

# I'LL SEE YOU IN GALILEE!

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of the Holy Bible used throughout

Why was it necessary for the Prophet Jonah to remain three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish? Did it require 72 hours for him to repent of refusing to follow God's instructions? Couldn't he have repented after one day---or one hour---or one minute?

Why three days and three nights?

What about our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead! Didn't He declare He would be in his grave three days and three nights just as Jonah was in the fish's belly? But most "Christians" believe He was in the grave only one day and two nights---from Good Friday to Easter Sunday! What do you believe---and why do you believe what you believe?

Why would our Lord claim He would be entombed three days and three nights if it were not true?

What is the significance of three days and three nights?

Neither the Church of God nor the World has understood that World history has been seriously altered for not knowing the real meaning of why three days and three nights were necessary. In this booklet you will read the fantastic story and the all-important lesson of paying close attention to the Words of God as revealed in the answer to the question: *WHY THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS?*

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## Chapter One

# Listen Carefully To The Words Of God!

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” This statement comes from the Holy Bible as recorded in Romans 15:4. Truly, there is much written in the Word of God that mankind should have learned but definitely has not learned!

I Corinthians 10:11 explains that the lessons ancient Israel never learned are also examples for us today: “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” Recorded in God’s Word are many wonderful examples of faith and trust by men and women of God. Also recorded are tragic examples of a lack of faith and trust in God.

### Careful Listeners

The faith and obedience of the Patriarch Noah has been an inspiring example down through the ages of time. Genesis 6: 9, 14, 17, 18 and 22 describe Noah’s complete submission to his Creator: “These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God...Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch... And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons’ wives with thee...Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”

God spoke, and Noah obeyed!

The trials and tests of Abraham, the Father of the Faithful, are also examples of complying with the will of God without questioning. Genesis 12: begins the story of Abram (Abraham) and his immediate attention to the instructions God gave him. Verse 1 relates the orders Abram received from God: “Now The Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto the land that I will show thee...” Verse 4 records Abram’s prompt action: “So Abram went, as The Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.”

God said leave Haran; Abram packed up and departed no questions asked! All through the next 100 years, Abraham walked faithfully with God. The Eternal makes this wonderfully complimentary statement about this man known as the father of the faithful: “Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” (Genesis 26:5).

Noah and Abraham are two sterling examples of listening to God’s instruction and obeying in all sincerity. Now let’s review the example of one whom did not listen carefully and the intense suffering that resulted.

## The Prophet Jonah

The prophet Jonah lived in the town of Gathhepher, about two miles from Nazareth, in the nation of Israel, during the eighth century BC. We first read about Jonah as he prophesied in the reign of Jeroboam, the son of Joash, in II Kings 14:23-25: "In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, *and reigned* forty and one years. And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher."

Jonah's name means "dove" and perhaps characterized his personality as being a man of peace or possibly timid. Nevertheless, he had fulfilled his assignment to prophesy to King Jeroboam, and his positive action is recorded in the scriptures.

However, his next instruction from God was to take a warning message to the city of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. He was instructed to "cry against it"; to forcefully inform that *great* city that they must repent of their wicked ways, or God would utterly destroy them. This alarming message was to be delivered during the time of great resurgence of the power of the Assyrian Empire. Assyria posed an immediate threat to Israel, and Jonah's desire was for God to destroy them---not offer them a chance to repent. He knew God was very merciful, and that He might forgive them if they did repent. Jonah was a "respector of persons." Also, the ruthlessness of the Assyrians was well known and may have caused Jonah real fear. He didn't agree with God and resented his assignment, so, in faithlessness, he fled.

According to the Book of Jonah, chapter 1:1 and 2, God spoke unto Jonah these words: "Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me." Foolishly, Jonah thought he could run and hide from God. Verse 3 continues: "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD."

Tarshish was on the western coast of what is today known as Spain. God told Jonah to go to the east to Nineveh, but Jonah attempted to flee as far westward as he knew to go. It didn't work! Verse 4 show clearly that a man cannot hide from God: "But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken."

## Quick Repentance

As the ship was in danger of sinking, Jonah made known unto the crew that the mighty storm was sent as a result of his sin. He was at fault, and he knew it! He was attempting to flee from the Eternal God. In desperation they cried out to Jonah: "Then said they unto him, "What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us?" for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous." (verse 11).

Jonah then offers this frightening response: "And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you." (verse 12). As a last resort the sailors finally did as

Jonah advised them and "...and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging." (verse 15).

Since the 70's and Steven Spielberg's very realistic horror movie Jaws, when I think of Jonah's situation, verse 17 becomes the most terrifying scripture in the Bible: "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

Jonah describes his frightening ordeal in chapter 2 verses 3, 5, and 6, as he struggled against the waves and violence of the sea, finally sinking beneath the surface: "For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me... The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever..."

### **Unimaginable Terror**

As I read these scriptures the music from Jaws intrudes into my mind, and I can imagine poor Jonah thrashing about, his lungs about to burst, when all of a sudden---GULP! Furthermore, it appears that Jonah did not lose consciousness but was aware that a giant fish had swallowed him!

A giant black sea bass can grow to enormous size. They are easily able to swallow an adult human being whole. Interestingly, because of the account of Jonah being swallowed by a fish, the giant sea bass is also known as the "Jew-fish." Nevertheless, whatever this sea creature was, God had prepared it for this special purpose, and it didn't require much time for Jonah to repent of disobeying his Maker.

We can't imagine the terror and shock that Jonah experienced as he kicked and flailed about in the fish's mouth. Gasping and screaming, he was completely helpless as the action of the fish's gullet sucked him deep down into its belly. In total darkness, lying in the digestive juices of this fish that had intended him for a meal, all he could do was to smell the stench of the interior of the fish's belly and wallow in the digestive slime as an increasing pressure slowly squeezed upon him. Evidently, he could breathe as he shrieked aloud the most sincere prayers that he ever uttered! His fervent prayers appear to have contained many references he remembered directly from the Psalms that applied perfectly in his dire situation. Verses 1 and 2 record his unbearable condition, but with the hope that only God's Spirit could give: "Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and* thou heardest my voice."

Verses 4, 7, 8, 9 and the last phrase of verse 6 are a lesson of hope for all of us: "And I said, I am cast out from before thine eyes; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. When my soul fainted within me, I remembered The Lord; And my prayer came in unto thee, into thy holy temple...They that regard lying vanities forsake their own mercy... But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that which I have vowed. Salvation is of God...Yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God."

Read again the Holy Scriptures that put Jonah's entire ordeal into just three verses. Chapter 1:17, 2:1 and verse 10 sum it up: "And God prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and **Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights... Then**

Jonah prayed unto The Lord his God out of the fish's belly... And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.”

Jonah’s flight from God had begun as he set sail westward on the Mediterranean Sea, from the city of Joppa, approximately 50 miles northwest of Jerusalem. The best overland route to the city of Nineveh from the coastland of the Mediterranean would initiate somewhere in the area between the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon, about 100 miles north of Joppa. The Phoenicians were sea-going people. One of their many gods was the fish-headed god, Dagon. Can you visualize the shocking sight of a giant fish struggling into very shallow water and spitting a live human being out onto dry land? Here is a worshipper of Dagon, witnessing the amazing sight of a disgorged man struggling to his feet, horribly wrinkled and bleached snow white from the digestive juices of the fish, then observing the great fish twisting and flopping back into deeper water! How would those sights impact a worshipper of Dagon?

If it is true that there were Dagon worshippers there to actually witness this unusual sight, what amazing stories would precede the prophet Jonah as he hastened to the great city of Nineveh to issue the warning God had given him to deliver in the beginning? We are not told exactly how it all actually happened, but the warning message was delivered--and the Ninevites heard, feared, and repented!

We must listen carefully to that which God tells us! Jonah did not listen and suffered a horrifying wake-up call. Now, let’s ask again, why spend 3 days and 3 nights in that watery tomb? Jonah had repented before he splashed into the water, so why did God have him to endure 72 hours in the fish’s belly? The New Testament will give us the fantastic, previously overlooked answer!

## **Chapter Two**

### **The Words That I Speak Unto You...**

The Great Eternal God of the Old Testament known as The Word became Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the New Testament. The Apostle John writes, in his Gospel account, the following inspired words: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1: 1-4 and 14).

Our Lord Jesus, as the Eternal God, had prepared the great fish that swallowed up fearful Jonah. He was fully aware that Jonah had remained in the fish’s belly for a complete 72-hour period, a full three days and three nights! He was also aware that the Sign of Jonah was the sign He, Jesus, would use as proof that He was the Messiah!

The religious leaders of that time would not accept Jesus as the Messiah but viewed Him as a competitor. They witnessed many of the mighty miracles Jesus performed out of his great compassion for the masses of people that followed Him everywhere. Matthew 4: 23-25 records the fame that preceded Him throughout the land: “And Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of disease and all manner of sickness among the people. And the report of him went forth into all Syria: and they brought unto him all that were sick, holden with divers diseases and torments, possessed with demons, and epileptic, and palsied; and he healed them. And there followed him great multitudes from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judaea and from beyond the Jordan.”

These religious leaders refused to associate the miracles of Christ with the prophecies that plainly described what their eyes could see as the Messiah. In one of his confrontations with the Pharisees, our Lord had performed an astounding miracle, but instead of glorifying God, the Pharisees attempted to discredit Christ by claiming He was a false prophet under the influence of Satan.

Mathew 12:22-24 records this woeful attitude of these foolish leaders: “Then was brought unto him one possessed with a demon, blind and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the dumb man spake and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed, and said, Can this be the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This man doth not cast out demons, but by Beelzebub the prince of the demons.”

What an awesome miracle! What a dangerous accusation!

Verse 32 and 34-37 gives Christ’s powerful reply to his accusers: “And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in that which is to come. Ye offspring of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. The good man out of his good treasure bringeth forth good things: and the evil man out of his evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

### **Blind Eyes and Deaf Ears**

Please understand that which had occurred. The miracle that had been performed in the presence of these vain men was wonderful fulfillment of scripture---the demon that had blinded and caused the man to be dumb was cast out---and a great crowd of people had also witnessed it!

The Son of God, through the approval of God Almighty, had performed a merciful act. It was a miracle, a sign and a great wonder! Instead of praising God these spiritually blind and deaf leaders wanted **another sign!** “Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, Teacher, we would see a sign from thee” (verse 38). Luke 11:16 shows the depth of jealousy that engulfed the Jewish leaders as they implied the miracles were performed through the power of Satan: “And others, trying him, sought of him a sign from heaven.” These foolish men, through the hardness of their hearts, did not know to whom they were speaking. However, they received a very revealing answer as Matthew 12:39–41 declares: “But he answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given it but the sign of Jonah

**the prophet: for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”**

Why would our Lord relate Jonah’s time in the belly of the fish to his own entombment? What does three days and three nights have to do with Jesus’ resurrection? Why use three days **and** three nights as the only sign that He, Jesus of Nazareth, was indeed the Messiah from heaven?

### **“The Words that I Speak...”**

At another time our Lord had performed another spectacular miracle! He had taken five barley loaves and two small fish and fed five thousand men plus women and children. At that point those who had eaten wanted to make Jesus their king, but He eluded them and went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Later, the people found Him and were perplexed at how He had gotten there.

Our Lord knew their hearts. He knew they were not interested in Him for the spiritual benefit He could give them; they wanted to be fed again! John 6:26-27 makes it plain: “Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw signs, but because ye ate of the loaves, and were filled. Work not for the food which perisheth, but for the food which abideth unto eternal life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him the Father, even God, hath sealed.”

Again they could not grasp the wonderful words of truth He was speaking. He was expounding spiritual principles that the carnal minds of these people would not understand. Verses 48-53 emphasize this point: “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which cometh down out of heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread, which came down out of heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: yea and the bread, which I will give, is my flesh, for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove one with another, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Jesus therefore said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have not life in yourselves. These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.”

These were powerful spiritual words that even Jesus’ disciples did not comprehend. “Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it? But Jesus knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at this, said unto them, Doth this cause you to stumble? What then if ye should behold the Son of man ascending where he was before? It is the spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I have spoken unto you are spirit, and are life.” (verses 60-63)

The Son of God told them plainly: **“The Words that I speak unto you are Spirit, and they are Life.”** They paid no attention to these Words of Life---and altered history due to their failure to heed their Savior’s Words!

To understand we must look deeply, through God’s Spirit, into the words of life and pay attention to what is said!

## Chapter Three

### Why Do You Believe The Things You Do?

The Passover of 31 AD was fast approaching. Jesus, our Lord, knew He would be concluding his ministry very shortly. He was well aware that he would be required to give his life, in Jerusalem, as the Lamb of God. In Matthew 16:21-23 He informs his disciples of the impending events: "From that time began Jesus to show unto his disciples, that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall never be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art a stumbling-block unto me: for thou mindest not the things of God, but the things of men."

Peter did not want to believe his Lord would be killed; he wanted Him to be KING!

Before they left Galilee Christ told them again of the dangers that lay ahead: "And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be delivered up into the hands of men; and they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised up. And they were exceeding sorry" (Mat. 17:22-23).

Then finally, on his last trip in the flesh to Jerusalem, He reminded his disciples once more: "And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples apart, and on the way he said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests and scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him unto the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify: and the third day he shall be raised up" (Mat.20:17-19).

#### What's in a "DAY"?

In the beginning Jesus Christ, as the Word of God, created all things. (John 1:1-4). Also, after the rebellion of Satan, the devil plunged the earth and much of our solar system into great destruction. He re-created the earth and prepared it for man. On the fourth day of the re-creation week, He positioned the moon to orbit the earth and *set* both these astral bodies to orbit the sun, in a precision movement, to be a measurement of TIME! Genesis 1:14 declares: "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years...and the evening and the morning were the fourth day." (v. 19).

God created a condition called TIME that would have an affect not only on the earth but also on the entire Universe. One "day" would consist of approximately 12 hours of darkness and 12 hours of light. The "evening and the morning" were one "day" according to the Word of God. Seven "days" would make a week with the Seventh Day as God's Holy TIME---the Sabbath. A year was *set* as the length of TIME it would take for the earth to make one complete revolution around the sun: 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds.

The Word who was with God and was God, who created all things, at the specific TIME appointed---after 4000 years---became the Son of God, Jesus Christ: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.”

As the Passover of 31 AD drew near, Jesus knew the TIME for Him to give his life, as the Lamb of God, was imminent. He knew He was going to Jerusalem and there would be taken captive, mocked, scourged and crucified, but after three days and three nights He would be resurrected as the Firstfruit---the Firstborn from the dead! He had repeated this sobering statement time after time!

John 11:7-10 clearly informs us that the One who created “the evening and the morning” knew the length of TIME occurring in a “*day*” and a “*night*” ...“Then after this he saith to the disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. The disciples say unto him, Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If a man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because the light is not in him.”

Therefore, when the Jewish leaders asked Him for a sign, He replied categorically that the only sign they would receive was the duration of TIME He would spend in the grave. Just like Jonah was in the fish’s belly for three “evenings and mornings” or three 24-hour “days” expressed as “three days and three nights,” He would be in the grave for three days and three nights---72 hours!

### **Do You Believe What Christ Taught?**

Those are the words of Jesus Christ! He stated emphatically that the *only sign* they would be given, to prove that He was the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God and the Savior of the World, was the length of TIME He would be entombed---three days and three nights!

From late Friday afternoon until early Sunday morning by no stretch of the imagination are three days and three nights. He was placed in the tomb provided by Joseph of Arimathea as the sun was setting on that Passover Day. If this had been on Friday, He would have lain in the tomb all Friday night, all Saturday night and all day Saturday, which would be only one day and two nights! That is not three days and three nights, and it is NOT according to the *sign of the prophet Jonah*

If you believe the crucifixion was on Friday and the resurrection was on Easter Sunday, WHY do you believe it? That is NOT what Christ the Lord said! Have you NOT paid attention to the *words of life* spoken by your Savior? Do you know WHY you believe the things you do?

I ask the question again: **WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS?** WHY do “Christian” churches teach that Christ was in the tomb only half of the time He predicted? We need to carefully prove from the Word of God that Jesus Christ was indeed in the tomb for precisely THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS---and that the Friday crucifixion/Sunday resurrection is wholly false and has been successfully used by Satan the devil to “deceive the whole world.”

## **Have You Been Deceived?**

Our Lord's foremost warning to Christians is: "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matt.24: 4). Have you been able to avoid deception in this confused world? Are you absolutely sure you have not been deceived in your religious beliefs? Why do you believe the things you do? How do you know you aren't deceived? If you were deceived you really wouldn't know it would you?

Revelation 12: 9 states: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil and Satan, which deceives the whole world..." Has Satan deceived YOU? You live in this world! How do you KNOW you aren't deceived? Have you been in full awareness of the *words of life*? If you are deceived, do you want to understand the deception and turn from error to Truth?

Ask yourself the following questions: Are you a True Christian? Do you follow the teachings of Jesus Christ? Do you really know the Lord, Jesus Christ? Do you know that Jesus warned us about "false Christs" that would arise to deceive mankind? Our Lord sternly cautions us in Matthew 24: 24: "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; in so much that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

## **This is a Test!**

Therefore, if you say you know the Lord, are you sure you know the True Christ--- or have you been exposed to a false "Christ"? This is an extremely important question! God's Word, the Holy Bible, reveals a very plain and simple test to determine whether you really know the True Christ or have been deceived into worshipping a false "Christ"! I John 2:4 declares: "He that says, I know Him, and keeps not His Commandments, is a liar and the Truth is not in him." That's the test! DO YOU KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD? Verse 3 states: "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep the Commandments." Many of this world's "Christian" churches teach that the Commandments have been done away. Nevertheless, that is the very opposite of that which the Word of God clearly instructs.

## **A Christian Must Follow Christ!**

Sin is defined as the transgression of God's Law (I John 3:4). God's Law is spiritual (see Romans 7:14 and II Cor. 4:18) and in full effect today, and if we break the Law we sin! Do you fully understand this basic TRUTH of the Bible? In fact, you cannot fully understand the Truth of God's Word UNTIL you keep His Commandments. Psalm 111:10 states: "...a good understanding have all they that do his Commandments..." But WHICH Commandments? Our Lord declares in John 15:10: "If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His Love." I John 5:3 reads: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His Commandments: and His Commandments are not grievous." The apostle Paul adds in Romans 7:12: "Wherefore the Law is holy, and the Commandment holy, and just, and good." Do you keep His holy, just and good Commandments? Do you abide in the Love of God and Christ? I John 2:6 says: "He that says he abides in Him

ought also to walk even as He walked.” As a Christian, do you “walk” as He did? Do you follow Jesus’ example and live by the Commandments as He did?

In John 8:28-29 He tells us: “...when you have lifted up the Son of man, then shall you know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things. And He that sent me is with me: the Father has not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.” Do you keep the Father’s Commandments and strive to please Him---always? Christ kept ALL of the Commandments all the time--- He never sinned! Sin IS the breaking of God’s Law. Jesus taught absolute obedience to the Law of God! He told a young man in Matthew 19:17: “...if you will enter into life, keep the Commandments!”

Jesus states very plainly in Matthew 5:19: “Whosoever therefore shall break one of the least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.” Which do you consider to be the least of the Commandments? Which do you consider the greatest Commandment? Or do you even know the Commandments?

### **The Law of Love!**

In answer to the question of which is the greatest Commandment, our Lord states the following: “...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great Commandment. And the second is like unto it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself...” (Matt. 22:37-39). James, the Lord’s brother, expands on his statement in James 2:8, 10 and 11: “If you fulfill the Royal Law according to the scripture, You shall love your neighbor as your self, you do well...for whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if you commit no adultery, yet if you kill, you are become a transgressor of the Law.”

The first four of the Commandments explains HOW we are to love God! The last six of the Ten Commandments defines HOW to love our fellow man! If we break any ONE of the TEN Commandments, we break them all. As Christians we should not have any argument with keeping the Law of Love to our neighbor.

Romans 13: 8-9 tells us: “Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for he that loveth his neighbor hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not covet, and if there be any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” I John 4:20-21 makes it plain: “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. And this commandment has we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.”

### **Commandments Five Through Ten: Love to Neighbor**

The Commandments of God that teach Love to our fellow man.

#5-We must honor our parents.

#6-We must not commit murder.

#7-We must not commit adultery.

#8-We must not steal.

#9-We must not lie.

#10-We must not covet.

### **Commandments One Through Four: Love to God**

The first four Commandments show love to God our Father.

#1-We must not put other “gods” before Him.

#2-We must not bow down in worship to idols.

#3-We must not take His Name in vain.

#4-We must keep His Sabbath Day Holy.

Most “Christians” have no problem with the Commandments except the Fourth Commandment, so let’s take a cautious look at the Fourth cardinal Law of God; keeping the **Sabbath Day** holy. Most “Christians” know very little about the Sabbath Day! Do you KNOW which DAY IS THE SABBATH DAY? Have you been deceived into keeping another day other than that which God has made HOLY? Or have you been deceived into thinking you can keep every day “holy”? God has made only one day of the week HOLY! Please realize that man cannot make anything “holy”!

### **The Sabbath Day or Sunday...Which?**

Which DAY did Jesus keep? He did not sin on any day, and He kept Holy the only day of the week that was made Holy! Which DAY did the Apostles and early Church observe as God’s Holy Sabbath Day?

The Bible plainly shows that Jesus Christ kept the Sabbath Day! Luke 4:16 states: “And He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up, and as was His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day, and stood up to read.” Which Day is the weekly Sabbath that was Jesus’ custom to observe? Genesis 2:1-3 gives the definite answer: “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the Seventh Day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the Seventh Day from all His work which He made, And God blessed the Seventh Day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.”

This Great Creator God who rested on the Seventh Day was “the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us”--- Jesus Christ. See again John 1:1-3 and 14. Colossians 1:26 makes this plain: “For by Him (Jesus Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him.” Jesus Christ created the Sabbath Day, the Seventh Day of the week! Furthermore, the weekly cycle of seven days has never been broken.

Mark 2:28 declares: “Therefore the Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath”---the Seventh Day is the Lord’s Day---the Holy Sabbath Day!

The fourth Commandment is thundered out for all to read in Exodus 20:8-11: “Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy (it was sanctified as HOLY time at creation). Six days shall you labor and do all your work: But the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God: in it you shall do no work...For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth and all that in them is, and rested the Seventh Day: wherefore the

Lord blessed the Sabbath Day and hallowed it.” Jesus Christ created the Seventh Day as His Holy Sabbath Day and commands that man must keep it holy! Mark 2:27 relates Jesus’ words: “...The Sabbath was made for man (not just the Jews, but mankind), and not man for the Sabbath.”

The apostle Paul under the inspiration of God writes, in the New Testament Book of Hebrews, that Christians, as the people of God, (His Church, called the Israel of God in Galatians 6:16) must keep the Sabbath: “There remains therefore a keeping of the Sabbath to the people of God. For he that enters into his rest (the weekly Sabbath), he also has ceased from his own works, as God did from His.” (Hebrews 4:9-10). The Sabbath is a memorial of Creation, and we honor God by keeping it! The Sabbath is an identifying sign between God and His People (see Exodus 31:12-17). If we do not keep it we transgress the Law of God---we sin---and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)!

### **Paul’s Example**

Paul also writes in I Corinthians 11:1: “Be you followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” If Paul followed Christ he would also observe God’s Sabbath Day. This is exactly what we are told in Acts 17:2: “And Paul as his manner was, went unto them, and three Sabbath Days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.” Paul was in Thessalonica, a Gentile city, at that time teaching the Jews; however, in chapter 13, verses 42 and 44, Paul preaches to the Gentiles on the Sabbath: “And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath...And the next Sabbath Day came almost the whole city to hear the word of God.”

Paul did not try to persuade them to come on Sunday, the day after the Sabbath; he waited an entire week until the next Sabbath---according to the Commandment! But WHY do most of today’s “Christians” keep Sunday when there are absolutely no biblical instructions whatsoever to observe the first day of the week. Most very sincere Christians do not know why they observe Sunday instead of the Sabbath; they do it because of their tradition!

Our Lord brings out a powerful warning in discussing the observance of traditions instead of the Commandments of God. Mark 7:7 and 9 records His warning: “Howbeit in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the Commandments of God, you hold the tradition of men...Full well, you reject the Commandments of God that you may keep your own traditions.” Think about that; you worship Christ in vain if you are following men’s ways instead of God’s ways, if you are not heeding the *words of life*.

### **Sunday Not Mentioned In The Bible!**

There is no command in the Bible to keep Sunday! In fact, the word Sunday does not appear in any of the original manuscripts of the Bible. The “first day of the week” is mentioned only eight times, and in five of the places, the “first day of the week” is mentioned as the day AFTER the Sabbath Day! The scriptures are listed below:

- 1) Matthew 28:1: “In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.”
- 2) Mark 16:1-2: This is Mark’s account of the same events recorded by Matthew.

- 3) Mark 16:9: “Now when Jesus was risen, early the first day of the week he appeared first to Mary Magdalene...” Notice the correct punctuation; the comma placed after the word *risen*!
- 4) Luke 24:1 is the same as Matthew’s and Mark’s account; #1 and #2 above.
- 5) John 20:1 describes the same as the other Gospel writers.
- 6) John 20:19 lists the first day of the week but still the day AFTER the Sabbath.
- 7) Acts 20:7: Here finally is a meeting on the “first of the week.” However, this is not a Sunday morning service. This was during the Days of Unleavened Bread (verse 6), one of God’s Holy Seasons of the year. We will look at this again a little later. Paul was visiting the brethren in Troas for the Holy Day season and had just observed Sabbath Day services with them. After the Sabbath they evidently prepared a meal and “broke bread” together. God’s weekly Sabbath is from sundown on the sixth day (Friday) until sundown on the Seventh Day (Saturday) the Sabbath. All days in the Bible end at sundown---then another day begins (see Leviticus 23:32) With the meal ended, Paul continued speaking to them the Words of God on up to midnight. This was not a Sunday morning service but a “get-together” on Saturday night. He was to leave next morning and wanted to spend as much time with them as possible. However, the meeting was interrupted when “Eutychus” dozed off, fell out of a window and, evidently, was killed. God healed the young man through Paul, and then Paul went on speaking till sunrise. Next morning, on the “first day of the week”, the apostle then walked from Troas to Assos; a distance of approximately 20 miles. It was certainly not a “rest day” but a common workday, on that “first day of the week”!
- 8) I Corinthians 16:2 is the last scripture where the “first day of the week” is mentioned. This has nothing to do with a worship service on Sunday morning. Paul is instructing the people to gather vegetables or *fruit*, etc. from their gardens to send relief to their famine stricken brethren in Jerusalem (Acts 11:29 and Romans 15:26 and 28). This was not money because it was going to require several persons to transport the food to Jerusalem (verse 2-3).

### **No Sanctification of Sunday Admitted by Scholars**

Roman Catholic Cardinal James Gibbons, archbishop of Baltimore, admits there is no sanctification for Sunday in the Holy Scriptures. He wrote in *Faith of Our Fathers* (1876): **“But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify. The Catholic Church correctly teaches that our Lord and His Apostles inculcated certain important duties of religion, which are not recorded by the inspired writers. For instance most Christians pray to the Holy Ghost, a practice which is nowhere found in the Bible. We must, therefore, conclude that the scriptures alone cannot be a sufficient guide and rule of faith because they cannot, at any time, be within the reach of every inquirer; because they are not of themselves clear and intelligible even in matters of the highest importance and because they do not contain all the truths necessary for salvation.”**

Remember Christ warns that you must let “no man deceive you.” God’s Word tells us “Satan has deceived the whole world” (Rev.12: 9). Cardinal Gibbons has certainly been deceived as his writing shows. He openly admits that the Bible consecrates Saturday, but his Church teaches Sunday. His last sentence, underlined above, is in direct conflict with many plain scriptures. II Timothy 3:15-17 is very plain: “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Matthew 15:8-9: warns against religious leaders who put their tradition before God’s Word: “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.”

**Please seriously consider, if there is NOTHING even mentioned in the Bible in regards to worshipping on Sunday---and even the scholars admit this, WHY do “Christians” disobey the Commandment and keep their Sunday tradition? WHY? Remember first of all: Satan has deceived the whole world! Furthermore, he has deceived the people of God through their ministers that have also been deceived. Jeremiah 50:6 is only one of many, many scriptures relating this fact: “My people have been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray...” Yes, people have been led astray by their own religious leaders and are worshipping a false Christ---following their traditions---all in vain.**

### **Three Days AND Three Nights**

The main reason given for Sunday worship, one of the prime deceptions in the “Christian” world, is the belief that Christ was resurrected on Sunday---which is completely false. The crucifixion was NOT on Friday and the Resurrection was NOT on Sunday! If the Resurrection of Christ had been on Sunday, there would still be no excuse to break the Fourth Commandment. However, our Lord was not resurrected on Sunday---and we will prove this by the Holy Scriptures.

Remember, the only “sign” Jesus gave as proof that He was the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, was the length of time He would be in His grave. Read again our Lord’s statement in Matthew 12:39-40: “But he answered and said unto them, an evil an adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

As we have stated you cannot squeeze in three days and three nights of a full 72 hours between a “Good Friday” at sundown until an “Easter” Sunday morning. There is only one day and two nights in that time interval! But Christ said emphatically that the only sign He would give would be three days and three nights in the grave! So, if Jesus was in the grave only one half the time He claimed, His only “sign” would have failed --- His statement would be untrue---and we would not have a Savior! However, Christ WAS three full days and three full nights in His tomb! Every minute detail of His resurrection was according to the Holy Scriptures, and He IS our triumphant Savior and Lord!

Let me explain!

John 19:31 gives the answer: "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain on the cross upon the Sabbath Day, (for that Sabbath was a High Day)..." The "preparation" day for the weekly Sabbath IS Friday, but this "preparation" day was for a High Day, one of God's ANNUAL SABBATHS! Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God, and all scripture concerning His death and resurrection would be fulfilled exactly as the Word of God dictates. The last phrase in I Corinthians 5:7 declares: "For even Christ our PASSOVER is sacrificed for us." Yes, absolutely! Christ fulfilled the prophecy of the Lamb of God and was sacrificed as the True Passover on THE PASSOVER Day in 31AD. Passover in that year was on Wednesday and was the "preparation day" for the first ANNUAL SABBATH OF THE YEAR---the great High Day---the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

The Word of God makes no mention of Sunday, Christmas, Halloween, Valentine's Day, Easter, or any of the world's holidays. These holidays of the world came out of rank paganism and are condemned by God as the "days of Baal"! Please read Hosea 2:13 from the Revised Standard Version where it states: "I will punish her (Israel) for the feast days of the Baals."

The King James Version mistakenly translates the Greek word *Pasha* as "Easter" in Acts 12:4, but nearly all other versions translate the word correctly as "Passover." What do "eggs" and "rabbits" have to do with the Resurrection? Absolutely nothing! However, they have always been associated with the pagan spring goddess of fertility, *Ishtar* or *Easter*. You can easily prove this statement with most comprehensive encyclopedias.

The Bible definitely records God's Holy Days. As Christians, we are the New Testament "Israel of God" (Galatians 6:16 and I Peter 2:9-10), thus we must keep God's Holy Days---not the pagan days of a false god or goddess. God strongly warns us not to adopt any of the foolish practices of paganism (see Jeremiah 10:1-5 and Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

### **The Holy Days Of The Lord!**

Leviticus 23 lists the Feast Days of God. Twelve times in this one chapter, the LORD (who became Jesus Christ) proclaims these Feast Days to be HIS DAYS! Verses 1-7 thunder out the truth: "And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the Feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be Holy convocations, EVEN THESE ARE MY FEASTS." They are NOT the Jew's Feasts. They are God's Feast Days, established by the ONE who became Jesus Christ!

"Six Days shall work be done: but the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of Rest, it is a Holy Convocation; you shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings."

"These are the Feasts of the Lord, even Holy Convocations, which you shall proclaim in their seasons."

"In the Fourteenth Day of the First Month at evening is the LORD'S PASSOVER." (This day is in Nisan, the first month of the Sacred Calendar, which corresponds to March-April of the world's Gregorian calendar. This is the Day on which Jesus died in 31 AD, as the TRUE PASSOVER LAMB!)

“And on the Fifteenth Day of the same month is The Feast of Unleavened Bread unto the LORD: Seven Days you must eat unleavened bread.”

“In the First Day you shall have a Holy Convocation: you shall do no servile work.”

### **Passover, 31 AD**

Our Lord had partaken of the Passover with His disciples on the same night He was taken captive. Luke 22:14-15 state: “And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.” (As the sun had set on Tuesday afternoon the 13<sup>th</sup> of Nisan in 31 AD, the Passover lamb had been slain between the two evenings, and then, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the first month, it was prepared for the Passover meal. Of course, that little lamb was symbolic of the true Passover, Jesus Himself.) “And he said unto them, with desire have I desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” Christ kept the Passover on the correct hour and day. He instituted the new emblems that would be used at the Passover service from then on. Instead of slaying a lamb every year for each family, Jesus, on that Day, became the true *Passover*; slain for US! The Bread would represent His broken and beaten body sacrificed for our physical sins (I Peter 2:24) and the Wine would represent His blood (Lev. 17:11) poured out for the forgiveness of our sins---the transgression of God’s Law (I Peter 1:18-19).

Christians are commanded to continue observing this solemn Passover ceremony until Christ returns. I Corinthians 11:26 declares: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do show the Lord’s death till He comes.” Christians should do this as a memorial to the death of our Lord every year on the same day that He died---Passover Day.

Jesus died on the Passover Day at the same time the Jewish priests were slaying their Passover lambs in the Temple. The Jews keep their “Passover” a day late! Through the centuries they have been deceived into combining the Passover and the Seven Days of Unleavened Bread into one festival and call the entire seven days, “Passover.” However, that is not what the Law of God instructs. Numbers 28:16-17 commands the following: “And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the Lord. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the Feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.” These are plain instructions, but over the years, I repeat, the Jews have combined the Passover and the Feast into a seven-day festival; misnaming it: “Passover”!

### **Exactly 72 hours in the Grave!**

Christ was crucified at 9 a.m. on Passover Day and died around 3 p.m. as the Jewish population was preparing for their Passover Festival (see John 19:31 again). Regardless of the Jew’s festival, God’s Feast of Unleavened Bread would begin at sundown as the fifteenth of the first month began. This was an ANNUAL HOLY SABBATH DAY! It began that year on Wednesday at sundown and continued 24 hours to Thursday at sundown. Our Lord was taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb just before sunset on that Wednesday: Luke 23: 53-54: “And he (Joseph of Arimethea) took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on.” Yes! The Jews called it the “preparation” when truly it was the Passover Day---and the First Day of Unleavened Bread, an ANNUAL SABBATH, drew on.

It was an ANNUAL SABBATH, not the WEEKLY SABBATH, which began at sunset on Wednesday. Our Savior was placed in the tomb, at that time, just prior to sunset on Wednesday. Now, count three days and nights: He was in the tomb all night Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. He was in the Tomb all day Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Immediately prior to sunset on Saturday, the triumphant Jesus Christ was RESURRECTED by God Almighty and walked right through the solid rock of that tomb! He had been dead, lying in the tomb for three days and three nights, but now He was the Firstborn from the Dead! All scripture was completely fulfilled---His “only sign,” **the sign of Jonah**, proved that He WAS the Christ!

Those who keep Sunday, supposing it was the day of His Resurrection, are deceived into breaking the Commandments of God. Let me repeat; Jesus was in the grave for exactly 72 hours, but through the almighty Power of the Father, He was resurrected and walked out of the tomb late on the Sabbath (Saturday) afternoon **after three days and three nights!**

When the women came to the tomb early on Sunday morning, it was still dark. “And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices that they might come and anoint him, and very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun” (Mark 16:1-2). These devoted women had watched as Jesus’ body was laid in the tomb (Luke23:55). By this time at sunset, the Holy Day, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, had begun, and all Jewish businesses closed. So, where did they buy the sweet spices with which to anoint His body? Luke 23:56 brings out a clarifying point: “And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath Day according to the Commandment.”

Please understand; The High Day Sabbath began at sundown Wednesday, as our Lord’s body was placed in the tomb. Then the Jewish Passover/Unleavened Bread festival began. That Wednesday night and all day Thursday all Jewish business ceased for the First Day of Unleavened Bread. On Friday business was as usual, so the women bought sweet spices and worked all day Friday preparing them for the anointing of His body. Then they rested on the WEEKLY SABBATH---and before sunrise on Sunday morning they went to the tomb---and found it empty!

The main point here is that there were TWO SABBATHS during the crucifixion week that allowed for three days and three nights in the tomb precisely according to the scriptures. There is NOTHING holy about Sunday; however, God’s Days are Holy! Satan is the great deceiver, and Sunday is his counterfeit of the true Sabbath Day.

### **Seven Points To Remember!**

Here are Seven Points emphasizing the importance of keeping the Sabbath as Holy time:

- 1) The Sabbath was made for man: (Mark 2:27).
- 2) The Sabbath is a memorial of creation. God rested on the Seventh Day and created it as Holy Time: (Genesis 2:1-3).
- 3) In Exodus 16 God powerfully demonstrated, to Israel, which day was the Sabbath by the miracle of providing manna on each day except the Sabbath and the extra portion that could be gathered on the sixth day would not spoil on the Sabbath Day! This

began several weeks before the Ten Commandments were given and continued forty years!

- 4) Man is commanded to keep the Sabbath as part of the Law of Love: (Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15)!
- 5) Jesus Christ as the WORD created all things including the Sabbath and kept it, according to the Commandment, when He was here in the “flesh”: (Colossians 1:15 –16 and Luke 4:16)!
- 6) Paul and the early Christian Church kept the Sabbath: (Acts 17:2 and Hebrews 4:9)!
- 7) The Sabbath will be kept by the entire World in the Millennial Rule of Jesus Christ: (Isaiah 66:22-23).

Seriously consider those Seven Points. In a very concise format they present the Truth in regard to the Will of God and His Sabbath. Now you understand that as a Christian you must follow Christ and keep God’s Sabbath, His Annual Holy Days and all His Commandments. Jesus Christ is the same today, yesterday and forever (Hebrews 13:8). If He lives in you; you will keep the Sabbath day Holy! Remember, I John 5:3 tells us: “For this is the Love of God, that we keep His Commandments: and His Commandments are not grievous.” God’s wonderful Law is not grievous but a fantastic Blessing. In the last chapter of the last Book of the Bible, this promise is given: “Blessed are they that do His Commandments...” (Rev.22:14).

## Chapter Four

### I’ll Go Before You Into Galilee!

The Passover had finally come, and it was Jesus’ great desire to observe the occasion with his dear friends. Luke 22:14-15 declares: “And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...” He had told them over and over that He was going to be arrested, scourged and crucified, and the TIME for this to happen had arrived. Our Lord had many important points He wanted to emphasize to them on that memorable evening, but one especially important announcement was completely ignored by the apostles.

During the Passover meal Christ changed the symbols for the service. No longer would it be necessary to slay the little lambs for Passover. On that very *day* He would become **the Passover Lamb!** He would be our Passover; sacrificed for us! (Corinthians 5:7). Matthew 26:26-28 states: “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it; and he gave to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took a cup, and gave thanks, and gave to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins.” Then a little

later He shocked them with these words in verses 31-32: “Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended in me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am raised up, I will go before you into Galilee.”

Peter and the others affirmed their loyalty to Jesus claiming he would never offend them. But notice no one questions the second part of his forewarning!

### **“I Will Go Before You...Where?”**

What did He say? This was the Lord, Jesus Christ, making a very important statement --- but no one listened to this vital information! “...*After I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee!*” What did He mean by this? He plainly meant that later that evening He would be betrayed, taken captive, mocked, scourged and then crucified and killed. He would then be entombed for three days and three nights---like Jonah---then after those three “days” (72 hours) He would rise and come forth out of his grave! WHAT WOULD HE DO NEXT?

Jesus clearly said that after He was risen He would precede them to GALILEE! He would go before them into GALILEE; “I’ll see you in Galilee”! ---**WHY?** Furthermore, WHERE IS GALILEE?

### **Where Is Galilee?**

The Lord Jesus was from the city of Nazareth, in the province of Galilee. Galilee was the northern most region of the Nation of Israel’s three provinces. Judea was to the south, Samaria centrally located and Galilee in the north..

Jesus was called the Nazarene as prophesied. Matthew 2: 22-23 declares: “But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.” See also Matthew 21:11.

Our Lord began his ministry in Galilee as recorded in Mark 1:1, 9 and 14: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan... Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.”

Jesus’ carefully chosen disciples were Galileans as confirmed by the angels in Acts 1:11: “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

The first miracle performed by the Son of God was in Galilee. There He changed plain water into high-quality wine! “This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.” (John 2:11).

It is thought that our Lord also owned a home in Capernaum, which was located on the Sea of Galilee. “And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. And it

came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.” (Matthew 4:13, Mark 2:1 and Luke 17:11)

Nazareth was about 20 miles southwest from Capernaum, and Capernaum was approximately 85 miles north of Jerusalem as “the crow flies.” This was our Lord’s homeland, and He must have loved the area. Galilee had its mountains, hills, rich farmland and the coastlands of the beautiful Sea of Galilee (also called Sea of Genneseret and Sea of Tiberias). This is the area in which He spent most of his life in the flesh. During much of his later ministry, He knew Galilee was safer for Himself and his beloved disciples.

This is the reason He told them: “...after I am risen I will go before you into Galilee!”

**But they were not paying attention to these extremely important words of life.**

### Mocked, Scourged and Crucified

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was taken captive that Passover evening, mocked, scourged nearly to death, falsely condemned and crucified around 9:00 AM on Passover Day of 31 AD. His intense suffering came to an end somewhere after 3:00 PM as a Roman soldier violently shoved his spear up and through the side of his abdomen and into his chest. The spear made a wide gaping wound large enough for the apostle Thomas to later *thrust in his hand* (John 20:27). Our Savior died from loss of blood! His blood poured out from that terrible wound as Isaiah 53:12 declares: “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because<sup>8478, 834</sup> he hath poured out<sup>6168</sup> his soul<sup>5315</sup> unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Notice the embedded *Strong’s Concordance* number for *soul* is #5315 for the Hebrew word “nephesh” defined as: “From H5314; properly a *breathing* creature, that is, *animal* or (abstractly) *vitality*; used very widely in a literal, accommodated or figurative sense...” Observe how the same Hebrew word in Leviticus 17:11 is rendered as *life* and *soul*. This scripture tells us that life is in the blood---and our Savior poured out his life --- his blood. Lev 17:11: “For<sup>3588</sup> the life<sup>5315</sup> of the flesh<sup>1320</sup> is in the blood:<sup>1818</sup> and I<sup>589</sup> have given<sup>5414</sup> it to you upon<sup>5921</sup> the altar<sup>4196</sup> to make an atonement<sup>3722</sup> for<sup>5921</sup> your souls.<sup>5315</sup> for<sup>3588</sup> it<sup>1931</sup> is the blood<sup>1818</sup> that maketh an atonement<sup>3722</sup> for the soul.<sup>5315</sup>”

Matthew 27:45-49 records Jesus’ last moments before his death: “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.”

However, the following words are recorded in the Siniaticus and Vaticanus manuscripts and should be placed in verse 49 at this juncture: “**And another pierced his side and out came blood and water.**”

This phrase correctly inserted makes the reading completely understandable as we read verse 50: “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.”

As the spear tore into his side He screamed aloud and said “it is finished” and “In to your hands I commit my Spirit”---as His blood (his life) poured out, and He **died!**

John 19:34 should also be written as: “**For one of the soldiers with a spear had pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.**”

This correct rendering of the scriptures in Matthew and John is not *a private interpretation* or “New Truth” but OLD TRUTH taught by the Worldwide Church of God nearly 40 years ago and is in complete agreement and harmony with the Old and New Testaments.

### **The Burial and Resurrection**

Joseph of Arimethea received permission from Pontius Pilate to remove the body of Jesus from the cross and to bury Him in his own tomb. Remember this was on the Passover Day, and the annual Sabbath of the First Day of Unleavened Bread was approaching at sunset. John 19:42 clearly states this: “There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.”

Jesus Christ, the true Passover Lamb, was placed in Joseph's tomb shortly before the sun set on that Passover afternoon, on Wednesday of 31 AD. As we have stated, He was dead in that tomb for three full days and three full nights: all Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights---and all day Thursday, Friday and Saturday!

At the exact same time He was placed in the tomb three days earlier, Jesus became the Firstborn from the dead and triumphantly walked out of his grave! The Father, God Almighty, raised Him from the dead! The sign of Jonah was fulfilled precisely---our Savior, the Messiah was alive forevermore!

It should now be apparent from the scriptures that Jesus walked out of his tomb late on the Sabbath (Saturday) afternoon very near sunset; NOT Sunday morning as tradition would have you believe. **But where did He go that night after the sun set? What did He do between the time of his Resurrection and his appearing to Mary Magdalene on Sunday morning?**

**He did just what he said He would do; he went before them into Galilee as He had told them---“I'll see you in Galilee”!**

And Galilee was eighty miles north of Jerusalem---**a three days journey!**

## **Chapter Five If They Had Followed Instructions...**

The simple reason the prophet Jonah had to spend three days and three nights in the fish's belly was that from Jerusalem to Galilee was a three days journey. Jesus, our Lord, said He would be in the grave three days and three nights just like Jonah was in the fish's

belly to give His disciples time to reach the mountain area in Galilee that He had appointed! Jesus was concerned for the safety of his friends; He wanted them to “get out of town” immediately after his death. He said, “I will see you in Galilee,” but they were not listening. By not heeding the instructions of Christ they missed all that had been planned. They were not there to greet their Lord and to be witnesses to his first appearance in Galilee---not Jerusalem! Perhaps John 17:24 was to be fulfilled on that evening: “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; **that they may behold my glory**, which thou hast given me...” However, whatever was planned at that appointed time and place came to naught because the disciples were still in Jerusalem---and by remaining there they changed the course of history.

### **For Fear Of The Jews**

The close friends and disciples of Christ, men and women, had not really listened to his instructions and had remained in Jerusalem three days and three nights after the crucifixion and burial. They did not understand or believe that their Teacher would be put to death, and they certainly could not comprehend He would be raised from the dead. They just *didn't get it!* John 20:9 relates this: “For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.” Consequently, they were still in Jerusalem; the men in fear of their lives; (Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews...verse 19), but the women were intent on tending to the body of their Lord.

Let's pick up the story beginning in Matthew 28:1-7: “In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into **Galilee**; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.”

### **Mary**

John's account brings out more details of the visit to the tomb. John 20:1-9: “The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.”

*They still didn't get-it!*

Peter and John left the area of the tomb and, in a state of bewilderment, returned to their place of abode. Now continue with John 20:10-17: "Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him."

Mary was emotionally shattered and unable to comprehend what she had seen and heard. "And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."

### **The Wave Sheaf**

Christ our Lord appeared first to Mary early that Sunday morning, and that Sunday morning was the appointed time of the Wave Sheaf offering! This ceremony represented another very important event in the Plan of God that Christ would fulfill perfectly! Instructions for the Wave Sheaf ceremony were given to ancient Israel to be observed on the First Day of the week after the Passover and during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

These instructions are in Leviticus 23:9-11: "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it."

At the very time the Levitical priest symbolically waved the first sheaf of the new grain, which was the Firstfruit of the Spring harvest, Jesus Christ, the true Wave Sheaf and Firstfruit of the Spiritual Harvest, presented Himself to Almighty God. I Corinthians 15:20 and 23 plainly declares: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the **firstfruits** of them that slept... But every man in his own order: Christ the **firstfruits**; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

Jesus was the Firstfruit of the dead. Those called by God for the Early Spiritual Harvest, at the First Resurrection, are also called Firstfruits. The breath-taking story of these 144000 Firstfruits is presented in our free booklet: *The Feast of Trumpets OR Pentecost... Which?*

Our Lord told Mary not to touch Him for He had not yet ascended to the Father, but later on that Sunday morning, after fulfilling the Wave Sheaf prophecy, He appeared to some of the other women disciples: "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him," (Matthew 28:9). Then, once again, Jesus tells the women to remind the disciples of where they were to go to see Him (verse 10): "Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me."

Nevertheless, after sundown on that first day of the week, the disciples were still in the city of Jerusalem. This is where Christ makes his first appearance to those gathered there as a group. John 20:19-20 records this meeting: "Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord."

The second appearance of Christ to the disciples gives the impression that these Apostles were, incredibly, still in the City of Jerusalem eight days later: Verses 24-27 describes this second meeting: "But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, we have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."

### **Finally---In Galilee!**

It is practically incomprehensible that these devoted disciples of Jesus did not follow his plain directives of "go to Galilee" until nearly two weeks later. Perhaps their actions can be defended by not having received the gift of God's Holy Spirit. Their understanding had been opened the evening of Christ's first appearance to them. However, the importance of fleeing to Galilee at the death of Jesus, or the plain command to "go to Galilee" did not gel in their minds until later.

John 21 records the third appearance of Jesus to seven of his disciples after they had labored all night fishing on the Sea of Galilee! Verses 1 and 14 is sufficient to prove this third appearance: "After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he *himself*... This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples after he was risen from the dead."

Then, the eleven original disciples and perhaps many more, finally meet their Savior exactly where He had appointed---approximately two weeks late! The description of this meeting is in Matthew 28:16- 20 and I will include I Corinthians 15:6: "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *even* unto the end of the world. Amen..." 1Corinthians 15:6: "After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep."

### **The Altering of HISTORY!**

The fantastic account of Jonah in the belly of the great fish had nothing to do with his repentance or God punishing him. He had repented of disobeying God before he advised those frightened sailors to hurl him into the sea! Jesus' allusion to those three days and three nights, as referring to the time of His entombment, was not for the purpose

of causing his Resurrection to be a greater miracle because of that period of time. Not at all! The three days and three nights were for the purpose of his beloved disciples to escape the dangers in Jerusalem and be at the place appointed in Galilee---to behold His triumphal Resurrection. However, they were not there! They had not listened or understood. HISTORY WAS CHANGED!

If they had been in Galilee, they would have been witnesses to that which Christ had desired and planned! Exactly what that was, we are not told. Nevertheless, had these men and women been there in Galilee, three days and three nights after His death, as the Sabbath was drawing to a close, He would have appeared to them. Mary and the other women would not have come to that empty tomb. They would have seen Him in Galilee--as He said! **Then there would be no worldly tradition of an Easter Sunday Resurrection!**

The “Christian World” would have no excuse to keep Sunday as a counterfeit of the Sabbath. The world could have been a different place, indeed. But this is still, the World! Satan is the *god of this world*, (II Corinthians 4:4) and God allows things to happen. Mankind was given 6000 years to go our own way under the influence of the devil. Six thousand years since the creation of Adam and Eve have now elapsed. Now we are in the Day of the Lord! Now God is beginning to intervene, to bring an end to Satan’s world and to establish the Kingdom of God---and now you have your calling!

### **What Have You Learned?**

Quite a bit of information has been presented in the pages of this booklet. The very reason for the information in this booklet can be expressed in **two points**.

First, realize you have been called, just as surely as Jonah was! You have been called to study God’s Word prayerfully---listening and trying to understand exactly what God is instructing you to do. Noah and Abraham listened carefully and will be greatly rewarded for their obedience. Jonah tried to run away from God. His disobedience is a warning to us today, even 3000 years later; you cannot run away from God. The original disciples did not heed the words and instructions of their Lord and Savior---and altered history!

Secondly, be sure you know what you believe. Where do your beliefs come from? Do not believe any man---**believe the Bible, the written Word of God!** Do not follow any man---**unless he follows Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God!** When you have *proven all things*, (I Thessalonians 5:21) and you know you are following those who follow Christ, **then, walk with them in faith!**

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## **The Day of the Lord 6000 Years Have Ended!**

Where are we in God’s Master Plan? 6000 years HAVE ended! What is the Day of the Lord? Are you sure you know? Are the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath the same

occurrence? The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, according to I Thess. 5:2 and II Peter 3:10. Christ says he will come as a thief; unexpectedly (Rev. 3:3 and Luke 12:39-40).

However, we read in Rev. 1:7, Behold, he comes with clouds and every eye shall see him... How do you reconcile these scriptures? Can it be that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are not the same event?

Yes! The Day of the Lord's Wrath is only a ONE-Year period of time within the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord HAS COME as a "thief in the night" and YOU did NOT know it! What happens NOW?

You can read all about it in our free booklet: *The Day of the Lord*.



## Feast of Trumpets or Pentecost

God's Holy Days reveal His Plan of SALVATION. Mr. Herbert Armstrong kept these Holy Days for years without understanding their full meaning. Nevertheless, as he continued to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," he understood more and more of God's overall master plan. As God's Faithful carries on in this way of growth and knowledge of Christ, New Truth is given for anyone with the Spirit of God to see that this tiny church is God's True Church.

New Truth such as answers to the following:

1. Does the First Resurrection occur on the Feast of Trumpets or the Day of Pentecost?
2. Where and when does the Marriage of the Lamb take place?
3. Do the 3½ years of the Church's protection in the Place of Safety, the 42 month rule of the Beast Power, and the 1260 day ministry of the Two Witnesses all begin and end at the same time?

This NEW TRUTH is being given, not only for our inspiration and encouragement, but to show that Christ is here in the Church of God's Faithful. Request our free booklet: *The Feast of Trumpets or Pentecost*.

We are the Church of God's Faithful. We are here to help you in your studies of God's Word and any other spiritual needs. Our address is Church of God's Faithful, PO Box 279, Eutawville, SC 29048. Our telephone numbers are 803-492-9061 and 843-462-7977. We invite you to access our website at [www.setapartbytruth.org](http://www.setapartbytruth.org).

We look forward to hearing from you.