heresies. Book IV, Chapter 16, Verse 4).

As far as the order of the Ten Commandments, the Roman Catholics accepted changes to the order that were not original. But they did, at least, profess that they should be kept.

## There Were Compromisers

Sadly, the influence of Simon Magus, Marcion, and other apostates made some more inclined to compromise on God’s law. Imperial edicts against the Jews also persuaded many to compromise on biblical holy days like the Sabbath.

While most think that crosses are a “Christian” symbol, most people do not realize that the Greek terms translated as “cross” and “crucify” in the New Testament come from words meaning “stake” (stauros) and “impale” (sustaurōo) and are NOT specific to crosses.

In the early second century, notice the following charge against Christians in the late second/early third century:

Why have they no altars, no temples, no acknowledged images? (Minucius. The Octavius of Minucius Felix)

No acknowledged images means that symbols like crosses were not considered to be Christian symbols then.

It was not until the advent of the pagan Emperor Constantine that crosses became a widespread symbol for those who claimed to be Christian. Crosses most definitely were NOT part of the original faith. It was because of compromise with Emperor Constantine that other compromises with the Ten Commandments were adopted by many of the Greco-

Romans who claimed Christ (note that many items in the catacombs that people have claimed were early crosses, were actually millennial symbols per the Catholic scholar Bagatti’ Church of the Circumcision, pp. 298-299).

The warring religion of the sun-god Mithras and its customs and dress, as well as other pagan faiths, also affected many who claimed Christianity.

Those in the true Church of God refused compromises with the pagan religions and have continued to faithfully observe the Ten Commandments throughout the intervening centuries (cf. Dugger AN, Dodd CO. A History of True Religion, 3rd ed. Jerusalem, 1972. Church of God, 7th Day. 1990 reprint, pp. 252-253; 275-277) to this present time.

We in the Continuing Church of God are NOT Protestant as our spiritual ancestors formed the original New Testament Church of God in Acts 2 and we advocate keeping the Ten Commandments.

This present age is desperately lawless! Everywhere the spirit of disobedience is sweeping society. From the pulpits you hear that Jesus Christ abolished His Father’s Law – that it is not necessary to obey God today.

But your Bible says no one can be born into God’s Kingdom unless that individual recognizes and SUBMITS to the authority and rule of God in his life! Arguing with God or using human reasoning to evade the plain commands of Scripture will get us nowhere!

God is Supreme Creator and Supreme Lawgiver. He knows what is BEST for us. He has perfect wisdom and understanding and has given us His perfect law. We can therefore place ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE in Him and rely on His judgment which He has committed to us in writing – in the Holy Bible.

Yes, it’s time we look into the Bible to see what it really says about God’s law!

## Why Bad News Today?

The natural tendency is to use human reasoning to sidestep that which seems of lesser importance to us. It’s so easy for us to say: “I don’t see why God would want me to obey His law. It SEEMS SO IMPRACTICAL

in this modern age. Now here is the way I see it.”

The overwhelming truth is that God’s laws are AS PRACTICAL today as they were in the beginning when He originally gave them!

Have you noticed that the news today is nearly ALL BAD?

There’s a REASON why!

Not only do we have war, fear of war, and strife between NATIONS, but we also have strife and competition in BUSINESS. We have quarrels leading to divorce IN THE HOME. We have a nervous younger generation blowing off steam and getting into all sorts of troubles.

What’s the matter with us anyway? Are we AFRAID to stop and look at things as they really are? Do we dare recognize the fact that we are bringing all this fear and worry, this heartache, suffering and frustrating emptiness on OURSELVES?

There is a reason for it all. But are you WILLING to hear it? Will you DENY the TRUE reason? Or will you ACCEPT the TRUTH OF GOD?

## The Basis of Life

If you were told that GOD ALMIGHTY, the Creator, set in motion invisible, SPIRITUAL LAWS FOR OUR HAPPINESS and FOR OUR GOOD, and that all our woes and our troubles are the DIRECT RESULT of our REJECTION and TRANSGRESSION of those laws, you’d probably say, “But I’ve been taught that those laws were abolished by Christ!” Or, “Why, that’s a religious and theological question that I know nothing about. It has NOTHING to do with my practical, down-to-earth, everyday life anyway.”

You’re WRONG! It has EVERYTHING to do with your everyday life. It has EVERYTHING to do with all the bad news you hear and read about every day. It has everything to do with the fact that most people today are restless, discontented and not as happy as they would like to be.

It has everything to do with today’s chaotic world conditions, with social unrest and with the troubles most people are having in their own homes!

It is the TRANSGRESSION of God’s law of LOVE that has caused all the mental anguish and suffering in the world today!

## God’s Law of LOVE

God has ordained a law – the supreme eternal SPIRITUAL law which is LOVE. God and Love are inseparable, “for God IS love”! (1 John 4:8.) Love is the BASIC CHARACTERISTIC of God’s nature!

God lives completely in accordance with His law of love at all times! And God has ordained that we all must LEARN TO LIVE BY His law of love if we are to inherit the gift of eternal life. “For this is the love of God, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. And His commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3.)

Love toward God and love toward fellow humans – that is the very ESSENCE of God’s spiritual law (Matthew 22:36-40). The first four of the Ten Commandments teach us love toward God. And the last six teach us love toward our fellow humans.

These ten SPIRITUAL laws are summed up in the one word “LOVE.” They compose the Royal Law that James expounded – the Royal Law of Love! (James 2:8, 10). “Now the purpose of the commandment is love” (1 Timothy 1:5).

But humans are CARNAL – Unspiritual by nature. “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” (Romans 8:7)

We, of ourselves, do not have the SPIRITUAL LOVE necessary to keep God’s SPIRITUAL law. This love comes from God “because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts BY THE HOLY SPIRIT” (Romans 5:5). With this love we CAN FULFILL the law, for “love is the fulfilment of the law.” (Romans 13:10.)

God will give us His Holy Spirit as a FREE gift – IF we REPENT of our sins, are BAPTIZED and sincerely STRIVE to obey Him (Acts 2:38; 5:32). Notice the “fruits,” or Godly characteristics, which will be manifested in our lives if we have the Holy Spirit. “ LOVE, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22, 23.)

These attributes of God’s Holy Spirit are what enable

us to OBEY the various points of His SPIRITUAL law of love. And these are the “fruits” we must show forth in our lives to be born of God at the resurrection!

So, the Ten Commandments constitute a SPIRITUAL LAW that is inexorable and eternal. A law that is love and the FULFILLING of which is love – a law that was set in motion for our happiness to produce everything good which we have foolishly denied ourselves.

The Ten Commandments are obviously entirely DIFFERENT and SEPARATE from the RITUALISTIC “Law of Moses” which was just a code of PHYSICAL laws – NOT spiritual laws.

## Jesus Kept the Law!

Jesus tells us that our OBEDIENCE to the Ten Commandments is an absolute PREREQUISITE to receiving God’s gift of eternal life (Matthew 19:16-17).

But did Jesus really PRACTICE what He preached? Or does He expect us to perform the impossible?

Witness Christ’s absolutely SINLESS life (Hebrews 4:15). Had Jesus sinned in the SLIGHTEST POINT of God’s spiritual law, He could NOT have become our

Saviour!

Since Jesus was composed of human flesh with human nature, the same as we all have (Hebrews 2:14; 2:7, ASV), then HOW was He able to obey God? The answer is that He was BEGOTTEN by the Holy Spirit just as you can be – if you repent, believe and are baptized! Jesus had the POWER of the Holy Spirit working within Him!

Jesus Christ had the Father’s help to keep the commandments. Notice what He said:

“I can of MYSELF do NOTHING.” (John 5:30.)

“the Father who DWELLS IN ME does the works.” (John 14:10.)

The Father dwelt in Jesus by the Holy Spirit. And this power enabled Jesus to keep God’s commandments perfectly!

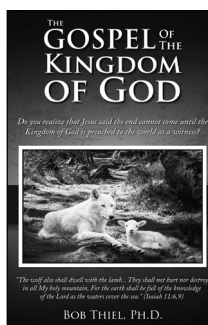
Christians have access to the Father and the Son (John 6:44; Hebrews 4:16)! We “can do all things through Christ who strengthens” us (Philippians 4:13).

This lesson is to be continued in the next edition of the Bible News Prophecy magazine.

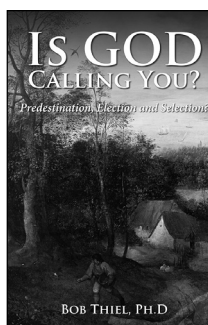
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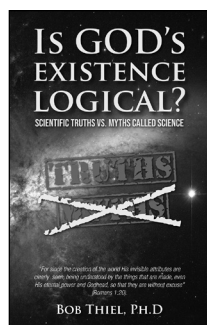
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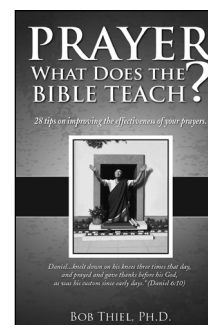
The Gospel of the Kingdom of God



Is God Calling You?



Is God's Existence Logical?



Prayer: What Does the Bible Teach?

# Questions and Answers



Q. In Luke 14:26 Jesus is quoted as saying: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple." What did Jesus mean by this?

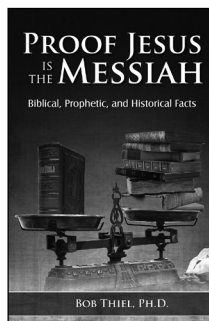
A Let's consider this verse in its context.

Jesus charged His disciples: "But I say to you who hear, LOVE your enemies..." (Luke 6:27). He also said: "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (Luke 6:31-32). In other words, Jesus clearly commands us NOT ONLY to love those who love us - which should include our relatives - but ALSO to love our enemies who hate us!

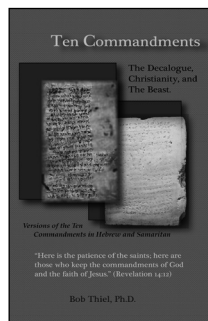
The Bible does NOT contradict itself! "... the Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Then what did Jesus mean when He said "hate" in Luke 14:26? The Greek word for "hate" in this verse is *misei*. Its Greek root can mean "to love less, to postpone in love or esteem, to slight" (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament).

What Jesus is saying, then, is that anyone who follows Him must LOVE HIM MORE than family or relatives or even his own life! In comparison to the great LOVE we ought to bear for Jesus Christ-the One who died for us, our Saviour and Redeemer-the love we have for human relatives must be less by comparison. Jesus said that the second great commandment is "... You shall love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39). But what is the FIRST great commandment? "You shall LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and GREAT commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38). One who has such love for God and His way of life will not compromise principle. He will not put any human relationship first. (Compare this with James 5:4.)

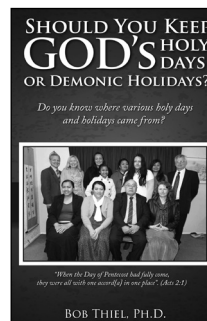
We should love God with ALL our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbors as ourselves-yes, even love our enemies. Jesus was not teaching us to hate our relatives, like parents who we are to honor (Exodus 20:12). But what Jesus meant in Luke 14:26 is that we must not put the demands and desires of our relatives and friends first-above our obedience to God Almighty!



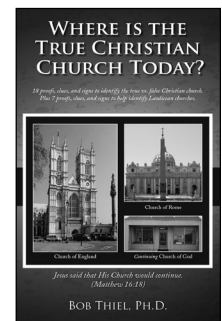
Proof Jesus is the Messiah



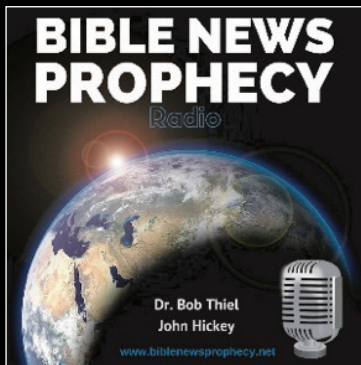
The Decalogue, Christianity, and the Beast



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



Where Is The True Christian Church Today?



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



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