

July – September 2021

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BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY

Can the
USA
Be Gone by
2028 ?

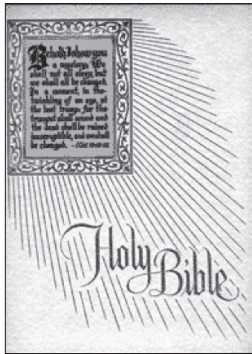
Day of Atonement

What might it mean?

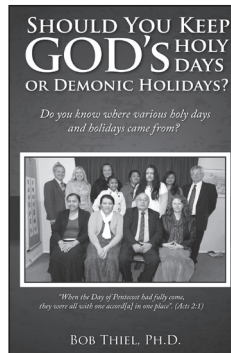
Dinosaurs Before Adam?

Why are scientists puzzled
by this catastrophic time
of great dying?

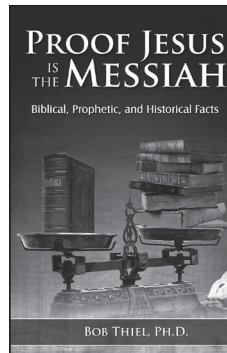
BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY



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

About the Front Cover: Artwork developed for the *Continuing Church of God*..

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Could the U.S.A. be gone by 2028?

Is there any prophetic reason to believe that the destruction and end of the U.S.A. can come before the completion of the next two presidential terms? Could the end of the U.S.A. and its British-descended allies happen before 2028?

Yes.

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

That Jewish view is consistent with the views of early Christians and some associated with them. Some believed that since God made/recreated the world in six days and rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3), that humans would have 6,000 years to live on the earth under Satan's influence. Humans surviving the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord will have a 1,000-year period to be under Christ's reign (the original creation of the universe may have been billions of years earlier c.f. Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 45:18); The 6,000 plus 1,000 years equals God's seven-thousand-year plan.

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

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

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

It has been taught in accordance with R. Kattina: Just as the seventh year is one year of release in seven {Leviticus 25:1-7}, so is the world: one thousand years out of seven shall be fallow, as it is written, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day' {Isaiah 2:17}, and it is further said, A

Psalms and song for the Sabbath day {Psalm 92:1}, meaning the day that is altogether Sabbath — and it is also said, For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past {Psalm 90:4}.

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

And while there are some errors from a Christian perspective in the above, Jewish sages have taught that there is a six-thousand-year plan, that the current two thousand years essentially represents the Messianic/Church era (which looks to end by 2031), and that a one-thousand-year period remains.

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

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

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

Again, that is consistent with the view that the world as we know it will end after 6,000 years, followed by a 1,000-year millennium.

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

In the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, v. 4. Jews collect that vulgar tradition that after the world has stood six thousand years (a thousand years being to

God as one day) it shall cease, and the eternal sabbath shall succeed ...

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

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

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

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

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

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

How long was Adam's day before he died?

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

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

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

Jews Assert a Wrong Year

Now, some may say, don't the Jews say that we are in year 5781 which runs from September 19, 2020 to September 7, 2021?

Yes, the claimed year is 5781 AM (anno mundi) by the

Jews.

However, the Jewish year claim confuses many people as the numbers do not add up with scripture.

Many Jewish scholars have recognized this error throughout history, and believe it was intentional (Seligsohn M. Seder Olam. Jewish Encyclopedia of 1906; Berkowitz AE. Scientist Claims Redemption May Be Much Closer Than You Thought. Breaking Israel News, June 28, 2018; First M. Jewish History in Conflict: A Study of the Major Discrepancy between Rabbinic and Conventional Chronology, 1997). The numbers related to the years were changed in the early 2nd century C.E./A.D. and are now off approximately 210 years.

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

Last Days Fit When 1,000 Year Days are Understood

Based upon certain calculations that I am currently aware of; it seems that Adam and Eve were created and/or apparently left the garden of Eden between roughly 3959-3972 B.C. It is most likely that the 6,000 years began once Adam sinned as Adam had not rebelled before then.

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

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

Anyway, it is logical that days five, six, and seven would have been considered as part of the "last days" by the early disciples.

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, since the events in Acts 2 appear to have happened 31 A.D. (or 30 A.D.), this would suggest that the 6,000 years should be up by 2031 — if not earlier.

Jesus was, of course, alive before 31 A.D., and perhaps the last days began as early as 28 to 30 A.D.

The Bible teaches that “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10).

God’s word also teaches that prophecy is important (cf. Isaiah 46:9-11).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notice something Hippolytus wrote in the early 3rd century:

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

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

And presuming that the great tribulation begins (Matthew 24:21-22) 3 ½ years before the end of the 6,000 years (the latest date which appears to be the Spring of 2031), then the 6,000 years would be up no later than late 2027.

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

The time of Jacob’s trouble (Jeremiah 30:7), also known as the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21), is coming.

The destruction of the U.S.A. and its British-descended allies (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom) is coming soon.

Getting back to Hippolytus, since he understood the “week” in Daniel 9:26-27 to be a seven-year period, his calculation would point to the deal of Daniel 9:27 occurring 7 years prior to the end of the 6,000 years.

In the early 20th century, the late Sabbatarian leader

G.G. Rupert taught the 6,000-year plan followed by a 1,000-year millennium (Rupert G.G. Time, Tradition, and Truth Concerning the End of the World, 3rd edition. Union Publishing Company, 1918, pp. 26-30).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assuming now as pretty certain that this world

shall last only about six thousand years, because such is the common opinion and expectation of humanity, how many years more, it may be asked, still remain to the end of this world. (Rossi, Gaudentius. The Christian Trumpet: Or, Previsions and Predictions about Impending General Calamities, the Universal Triumph of the Church, the Coming of the Anti-Christ, the Last Judgment, and the End of the World; Divided Into Three Parts, 4th edition. Patrick Donahoe, 1875, pp. 233-238)

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

Now it has been said that "if" is the biggest two-letter word in the English language.

So, to summarize this:

1. If, as the School of Elijah taught, God inspired Elijah to state that the world as we have known it would last 6,000 years, to be followed by a thousand-year sabbatical time, which Jewish tradition (Talmud, Tractate Sanhedrin [97a]) and early Christian traditions records (e.g., Irenaeus, a hearer of Polycarp. Adversus haereses, Book V, Chapter 30:4), then we are getting close to the end of that time.
2. And if, consistent with scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments, we can apply the concept that a thousand years is as a day to God (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8).
3. And if, as generally understood in the Church of God, Jesus was killed and resurrected at the time of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, which would be no later than the Spring of 31 A.D.
4. And if we can presume that the "last days" of a 7,000-year prophetic week began AFTER the middle day (day 4), then the last days prior to the "sabbatical" time, which some would refer to as the millennial Kingdom of God would last two thousand years.
5. And since Peter referred to being in the last days (Acts 2:17-18) and since Hebrews 1:1-12 teaches that

"God ... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son."

6. Then adding 2,000 years to a period of time leads to the end of the 6,000 years no later than 2031 (and it could be earlier than that).
7. Since the Great Tribulation is expected to start 3 1/2 years prior to that (cf. Revelation 12:14; 13:5) subtracting 3 1/2 years from the Spring of 2031 would be late in 2027.
8. Understand that the U.S.A. is prophesied to be taken over near the rise of the Beast and start of the Great Tribulation (cf. Daniel 11:39; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:21-22).
9. Therefore, since the end of two full U.S.A. presidential terms would end in January of 2029, these prophetic understandings point to the end of the U.S.A., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom prior to two full US presidential terms.
10. This is also consistent with certain Roman Catholic prophetic writings as well.

It looks like from certain Jewish, biblical, Christian, and Roman Catholic perspectives (and yes others associated with those faiths have other opinions), that the end of the U.S.A. may well happen before 2028.

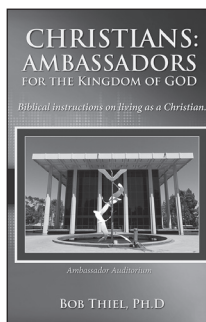
Jesus said to look for various signs (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21). Until we see certain of those signs, we will not know when the end of this age will be.

But if we see certain signs in the next couple of years (e.g., Daniel 9:27), that would be consistent with the view the end of the 6,000 years could be no later than the Spring of 2031 and that the Great Tribulation would start no later than the Fall of 2027.

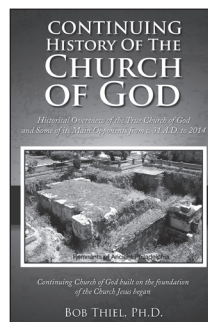
Perhaps it should be mentioned that since traditionally, the old Worldwide Church of God taught that the Great Tribulation would probably start in the Spring time (similar to the time of the Exodus) a Spring of 2027 or earlier could mark the beginning of the end of the U.S.A. and its British-descended allies.

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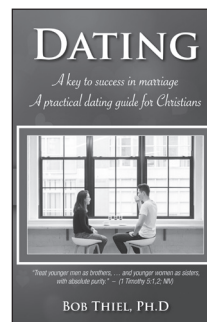
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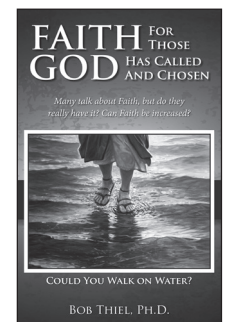
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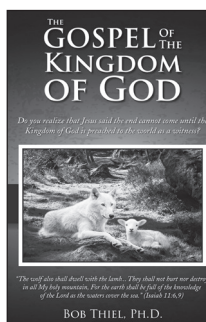
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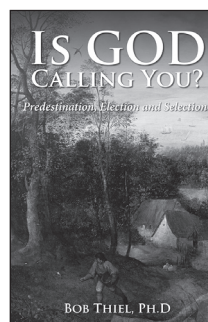
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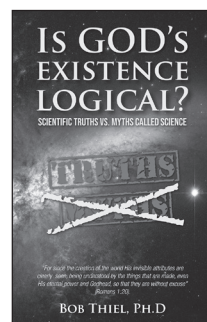
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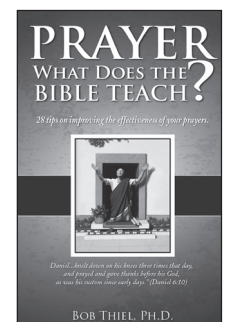
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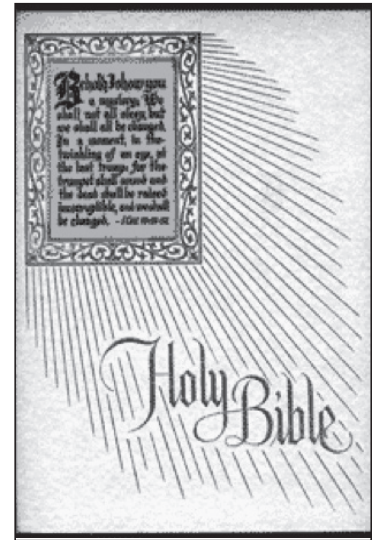
STUDY THE BIBLE COURSE

LESSON 20A: THE HOLY SPIRIT

Bob Thiel, Editor-in-Chief

Published 2021 by the *Continuing Church of God*

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



These spectacular lightning bolts are vivid manifestations of the **POWER** of God! Man stands in awe of the tremendous forces of nature. Yet few realize that the physical laws governing such phenomena were originally set in motion, and are kept operating, by the **DYNAMIC** Spirit of God. God sits at the controls of the entire universe – He rules and sustains His entire creation by the **POWER** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**!

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTION!

JESUS PROMISED HIS DISCIPLES: “you shall receive

POWER WHEN the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8).

What did Jesus mean by this statement? Is this the **SAME POWER** – the **SAME SPIRIT** – that resided in Christ and enabled Him to **OBEY** God **PERFECTLY**? **HOW** does Jesus’ promise also apply to Christians **TODAY**? Here is the amazing truth!

Power Not Inherent!

Practically no one today understands what the Holy Spirit of God really is. Some have **FALSELY** assumed and vaguely thought of it as something “mystic” – a

conception of nothingness – a hovering, fluttering “ghost,” a THIRD person of a “trinity.”

We hear a lot today about tapping our OWN HIDDEN RESOURCES – our “inner consciousness” – the “dormant powers” within the mind. Modern religions are springing up claiming you possess by nature great powers WITHIN YOURSELF.

But the TRUTH of the matter is that the Holy Spirit is something that was NOT BORN IN YOU! YOU were NOT born with this great power. It is something you must RECEIVE from God! (Acts 2:38).

Most people don't realize that the HOLY SPIRIT is a TREMENDOUS SOURCE of dynamic, SUPERNATURAL POWER that can BECOME A PART OF OUR VERY MINDS. It is the very ESSENCE of God Himself – His very life, His mind, His nature – and it IMPARTS POWER! And THIS IS the power we must have working within us before we can be BORN as God's Sons!

Jesus Had the Power

Let's look at the example of Jesus Christ, whose life was completely FILLED with this supernatural power. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He performed mighty miracles (Acts 2:22). He HEALED the SICK. He cast out demons, and He had discernment to know whether or not a person was demon possessed (Matthew 4:24; Mark 1:34). He STILLED the STORM (Mark 4:35-40) and turned water into wine (John 2:1-11).

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus KEPT God's laws – the Ten Commandments – PERFECTLY! (John 15:10; 1 Peter 2:21-22).

Jesus possessed tremendous power, but He said, “I can MYSELF DO NOTHING!” (John 5:30).

Few realize that His miracles and obedience were NOT done by any supernatural power of HIS OWN. They were done through the POWER of the FATHER! JESUS EXPLAINED: “the Father who dwells IN ME DOES THE WORKS! (John 14:10).

Power to Obey God's Law

Contrary to the common teaching among religious circles today, Jesus DID NOT do away with God's

laws! Rather, He established and MAGNIFIED them to GREATER SPIRITUAL REQUIREMENTS (Isaiah 42:21, KJV; Matthew 5:17-48). He taught it is now a sin just to HATE a brother in one's MIND! (Matthew 5:21-22; 1 John 3:15; Matthew 15:19-20; Mark 7:21, 23).

CHRIST MAGNIFIED THE LAW to its highest spiritual fulfillment and showed all the earth – by the life HE lived – HOW it is to be fulfilled in its PERFECT, SPIRITUAL INTENT! Control of bodily actions is no longer enough. Now THE MIND, the HEART, must also become PURE – SINLESS – just as Christ's was!

But the “no-law” deceiver will object, “No man can keep the commandments in their true spiritual intent. It is not HUMANLY possible.”

That's RIGHT! IT ISN'T HUMANLY POSSIBLE! Israel, under the Old Covenant, PROVED that carnal man, without the POWER of the Holy Spirit, could not keep God's law when even LESS of its fulfillment was required. They never even APPROACHED the fulfilling of the royal, SPIRITUAL law! And neither can we, OF OURSELVES. We need the MIRACULOUS POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD!

Holy Spirit Now Available

Creation is STILL going on! God continues to work out His great PLAN for man – even at this very moment! He made man – His greatest masterpiece of PHYSICAL creation – of the dust of the ground, in the CLAY IMAGE of Himself (Genesis 1:26; 2:7; cf. Isaiah 64:8).

But He did not at that time put His SPIRIT – the Holy Spirit – within man. Yet, this is the ONLY POWER which will enable man to keep the supreme SPIRITUAL LAW of LOVE – the Ten Commandments! And since man was made of MATTER and is mortal – having only a temporary physical life maintained by eating food, drinking water, breathing air, and the circulation of blood, wherein is the only “life” he possesses – God's Holy Spirit alone can impart ETERNAL LIFE!

Jesus Christ came to HERALD the glorious coming of the Holy Spirit. He said: “He who BELIEVES in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart WILL FLOW rivers of LIVING WATER.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him WOULD RECEIVE” (John 7:38-39).

Peter then clearly defined the way to RECEIVE this Spirit of power: “REPENT, and let every one of you be BAPTIZED ... and you shall receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

The TIME IS NOW HERE! The Holy Spirit can now begin to dwell in you. It is the ONLY POWER strong enough to enable you – composed of WEAK, mortal flesh – to keep the commandments and unlock the treasure house of blessings that God desires to bestow upon YOU IN THIS LIFE, and ultimately impart LIFE FOR ALL ETERNITY!

Many are BLINDED to this truth. Instead, they are attempting to gain these tremendous blessings by their OWN power, even though all the years of human history reveal man’s UTTER FAILURE!

Just HOW POWERFUL IS the Holy Spirit we all must have in order to keep God’s laws, and receive eternal life? Here is the astounding truth made PLAIN – from your Bible! See here the MIRACULOUS POWER of the Holy Spirit IN ACTION!

Before You Begin

Have you been PRACTICING the extremely helpful hints for successful Bible study that are given IN LESSON 4?

LESSON 4 was especially designed to HELP YOU get the MOST out of your study time. Its principles, applied, enable you to understand God’s Word in a way that was NEVER BEFORE POSSIBLE! Reviewing this special lesson from time to time will reflect your zeal and diligence in desiring to make EVERY word of God a part of your very being!

So why don’t you review Lesson 4 RIGHT NOW – before you go any further and forget!

Power of the Holy Spirit Demonstrated

1. Where does power reside? Psalm 62:11; 1 Chronicles 29:11.

Are all things possible with God? Matthew 19:26; Mark 10:27; Luke 18:27; Luke 1:37. Then isn’t God ALL POWERFUL? Same verses.

2. Who created the heavens and the earth? Genesis 1:1. Did God do this by His POWER? Jeremiah 10:12; 32:17.

COMMENT: GOD IS THE CREATOR! Here you are seeing the creative power of the Spirit of God in ACTION! God the Father and God the Son are COMPOSED OF SPIRIT (John 4:24). THIS Spirit is also the Spirit of GREAT POWER!

3. Did the Spirit OF God TRANSFORM the CREATIVE ENERGY of God – a thing which CANNOT be seen – into the physical creation we can see around us? Hebrews 11:3.
4. How did God utilize this power in His work of creation? Did He only have to command? Psalms 148:5 and 33:9. Also Genesis 1:2-3.

COMMENT: God “SPOKE, and it was DONE”. He is the One who said, “Let there be light” – and the Spirit of God moving upon the face of the waters PERFORMED the command, and “there was light” – INSTANTLY! The Holy Spirit is a miracle-working power. It overcomes obstacles. This is the Spirit of POWER we need within us!

Now read the entire brief 26th chapter of Job for more vivid illustrations of God’s INFINITE POWER.

5. Did God also create MAN by His Spirit of POWER? Genesis 2:7.
6. Does God’s Holy Spirit – His miraculous power – PERMEATE EVERYTHING – even the entire universe? Psalm 139:7-8. Is it also compared symbolically to FLOWING water? John 7:38-39.

COMMENT: Many simply do not understand the truth about the Holy Spirit.

At least one trinitarian scholar has admitted:

The language of the New Testament permits the Holy Spirit to be understood as an impersonal force or influence more readily than it does the Son ... The attempt to develop an understanding of the Holy Spirit consistent with the trinitarian passages ... came to fruition at Constantinople in 381. There were a number of reasons why the personhood of the Holy Spirit took longer to acknowledge than the Son: (1) the term pneuma,

breath, is neuter in general and impersonal in ordinary meaning; (2) the distinctive work of the Holy Spirit, influencing the believer, does not necessarily seem as personal as that of the Father ... in addition, those who saw the Holy Spirit as a Person, were often heretical, for example, the Montanists; (3) many of the early theologians attributed to the Logos or Word, the revelatory activity later theologians saw as the special, personal work of the Holy Spirit (Brown HOJ. Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church. Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody (MA), 1988, p. 140).

In other words, trinitarian scholars understand that:

- 1) a concept close to what is trinitarians teach about the Holy Spirit was not widely accepted until the fourth century,
- 2) normal understanding of koine Greek reveals that the Holy Spirit would be impersonal, not a person,
- 3) the work of the Holy Spirit can be attributed to an impersonal force from God,
- 4) second-century heretics were associated with treating the Holy Spirit as a person,
- 5) early church writers made statements contradicting the current trinitarian view of the Holy Spirit, and
- 6) after the trinity was accepted, later writers decided statements must support the trinity, hence essentially PROVING that the Holy Spirit as part of a divine trinity WAS NOT an original early Christian teaching.

Let me also add a seventh point. Scholars realize that the primary portion of scripture that many have pointed to as proof of the trinity – 1 John 5:7-8 – is a fraud.

Although the NIV gets 1 John 5:7-8 right, in the KJV and NKJV 1 John 5:7-8 includes words not in the original text.

On page 1918, The Ryrie Study Bible (1985) reminds everyone:

“Verse 7 should end with the word witness. The

remainder of v. 7 and part of v. 8 are not in any ancient Greek manuscript ...”.

In other words, the words “in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth” which the NKJV shows are not inspired and are not supposed to be in the Bible.

7. Does God SUSTAIN and UPHOLD His creation by the power of the Holy Spirit? Nehemiah 9:6 and Hebrews 1:2-3. Is He also RULING by this power? Psalms 66:7.

COMMENT: Here is further demonstration of the POWER of the Holy Spirit which we must have working WITHIN US. God sits at the controls of the entire universe – and He rules and sustains everything by the POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! God WILLS and SPEAKS His will, and HIS SPIRIT ACTS on any and all things He has created. All nature obeys His commands! We do not understand, and God does not reveal, the exact mechanism. But He does reveal enough of the GENERAL PROCESS. And we do have historical and scientific PROOF that all nature is obedient to Him. Christ’s miracles are also PROOFS of this.

8. Is God’s miraculous power revealed to us through His PHYSICAL creation? Romans 1:19-20. Also read rapidly Job, chapters 36:22 through to 42:6, to see how GREAT God really is!

COMMENT: ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR GOD TO PERFORM! (Luke 1:37.) Do you realize the full impact of that statement? Yes, God’s INCOMPREHENSIBLE POWER – by which He created the universe with its TRILLIONS OF STARS and made man from the dust of the ground – is so GREAT, that absolutely NOTHING IS impossible with Him! He has ABSOLUTE power! And a PART of that very SAME POWER CAN BE IN YOU!

Spirit Rejected in Eden

1. Is “the mind of the FLESH” – the carnal mind with which you and I were born – capable of obeying God’s SPIRITUAL laws? Romans 8:7-8. What does this CARNALLY MOTIVATED mind produce? Verse 6. But what is the product of a SPIRIT-DIRECTED mind? Same verse.
2. Is God’s Spirit a SOUND and SENSIBLE, LOVING

MIND? 2 Timothy 1:7.

COMMENT: A human mind UNITED WITH and guided BY the Holy Spirit of God leads to PEACE, POWER AND ETERNAL LIFE! But the CARNAL mind, WITHOUT God's Spirit, is HOSTILE toward God and cannot think clearly. Without it you are only "half there," so to speak.

To put it plainly, WE ARE NOT FULLY SOUNDMINDED until we obtain GOD'S MIND! Until we receive it, we are totally motivated by our inherently EVIL, carnal minds (Jeremiah 17:9).

The SOUND MIND which comes through the indwelling of God's Spirit means just what it implies. It is a truly BALANCED mind. The man possessing it is a BALANCED MAN – a WHOLE man – united with and guided by the Supreme Mind of the universe!

3. Was the Holy Spirit of God available to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? Genesis 2:9. But from what tree did they CHOOSE to eat? Genesis 2:17; 3:3, 6, 7. SIN seems pleasant – AT FIRST! Then Adam and Eve CHOSE NOT TO FOLLOW God's way to salvation, and thereby REJECTED the Holy Spirit – didn't they?

4. What was Adam and Eve's GREAT PUNISHMENT for disobeying God? Genesis 3:16-19, 22-24.

COMMENT: If Adam and Eve had partaken of the tree in the Garden of Eden that represented God's HOLY SPIRIT – the "tree of [eternal] life" – they would have

received the SPIRITUAL mind of God, and ultimately eternal life, if they had CONTINUED to obey God. But Adam and Eve had to DESIRE the Spirit of God and SURRENDER themselves to God's will in order to receive His Holy Spirit of ETERNAL life – exactly as all must do TODAY to receive it. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN BUT THIS ONE WAY TO SALVATION! But Adam and Eve CHOSE NOT to receive the Holy Spirit and eternal life GOD'S WAY!

Instead, they followed after the way that pleased their OWN CARNAL NATURE – the WAY that leads only to death (Genesis 2:17). And because of this SIN, God WITHHELD His Holy Spirit of love and eternal life from mankind (Genesis 3:24).

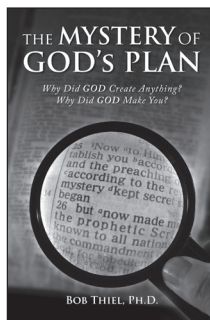
From the very minute mortal man DISOBEYED God, he was CUT OFF FROM ACCESS to the Spirit of God and the GIFT of eternal life! Ever since then, God has ALLOWED MAN TO GO HIS OWN WAY. God has set apart 6,000 years during which He has ALLOWED mankind to "BURN ITS FINGERS" – to learn that following the dictates of the CARNAL MIND leads only to misery and death! And mankind, as a whole, HAS CONTINUED CHOOSING the way of disobedience to God (Romans 3:23). Without the Holy Spirit, suffering and death have resulted!

But in His great mercy and love for mankind, God promised to make His Holy Spirit available to man once again!

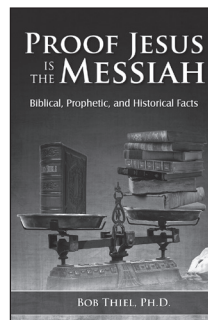
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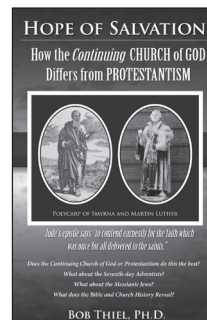
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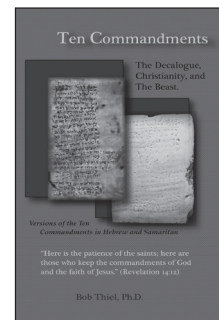
The MYSTERY of GOD'S PLAN



Proof JESUS is the MESSIAH



HOPE of SALVATION



TEN COMMANDMENTS
The Decalogue,
Christianity, and the Beast

The Day of Atonement

SHOULD YOU KEEP GOD'S HOLY DAYS OR DEMONIC HOLIDAYS?

*Do you know where various holy days
and holidays came from?*



*"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come,
they were all with one accord[a] in one place". (Acts 2:1)*

BOB THIEL, PH.D.

By Bob Thiel

In the 23rd chapter of the Book of Leviticus we read about God's Holy Days.

One of them is the Day of Atonement:

26 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. 28 And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God. 29 For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people.

30 And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. 31 You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 32 It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath." (Leviticus 23:26-32)

7 'On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall afflict your souls; you shall not do any work. (Numbers 29:7)

The seventh month of the Hebrew calendar tends to occur in parts of the Roman months of September and October.

Fasting is historically mainly how the phrase "afflict your souls" has been interpreted by the Jewish and Church of God communities (this is also verified by such passages as Psalm 35:13; 69:10 and Isaiah 58:5) to mean fasting, unless one is somehow ill, and thus is already afflicted. Evening to evening means from sunset to sunset.

The New Testament itself calls the Day of Atonement, "the Fast" (Acts 27:9), which not only indicates that the Apostle Paul was keeping it (which he would be per statements in Acts 21:18-24; 28:17), but that Greek-named Theophilus (the Christian which the Book of Acts was addressed to in Acts 1:1), also must have been or another term would have been substituted.

Observant individuals affiliated with the Churches of God will fast from sunset this night until sunset the next night (if they are physically able — nursing mothers, small children, pregnant women, and various afflicted others are not expected to fast — this is consistent with Jewish practices in this area as well). In this fast we go without food or drink.

Oddly, one Protestant report claims that one reason Christians do not need to keep the Day of Atonement is because there is no Jewish temple today (Cocherell BL. SHOULD THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST FAST ON

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT?). Yet, the biblical reality is that the children of Israel kept the Day of Atonement for centuries before there was a temple and the other reality is that the New Testament shows that Christians are now the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Two Goats

In the Old Testament, the Day of Atonement included a ceremony where the Azazel goat was sent to the wilderness (Leviticus 16:1-10). Christians see this sending of the Azazel goat away as picturing the time during the millennium when Satan will be bound and sent away for a thousand years in the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-4). This means that Satan will not be able to tempt and deceive during that time. The Azazel goat was not slain, nor is Satan pictured being slain.

Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, a goat is not sacrificed by Christians to observe this day (cf. Hebrews 10:1-10).

Yet, although Jesus was our Passover lamb sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7-8) and He was slain only once (Hebrews 9:28), we also see a time other than Passover where Jesus is ceremonially slain.

Why?

Many have speculated, but there could be clues along with the fact that this sacrifice happens before the release of the second goat.

The original Passover only resulted in the children of Israel being passed over for their sins. In this age, those who are true Christians claim the sacrifice of Jesus on His final earthly Passover for paying the penalty for our sins. But real Christians are a small minority of the population of the world (Luke 12:32; Romans 11:5).

Since the Bible calls Satan “the god of this age” who has “blinded” the world (2 Corinthians 4:4), most have been blinded and have not yet been covered by the sacrifice of Jesus. Yet this will happen for nearly all who will be called — either in this age or the age to come (Matthew 12:32). Showing the sacrifice, ceremonially after the church age ends, helps demonstrate that the sacrifice of Jesus was not just for those called in the church age, as God’s plan includes offering salvation

to all, and not just today’s elect.

By showing the sacrifice prior to the other goat being released, this shows that Jesus was not taking away the sins of Satan.

Jesus took the penalty of all human beings. But it doesn’t apply to humans until after God calls us and grants us repentance (John 6:44) and we come to be willing to repent and we come to believe. Not only in Jesus, but we believe the Son and we believe the Father, that is, we believe what They say. Also, we prove it by repenting, being baptized, being granted the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) and actually trying to live as They would have us live (cf. 1 John 2:6).

Kept Throughout History

The Day of Atonement was kept in the 4th century according to John Chrysostom who preached against it (John Chrysostom. Homily I Against the Jews 1:5; VI:5; VII:2).

This can also be seen in Canon 69/70 of the Syrian Apostolic Canons near this time which tried to ban it (Seaver JE. Persecution of the Jews in the Roman Empire (300-438), Issue 30 of University of Kansas publications: Humanistic studies. University of Kansas Publications, 1952, pp. 34-35).

A Muslim document, dated from the period of the 5th century, states that Jesus and His disciples kept the fast on the same days as the Jews. It indicates that Judeo-Christians were still keeping the Day of Atonement while the Greco-Romans came up with a 50-day Lenten-fasting period that Jesus did not keep (Tomson P. Lambers-Petry L. The Image of the Judaeo-Christians in Ancient Jewish and Christian Literature, Volume 158, 2003, pp. 70-72; Stern SM. Quotations from Apocryphal Gospels in ‘Abd Al-Jabbar. Journal of Theological Studies, NS. Vol. XVIII, (1) April 1967: 34-57). Reports from other historians support this view (e.g., Pines, pp. 32-34).

Furthermore, we see historical reports that it was still being kept in Transylvania in the 16th century (Liechty, pp. 61-62).

The old Radio Church of God observed the Day of Atonement (and the other Holy Days) throughout the 20th century. We in the Continuing Church of God continue to observe it today.

Jesus' Prophecies Fulfilled Outside the New Testament

By Bob Thiel

Are Bible prophecies really true?

Various ones have discounted the Old Testament and/or claimed that the writers of the New Testament deliberately wrote items to make it look like Jesus fulfilled various prophecies, hence they claim that there was nothing supernatural about Jesus.

Those who think that are deceiving themselves, as they are ignoring many proofs.

As it turns out, Jesus made many predictions that came to pass.

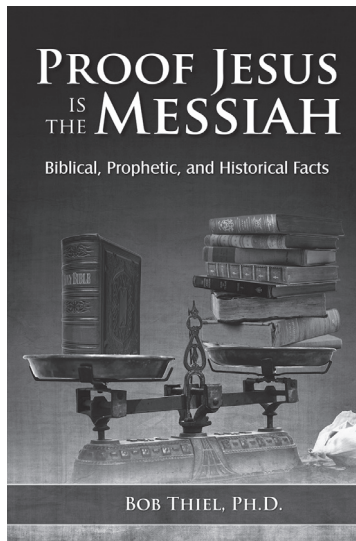
1. Consider the following:

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor."

10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." (Matthew 26:6-13)

And that story has been told throughout history.

2. Jesus, Himself, foretold that many false leaders would rise up and claim Him:



5 For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many. (Matthew 24:5)

That certainly has happened throughout history. There were early heretics and apostates, and this has continued throughout the entire church age (documented details are in the free online book, Continuing History of the Church of God, available at www.ccog.org).

3. Jesus warned about persecutions of His followers:

2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. (John 16:2)

That happened as we can see in the Book of Acts (Acts 7:59-60; Acts 8:1; 13:50). Plus, outside the Bible, the Jewish Talmud advocated putting Christians out (e.g., Berakhot 29a). Also, there are records of murderous persecutions throughout history, starting no later than the reign of the Roman Emperor Nero (e.g., Tacitus, Annals of Imperial Rome, xv.44).

4. Jesus warned about going before councils and being scourged:

17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. (Matthew 10:17)

This happened to many, if not all, of the original apostles (Acts 5:29, 40-41) and the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:20-37). We have also seen this type of persecution throughout history (e.g., The Martyrdom of Polycarp). Plus, there was a major Jewish persecution of those who professed Christ in 524 AD (Dysch M. Historians back BBC over Jewish massacre claim. Jewish Chronicle, May 2009).

5. Notice also the following that Jesus declared:

18 You will be brought before governors and

kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. (Matthew 10:18)

This happened to the Apostle Paul in the 1st century (Acts 25:23-26:23) as well as the late Pastor-General of the old Worldwide Church of God, Herbert W. Armstrong, in the 20th century (though he was not forcefully brought to meet world leaders, he did meet with them and provide testimony to the Gentiles).

6. Jesus also said people would claim to prophesy and cast out demons in His name:

22 Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" 23 And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (Matthew 7:22-23)

While the "in that day" is not yet here, throughout history various false ones have claimed to cast out demons in Jesus' name and to prophesying in His name, as well as to claim various wonders in His name.

7. Jesus predicted that the Christian church would continue and that death (called "Hades" below) would not eliminate it:

18 ... I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

Since the start of the New Testament church in Acts chapter 2 to present, the Christian church has existed and has not been eliminated (documented details are in the free online book, Continuing History of the Church of God, available at www.ccog.org).

8. Jesus also stated:

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Matthew 24:35)

There are over 5,800 ancient documents, composed of 2.6 million pages, which contain parts of the New Testament (McDowell J, p. 53) and many of those contain Jesus' words. Furthermore, His words have been translated into at least 1521 different languages (Latest Bible translation statistics. Wycliff Bible Translators. 08/15/18). Billions of copies of the New Testament have been produced in the past few

centuries. Jesus' words most certainly did not pass away.

How many others in history have made such bold claims about themselves and had them repeatedly confirmed for centuries later?

9. Jesus predicted that the gospel would one day be preached to all the world before the end:

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

Substantial efforts to do this have happened over the centuries. Some have claimed the gospel preaching already has reached all the world. While at least a partial witness has been given to many nations around the world, this will be completely fulfilled (to God's satisfaction) within the next decade or so.

10. Jesus also made a prediction that was fulfilled just a few decades after He made it:

1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (Matthew 24:1-2)

History records that the above was fulfilled by the Roman General Titus in 70 A.D. (e.g., Josephus. Wars of the Jews, Book VII, Chapter 1, verse 1).

While skeptics have tried to claim Matthew (or someone else) wrote this after the destruction of the temple to make it seem like Jesus predicted it, they have no proof of that.

Actually, internal statements in the Book of Matthew (like Matthew 5:23-24, 17:21-24, 23:16-22) likely would have been written differently if the temple had already been destroyed. Furthermore, in Matthew 21:13, Matthew uses the verb λέγει meaning "saying" (Green J. Interlinear Bible, 2nd edition. Hendrickson, 1986, p. 756) making the statement a historic present for the temple, as opposed to something that only existed in the past. Additionally, tradition, which admittedly is often unreliable, has Matthew martyred

Continued on page 21 --->>>

Dinosaurs Before Adam?



By Robert E Gentet

This article was originally published in the Plain Truth magazine in November 1963. Book and booklet titles edited to reflect what the CCOG has available in the 21st century. That being said, even scientists in the 21st century still debate what killed the dinosaurs and admit that numerous species “appeared suddenly” at the same time, which defies the slow evolutionary explanation that many choose to cling to.

What do the facts of science and the Bible reveal about dinosaurs — about the earth before Adam? Why is evolutionary geology unable to account for the sudden extinction of dinosaurs? Here are the answers!

DID you know that once literally MILLIONS of dinosaurs and other creatures suddenly perished from the face of the earth? Why? How did it happen?

Why are scientists puzzled by this catastrophic time of great dying?

Evolution Has No Answers

Probably you never realized that most scientists are AFRAID to look into the Bible. If they did, they would be shocked. They would find it to be the key to reconstructing earth’s history!

The Bible answers all these questions. It reveals whether the earth is older than man — just what kind of world God created in the beginning. But evolution has no answer to the SUDDEN disappearance of dinosaurs. No answers to the almost complete change of both plant and animal life forms at the end of what scientists have dubbed the “Mesozoic Era.”

Why is the present world fitted for man’s existence, while the world of the dinosaurs was unfit for human survival? Here is the answer.

Suppose YOU Visit a Museum

Take a brief walk through any natural history museum. It will reveal a vast array of charts and fossils depicting the theory of organic evolution. Geology, you will be told, provides evidence of a succession of life forms in the strata of the earth.

But does the record of the rocks really show this? Do the facts of science substantiate these “scientific” theories?

Furthermore, it is claimed, the earth is billions of years old and the fossil record — the aged bones, tracks, and other remains of extinct animals and plants — proves that life has been evolving over millions of years.

Why have scientists REBURIED the facts only to resurrect them in the image of their evolutionary theories? This article explains why.

Life, according to these scientists, began in what they call the ancient “Cryptozoic Eon.” Then, as it supposedly slowly developed into many different kinds of life, these “developing” plants and animals were buried in the rocks and became fossils. But do we find a record of “developing fossils” — a record of “half-way developed” plants and animals in successive order?

The answer is No!

Actually, the divisions of the geologic time scale, which you will see in any museum do NOT really represent great elapses of time. They depict rather thick sedimentary layers which were deposited quickly to preserve fossils.

But scientists say evolution is a very slow process. Therefore, the evolutionist, in order to prove his theory, creates different “eons,” “eras,” “periods,” “epochs,” and “ages” to allow what he considers sufficient time for evolution to occur.

These vast theoretical units of time, which evolutionists have allowed in the geological time scale, do not represent a succession of life forms in successive eras. They show, instead, the relative order in which life died during TWO great world-wide destructions — both of which are mentioned in the Bible.

What the FACTS Show

The vast array of charts, graphs, and long, detailed explanations of the scientists — based upon the fossil remains — seem to disprove what most professing Christians have been taught about the Bible. And no wonder! For what most professing Christians have been taught about the Bible is wrong!

It is time to look at the facts of science and see what they really do prove!

You don’t need to fear the facts of science, God’s Word is truth (John 17:17), The Bible was not written as a science textbook, yet whenever it does speak on events which would affect the geological question, it stands true!

Let us investigate the findings of science and see if they prove the theories of science or the teachings of The Holy Bible.

We can use any modern geology text-book to investigate these theories and facts. You don’t have to fear the facts of scientific research and discovery. Rather, use them as tools to make the Bible more meaningful. It is the evolutionist who is afraid of the Bible.

“The Time of the Great Dying”

Notice this admission from the well-known geology book, Historical Geology, by Carl O. Dunbar, here is what he says about the sudden extinction of dinosaurs.

“The end of the Cretaceous, like the close of the Palaeozoic, proved to be a great crisis in the history of life. For example, the dinosaurs were highly varied and apparently adaptive right up to the end of Laramie Time, yet not one is known to have lived to see the dawn of the Cenozoic Era (the age of man) The marine invertebrates did not escape the crisis.

“It is difficult to account for the simultaneous extinction of great tribes of animals so diverse in relationships and in habitats of life ... Whatever the cause, the latest Mesozoic was a time of trial when many of the hosts were ‘tried in the balance and found wanting’ — wanting in adaptiveness to their new environment. Walther has picturesquely called it ‘the

time of the great dying” (Historical Geology, pages 345, 348, emphasis ours throughout the article).

Naturally, this evolutionist has couched the time of trial and “great dying” in evolutionary language. But the fact remains that great tribes of animals suddenly disappear from the geological record in the Mesozoic rocks without any gradual extinction as the theory of evolution would require.

The dinosaurs are an outstanding example of this. Entire books have been written attempting to put forth reasons for the sudden extinction of the dinosaurs. Notice this amazing admission: “At the present time we can therefore only look upon the problem of extinction of the dinosaurs as a hard fact, as a closing of a most spectacular chapter in the history of life on the earth” (Dinosaurs, Colbert, page 259).

The “hard fact” and “problem” of the extinction of the dinosaurs as well as many other forms of life during the time Mesozoic rocks were deposited is indeed a problem for the theory of evolution. For, the theory does not allow for any sudden appearance or disappearance of life forms! Yet, the facts of science show this very thing has happened. The FACTS of historical geology do not agree with the theories of evolutionary geology!

SUDDEN Appearance of New Forms of Life

Evolutionary scientists are not only faced with the facts of the sudden disappearance of many varied forms of life, but they also have to account for the sudden appearance of new forms of life. Notice this admission, once again from the book Historical Geology:

“G. G. Simpson he has said, that most dramatic and in many respects the most puzzling event in the history of life on the earth ... is the change from the Mesozoic Age of Reptiles, to the ... Age of Mammals. It is as if the curtain were rung down SUDDENLY on a stage where all the leading roles were taken by reptiles, especially dinosaurs, in great numbers and bewildering variety, and rose again IMMEDIATELY to reveal the same setting but an entirely new cast, a cast in which the dinosaurs do not appear at all, other

reptiles are mere supernumeraries and the leading parts are all played by mammals” (page 426).

And on page 404 he states further: “Throughout the long Mesozoic Era — for more than a hundred million years — reptiles completely dominated life on the Earth; but at its close their dynasty SUDDENLY collapsed. Turtles, lizards, snakes, and crocodiles survived, but they are mostly small and restricted in their range, and few are aggressive.”

Yes, the curtain was rung down on the reptilian host — and suddenly! The reptiles alive today on the earth are no comparison to the vast and impressive numbers of these awesome creatures that once completely dominated the earth! This Mesozoic “Era” was the ringing down of the curtain in earthshaking destruction of this impressive host of reptiles. It was not an era in which animals lived and multiplied but a short, violent catastrophe.

CHAOS on Earth, Too!

Not only do we find that the facts of science show a sudden disappearance and appearance of certain life forms, but also the rocks reveal the earth itself has had radical change in its history. For example, the modern appearance of the surface of the earth would have been unknown in the Mesozoic Era: “Every feature of the modern landscape was shaped during the last short era of geologic time. The Alps and the Himalayas have come up from the sea floor; the Rocky Mountains have been worn down and then uplifted to their present height; the Appalachian Ridges have been etched into relief; and the other mountain ranges of the world have been elevated and sculptured to their present forms since the beginning of the Cenozoic Era. The streams also have attained the courses they now follow, and climatic zones have assumed their modern character ... This era (the Cenozoic Era) saw the modern world unfold!” (Historical Geology, page 352).

Here again, we must distinguish between the facts of science and the theories of evolutionary science. The facts show the modern mountain ranges, climatic zones, animals, and plants are a feature of this geologic time since Adam — the Cenozoic “Era.” However, evolutionary explanations of why or how these changes came about are only their theories.

There is a great difference between the theories and the facts of science!

The Bible the Only Basis

God gave His Holy Bible as a basis of all knowledge. Any “knowledge” contrary to the information revealed by God in His Word is untrue. If you have not proved the Bible to be the infallible Word of God, you need to do this ahead of further geologic research. Read our FREE books (online at ccog.org including *Is God’s Existence Logical?* *Proof Jesus is the Messiah*, and *Who Gave the World the Bible?*) Once you have proved the Bible to be God’s Word, you will have an absolute guide!

Then, what about the scientists’ claim that the earth is perhaps billions of years old, and that the fossil record in the rocks proves their theory of evolution? Is there any truth in either of these statements?

Much unnecessary confusion has arisen among Bible students who do not understand that the earth was created long — perhaps even billions of years — before man.

The Bible nowhere tells us when the earth was created. God does not tell us how long the earth had been in existence before He created man. However, Biblical chronology reveals that man has been on this earth for almost 6000 years. How can we use this knowledge to understand the record in the rocks?

Genesis I - The Key!

Using the facts of science, let us compare them with the teaching of the Bible. Let us begin with Genesis, chapter one.

There was a time lapse which occurred between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 (see www.cogwriter.com/gap-theory-old-earth-long-days-creation.htm). The earth ... was created at an indefinite time — perhaps millions or even billions of years ago, Man, however, has been on this earth only about 6000 years, as proven by Biblical chronology and supported by the historical records of many nations.

Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 tell of the time when the great archangel called Lucifer — who ruled the earth before Adam’s creation — rebelled against his

Creator and fought God’s loyal angels for control of the universe. In his rebellion, he led away one third of the angelic world (Revelation 12:4). Jude 6 tells us of this very same time. Satan did not want to remain on the earth as the angelic servant of God — even though the whole earth was then as beautiful as the Garden of Eden — but he became jealous and tried to take away the authority of God (compare Isaiah 14:13-14 and Jude 6). It was at this time that the archangel Lucifer became Satan!

This great battle for the control of the universe caused great destruction upon the earth. Animal and plant life of the types that then lived were destroyed, rapidly buried, and fossilized. The earth BECAME chaotic and void (as Genesis 1:2 is more properly rendered). Life was taken from the earth so that when God rebuilt the surface of the earth and created man and the many new life forms described in Genesis 1, 2, God commanded man to replenish — or repopulate — the earth (Genesis 1:28). The word “replenish” literally means “to refill” and would not have been used if life had not been on the earth in an age before Adam! The same word is used in Genesis 9:1 after the flood in Noah’s time had completely destroyed all animal life except that which survived in the ark. The earth had to once again be “replenished” at the time of Noah! Thus, this sin of the angels was therefore before the time of Adam’s creation. Remember it was very soon after Adam was created that Satan tempted Eve (Genesis 3). Lucifer had already fallen!

Remember also ... that the earth was without form and void (Genesis 1:2). The first six days recorded in Genesis 1 describe the surface of the earth being reformed out of a chaotic condition! Yet, Isaiah 45:18 plainly tells us that God did not create the world in this condition of a void wasteland! The earth became chaotic at the rebellion of Satan before the creation of man.

The truth now becomes clear! The earth had been populated by various forms of plant and animal life before Adam. At the rebellion of Lucifer against the authority of God, the earth was thrown into chaos and a time of “great dying” and “time of trial” ensued. Many animals vanished from the earth at the end of Mesozoic, never again to be found in the later rock strata. God did not give man a hostile reptilian world — filled with dinosaurs — to inhabit! Instead, He

Evolution: “It is also interesting to note that the fishes which achieved these latest developments (thin scales) include nearly all those that are used as food by man today” (page 131) As we have seen previously, the modern thin-scaled fish — edible for man — appear in the Cretaceous rocks! Here again we see Scripture wholly backed up by the facts of science! Both the time elements of their appearance and their usefulness to mankind are again confirmation of God’s Word!

The same is true concerning the true birds which appear in the Cretaceous rocks. Birds are very useful to man for food — as in domestic birds — and for holding a check on insects, weed seeds, and rodents. The beauty and song of birds were especially designed to please man’s senses. The flying reptiles of the pre-Adamic world would hardly appeal to man’s tastes or compare to the modern birds in usefulness to man!

The importance of mammals to man is immense — in the role of providers of food, clothing, and beasts of burden. The importance of mammals to man cannot be overemphasized! But the same could not be said of animals that existed with the dinosaur in Lucifer’s pre-Adamic world.

Continued from page 16...

about a decade prior to the destruction of the temple (Blanchard A. Book of Martyrs. N. G. Ellis, 1844, p. 17).

Furthermore, anti-miracle scholars really have no legitimate argument against the nine other earlier listed predictions that Jesus made that have been coming to pass. There are too many to dismiss as simply “lucky guesses.”

11. Consider also a conditional statement made by Jesus after His resurrection:

1 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,
... 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent.
(Revelation 2:1,5)

When Jesus said this, Ephesus was the most important city in Asia Minor, and it was a major coastal port. Centuries later, Ephesus lost its prominence and,

Dinosaur Mystery Made Plain

In summary, we have seen how the Bible does not tell us the earth’s age, but does tell us man has been on the earth almost 6000 years. Before the age of man, the earth was filled with animals and plants which characterized Lucifer and his host. The great dinosaurs and other forms of Lucifer’s world were buried in vast fossil graveyards perhaps as a result of Lucifer’s rebellion. Later, just before God created man, the earth had to be remade into a livable habitation for man (Genesis 1, 2).

But mankind has rejected God from his knowledge and wishes to substitute his own theories for the goodness of God (Romans 1:18-22, 28). The beginning of true knowledge comes only from a fear of God (Proverbs 1:7).

Evolutionists — without God’s Word as a guide — are “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7). Evolutionary scientists will continue to devise and discard one theory after another, but the facts of science will always agree with God’s Word!

ended up, via silting, to be about 6 miles (around 10 kilometres) away from the coast! My wife Joyce and I personally verified this when we visited Ephesus.

Jesus made predictions about the other 6 churches of Revelation 2 & 3 that have come to pass, that I have not listed. Some of them are in the free online book, Continuing History of the Church of God (available at www.ccog.org).

Jesus made other predictions that were listed in the Gospels and then listed as fulfilled in the Gospels as well (e.g., His betrayal, Peter denying Him, etc.). But I have not quoted those here as some critics may claim those did not count because the New Testament itself is the historical source of both the prophecy and the verification.

But the others shown here clearly have been fulfilled as can be proven from the records of history.

More on fulfilled biblical prophecies can be found in our free book, online at www.ccog.org, Proof Jesus is the Messiah.

The Miracles of Jesus - Part 3

A Sabbath Healing



The Pharisees wanted to get Jesus in trouble. They wanted to be rid of him. They were always looking out for a way to trick Him, or trap Him.

Jesus went into the synagogue every Sabbath

day, teaching and sharing the Truth of God's word. On this day, there was a man right there in front of him with a withered hand. Jesus knew the pharisees were trying to catch him out. So, He asked them a question.

He asked, "Is it right to do good things on a Sabbath? Is it good and kind to bring life?" They didn't answer; they were speechless, because Jesus was right, of course.

"Stretch out your hand!" commanded Jesus. Just those words. How powerful His words are! In a few words the man was made whole again.

The Pharisees were fuming with anger at this! They got up and went out to make a plan to kill Jesus.

Who do you think was doing good on the Sabbath day? Jesus by healing a man, or the Pharisees by making evil plans?

WORD HUNT – Cross out every x, y and z to find words from the story

p	h	a	r	i	s	e	e	f
h	a	m	b	h	a	n	d	y
m	a	s	a	n	m	a	n	l
w	i	t	h	e	r	e	d	i
s	t	r	e	t	c	h	o	f
l	a	e	h	e	a	n	o	e
r	t	r	i	c	k	i	g	e

Mark Chapter 3:1-6

He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. 2 So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. 3 He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward." 4 Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. 5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.

Further Learning

Who was right and who was wrong? The Pharisees were angry every time that Jesus healed someone on the Sabbath day. In the previous chapter, Jesus and His disciples had done another thing that the Pharisees considered unlawful to do on the Sabbath day — that of 'harvesting'. All they had actually done, was to eat a few ears of corn, which was not contrary to God's Law.

Jesus was our perfect sacrifice for sin, so he must have kept the law perfectly; which He did.

Jesus explained that even King David, when hungry, had eaten the bread from the Temple itself! Preserving life takes precedent over the specifics of law and most certainly over man made regulations.

As it was, the Pharisees had made a long list of regulations — 613 to be precise. So fearful were they of losing control of the people, that they interpreted the Law and made everything so detailed. In doing this, they actually lost the spirit of the law, that is the intent that God ordained it, for it to be good. The law of love for our Creator God and for your neighbour.

In this healing account, perhaps the Pharisees had even sat this man there; right in the midst of the synagogue.

WOMEN - What Will YOU Be In God's Kingdom?

This article was originally published by the old Radio Church of God in its Good News magazine in July 1963.

Are women inferior to men in the eyes of God? Is this life a training ground for women as well as men? How can YOU become kings and priests in the Kingdom? Read this God's answers!

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

God's ministers have preached scores of sermons on the proper husband and wife relationship. Articles have appeared in both The GOOD NEWS and The PLAIN TRUTH magazines on this vital subject. Yet, many have misunderstood the entire lesson God intended. You have heard what you are NOT supposed to do — especially you women. You have heard how the husband is to be the HEAD of the wife and the household — and he is!



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

Are Women Inferior to Men?

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

Continued on next page --->>>

They watched and waited to see what would happen.

Jesus was keeping the Law correctly. He went into the synagogue to read or listen to the words of the Old Testament. When He was there, He saw a man in need, He felt compassion on him. Jesus performed an act of kindness: He demonstrated the power of the Living God through a few words.

The Pharisees were plotting evil, trying to trap Jesus — and on the Sabbath! What was in their hearts that day? Were they trying to worship the Living God?

Were they showing love to their fellow man? Were they showing by example the way to live according to God's Law? The answer to these questions is of course a resounding NO!

Their hearts were full of wickedness and hateful, even murderous thoughts. They were there with ulterior motives, they were not there to worship the Living Eternal God. They were not showing love of God. They were being deceitful — lying. They were plotting harm — murder. They were the ones breaking many of the commandments; Jesus kept them all.

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

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

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

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

What Can a Woman Do?

This life is a training ground for the coming Kingdom of God! What we do here and now determines the reward we will receive when Christ comes. We are told in Revelation 3:21:

“To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

We all must overcome temptations of Satan the Devil, the world around us, and our own human nature!

The way to overcome is to follow and obey the laws of God and adhere to His instructions in the Bible. Although the Bible generally admonishes all of us in

the male gender, this does not mean the female is being excluded. God refers to Himself in the MALE gender. When referring to mankind in general, God often refers to us by the pronoun he — yet all the women are included! But there are particular sections of the Bible devoted specifically to the male — and there are sections devoted specifically to the female!

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

What Women Should Learn

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

One of the clearest sections of the Bible on the direct responsibilities of a woman is in Paul’s letter to Titus. In this section, he gives clear admonition that women are to be taught the true laws of success for their happiness. Notice this section in Titus 2:4, “That they (the older women) may teach the young women to be sober (or as you find in the margin, WISE).”

Why should a woman learn wisdom? The obvious answer is that it is not only a way to be happy now — but it is one of the very characteristics of God we must develop if we ever will inherit the Kingdom of God and rule with Jesus Christ. Next, the young women should be taught “to LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS, to LOVE THEIR CHILDREN.” Here are qualifies multiple thousands have never learned in today’s modern society!

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

Women should also learn to be “DISCREET.” Many women totally lack discretion. Have you ever read what Solomon said about a beautiful woman who

does not have discretion? Turn to Proverbs 11:22, “As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.” What a vivid comparison! The old saying “beauty is only skin deep” does have a measure of truth. There is nothing wrong with radiant health, a colorful complexion, and those qualities which make a woman beautiful — but if they are not followed up with real wisdom, DISCRETION and love, all that beauty is only skin deep!

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

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

The Qualities of a Good Wife!

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

By the labor of her hands she plants a vineyard or garden. She can work with a spindle or sewing machine. She stretches her hand to the poor to help when she can. She is not afraid of the snow because

her family is properly clothed. She makes fine linen. She opens her mouth with wisdom — not flippant, aimless gossip — and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

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

Think about these responsibilities! Are YOU fulfilling them?

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

Sewing and Shopping

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

Several of these verses show that a woman is able to make or purchase fine quality cloth or clothing.

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

Notice how the Scripture says she travels afar to purchase her food. With today’s modern supermarkets, this may not be necessary in every case. But in many areas, much better milk, eggs, butter, honey, fruits and vegetables can be purchased directly from a small farm right outside of your town! If this is true and you have not been getting certain items this way, you are missing some of the best tasting and BEST QUALITY FOODS. And one of the

best parts about it — this is something WOMEN really like to do! A wife can develop a great deal of wisdom and character just by properly handling the grocery items every week.

Rising Early and Gardening

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

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

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

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

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

Caring for the household is not a position to be taken

lightly. The added responsibility of rearing children must be taken seriously. If some of the duties have seemed insignificant in the past, the goal of getting them accomplished should encourage you all to strive more toward perfection.

Will There Be Male and Female in the Kingdom?

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

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

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

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

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

God’s angels do not marry. Neither will those born into the Family of God. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” We will no longer be mortal — but immortal We will all be composed of spirit. Now read 1 John 3:2, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God (whether we are male or

Brief Answer to a Scriptural Question



Q. How Do I Become a Member of the Continuing Church of God?

A. Since some have wondered how one becomes a member of the Continuing Church of God (CCOG), the following should help.

Let's start by looking at several scriptures about being a follower of Jesus.

Jesus said:

44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44, NKJV unless otherwise specified)

If God is not calling you in this age, you will not be a true Christian. It matters not how you act on the outside or how you see yourself. For more on the

female), and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he (Christ) shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see him as he is." At that time, ALL of us — if we have qualified — will be exactly like Christ!

What YOU Will Look Like

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

Women as well as men have been placed here to

calling, consider the free online book:

Is God Calling You? (note: all online books mentioned can be found at ccog.org).

If God is calling you, notice what the Apostle Peter said you should do (those wishing to argue against this, obviously would not wish to be part of the CCOG):

38 "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39)

In order to do that, you must have faith and believe in Jesus as your Savior:

10 let it be known to you all, ... the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth ... 11 ... has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:10-12)

If you have any doubts about Jesus, or to strengthen your faith, consider the following:

Continued on next page —>>>

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

Related to destiny, we have two free books, online at www.ccog.org titled: *The MYSTERY of GOD's PLAN: Why Did God Create Anything? Why Did God Make You? and The Gospel of the Kingdom of God.*

Notice also the following:

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

If you have any doubts about God, or to strengthen your faith, consider the following book:

Is God's Existence Logical?

You need to believe before you are baptized.

After immersion in baptism, a laying on of hands is done along with a prayer asking God to grant His Holy Spirit.

As far as receiving God's Holy Spirit goes, notice that it is given to those who obey God:

32 the Holy Spirit ... is God's gift to everyone who obeys God (Acts 5:32, CEV)

This is part of why Jesus said to "count the cost" (Luke 14:23) as "none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have" (Luke 14:33, GNT).

Jesus said:

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (Matthew 6:33-34)

Yes, you must have God's kingdom as your top priority. As far as righteousness goes, the Psalmist wrote:

172 ... all Your commandments are righteousness. (Psalms 119:172)

To be a true Christian, you will strive to keep God's commandments (see also the free online book: The Ten Commandments: The Decalogue, Christianity, and the Beast).

Christians accept and truly learn to understand the purpose of the Ten Commandments.

Here is what the Apostle Paul wrote:

5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love ... (1 Timothy 1:5)

God loves us:

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Why do we love God?

19 We love Him because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (1 John 4:19-21)

Jesus said:

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)

Loving brings tremendous benefits into our lives. Obeying God means that we will show love to Him and our neighbor. God guides us and shows us the way to living happier, more fulfilled lives.

Jesus confirmed that when He stated:

10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

God has set in motion a plan for our eternal salvation. This is a plan that will result in His people being able to give love in each one's own individual way to make eternity better for oneself and everyone else (more on that can be found in the free online book: The MYSTERY of GOD's PLAN: Why Did God Create Anything? Why Did God Make You?).

We are to show love to God and our neighbor by how we live and by supporting the work Jesus wants His Philadelphian church to do (cf. Revelation 3:7-13).

Once you have made the decision to put God first in your life, you should spend some time to determine if the Continuing Church of God is the appropriate church. You should also pray, and if possible, consider fasting about it.

We are NOT a Protestant denomination (for details, check out the free online book: *Hope of Salvation: How the Continuing Church of God differs from Protestantism*) nor Roman or Eastern Orthodox Catholic (see our free online book: *Beliefs of the Original Catholic Church*).

Study is an important part of a believer's life, especially when making fundamental decisions about the path you will follow.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV)

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. (1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV)

5 ... Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. (Romans 14:5)

Yes, verify that the Bible backs up what we teach.

We encourage you to be like the Bereans of old:

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. (Acts 17:11)

Also, understand that the various Church of God groups are not the same. In the Continuing Church of God, we strive to be the continuation of the Philadelphia portion of the Christian church. This is consistent with the following:

1 Let brotherly love {Philadelphia} continue. (Hebrews 13:1)

We strive to do that.

Yet, Jesus warned in His messages to the churches in Revelation 2 & 3 that most end time Christians would NOT be Philadelphia.

If you have already been appropriately baptized, then we also suggest that you read the Statement of Beliefs of the Continuing Church of God (available at www.cog.org). If you agree, will live as a true Christian, and wish to be part of us, then we accept true believers who wish to support us as we lead the Final Phase of the Work by proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God as a witness (Matthew 24:14), teaching all that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:19-20), working to reach the full number of those called in this age (Romans 11:25), while also preparing for the 'Short Work' (Romans 9:28), remembering the poor (Galatians 2:10), and proclaiming the Ezekiel Warning (Ezekiel 3,5).

You can contact a minister or other representative near your area to let him know you wish to be part of us. We also would expect you to live as a Christian and, among other things, keep the Sabbath, attend or watch our church services, and strive to attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

If you have not been appropriately baptized, or are not sure if you have been, and you believe you are being called to become part of the Continuing Church of God, you will want to meet with a deacon or minister in the church to discuss church teachings and get questions answered.

We have many congregations around the world, several of which are listed on our Congregations of the Continuing Church of God page at www.ccog.org. You can also read about the teachings of our church throughout this website as well as the www.cogwriter.com website. For more on counseling, etc., check out the article at ccog.org: *How does the CCOG handle Counseling, Prayer Requests, Funerals, and Anointing of the Sick?*

Please understand, there is no minimum or maximum amount of time required to learn about the church. The important thing is to believe the word of God and understand the about living as a true Christian. We also have a booklet that may help online: *Christians: Ambassadors for the Kingdom of God*, Biblical instructions on living as a Christian.

If you have not already been properly baptized, once you have turned your life over to God and learned about the church, you are ready to become part of the body of Christ. You become a member of the Church

of God through being baptized by a representative of the church. Baptism is a critical and fundamental step. Baptism signifies the death of our carnal nature and our being begotten as a follower of Jesus Christ. It allows us to partake God's plan of eternal salvation. Furthermore, baptism is a public statement to the church and the world that the believer is turning away from loving the world and dedicating his/her life to God.

But baptism is not the end.

Jesus taught:

22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)

You are not to give up and think just being baptized is enough.

To be a true Christian, you must desire turn your life over to God, study Christian teachings as found in the Bible and church literature, accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, start to live as a Christian, you must be appropriately baptized and have hands laid upon you, support the work of the church, and you must continue.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them. (2 Timothy 3:14)

If God is calling you, and you will learn, continue, and seriously do the other items mentioned in this article and what is taught in the Bible, you can be a member of the Continuing Church of God.

In summary, if you are not already a properly baptized part of the Church of God, in order to be considered a real member of the Continuing Church of God, you must:

1. Be called of God.
2. Be willing to seek first the kingdom of God.
3. Repent of your sins.
4. Accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
5. Strive to live as a loving Christian.

6. Be persuaded that our beliefs are biblical.
7. Contact a CCOG leader for counseling.
8. Be properly baptized and have hands laid upon you.
9. Support the work of Matthew 24:14, Matthew 28:19-20, and other aspects of the Philadelphian work.
10. Continue to live as a Christian and endure to the end.

We also have literature to assist you in the process.

Also, for those who wish, we also put out a weekly Letter to the Brethren, which has news as well as a recommended Sabbath service each week for our scattered brethren and others who request it. If wish to receive it, simply ask in an email to cowriter@aol.com The Letter to the Brethren is typically sent out on Thursdays.

Historical and Other Information

For some historical information on being part of the Church of God, here is something from the late Pastor General of the old Worldwide Church of God:

HOW One Becomes a Member ...

The CHURCH is composed of those who are the begotten CHILDREN OF GOD — of the FATHER of the divine Family. One becomes a begotten SON of God upon receiving within him {her} the Holy Spirit of God.

This Spirit comes from the very Person of God — it is, first of all, the impregnating LIFE of God — divine, eternal, ever — living LIFE. As the physical sperm cell from the body of a human father begets a human embryo that develops into a fetus and later is born a human child, so the Spirit of God begets us into a state by which we are called, even now in this life, sons of God (1 John 3:2).

Of What Composed

And thus it is that the CHURCH is composed of those who are the children of God. That is why the CHURCH is the Church of GOD, even as the Old Testament Church was called "the

congregation of Israel” — the human children of Israel.

That is why, also, one CANNOT PUT HIM{HER} SELF into the Church by “deciding to JOIN.” When he becomes a son of GOD, by having and being led by the Spirit of God (Romans. 8:14), then God has PUT HIM{HER} INTO the Church by begetting him{her} as a son {daughter/child} of God.

“Joining” a group that calls itself a church — having one’s name on the membership roll of some group calling itself a church — does not make one in true fact a member of THE Church Jesus founded. Here is positive proof: “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9). ...

God Himself decides which gifts to give each member: “But all these [gifts] worketh that one and the self — same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as HE will” (verse 11).

Continue: “For the body [of Christ — the Church] is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?” (Verses 14-15.) (Armstrong HW. Just What is the Church? Tomorrow’s World magazine, July-August 1970)

For more on the Church, check out the free online booklet: Where is the True Christian Church Today?

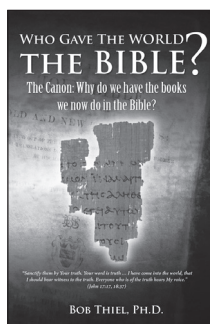
For more on the history of the Church, check out the free online book: Continuing History of the Church of God.

For more on God’s plan and your part in it, check out the free online book: The MYSTERY of GOD’S PLAN: Why Did God Create Anything? Why Did God Make You?

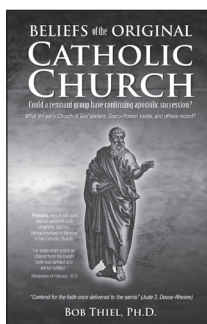
Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. (1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV). Respond to God’s calling and submit to Him and His ways. Then yes, you would be eligible to be a true member of the Continuing Church of God.

More FREE Continuing Church of God Books and Booklets

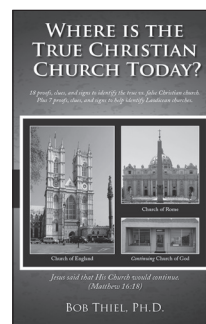
at www.ccog.org/books



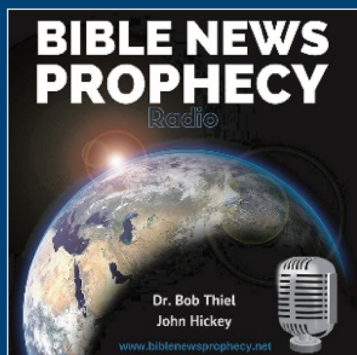
Who Gave The WORLD
the BIBLE



BELIEFS of the Original
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Where Is The True
Christian Church Today?



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



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

BIBLENEWSPROPHECY.NET Radio messages of biblical and prophetic interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BibleNewsProphecy channel

CCOG Animations channel

CCOGsermones Spanish channel

ContinuingCOG sermon channel

ContinuingCOG Africa channel



BibleNewsProphecy channel



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.



COGAfrica channel

COGAnimations channel

COGTube sermon channel

Prophecy channel



BibleNewsProphecy channel

