



The Midnight Cry

February 2010, Volume 2, Number 2

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

Do You Remember Mr. Armstrong's



DUAL TEST?



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From the Editor ...



Have you read the Church of God's Faithful "Statement of Belief" on our home page? If you have, you understand that we deeply believe that Herbert W. Armstrong was God's end-time apostle and the Elijah who would restore the True Gospel. Through Mr. Armstrong's long ministry, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God was proclaimed throughout the entire world as a witness to all nations. And all of us received our calling to be firstfruits, either directly or indirectly, through that faithful servant of Jesus Christ.

We highly respect and honor this great man of God who died 24 years ago. And let me state here that I truly believe that we of the CGF try to follow all TRUTH that Mr. Armstrong taught, especially the God-inspired statement that he often made: "Don't believe me or any other man—believe your Bible!"

Yet, during the past 12 years, the CGF has been made aware of several Biblical errors that Mr. Armstrong believed and taught! So what do we do? We must follow his wise words and allow the Bible to correct these errors! We must follow Jesus Christ—that is what Mr. Armstrong would insist we do.

In this February issue of *The Midnight Cry*, we once again look into Herbert Armstrong's DUAL TEST, which he gave us way back in the late 1920's. The CGF is a tiny Church, but we are the Church of Jesus Christ, and we must speak the TRUTH in love (Eph. 4:15). In this month's article, "How to Teach others TRUTH through Herbert W. Armstrong's DUAL TEST," we issue a loving challenge to anyone who would desire to follow Christ in correcting a serious error in Church of God doctrine.

1 Cor. 11:27-31 states very plainly that partaking of the PASSOVER "unworthily" or in an "improper manner" has very severe consequences. Can you imagine that the Church has kept the most solemn and sacred ceremony of the year in a wrong manner—not discerning the Lord's body properly!

Mr. Armstrong, the WCG and the split and splintered daughter churches have taught that the unleavened bread we eat at Passover, symbolizing Jesus' scourged and abused BODY, is for the forgiveness of our physical sins! But is this TRUE? NO! It is not!

Mr. Armstrong stressed that we "...not believe any man; believe the Bible," And in this case, we can present Holy Scripture that refutes this longtime error in Church doctrine, and leave no point of argument.

1 John 1:7 is very clear that ALL sin, physical or spiritual, is forgiven through the BLOOD of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter

Continued on page 7.

The "Quail" of Exodus 16



by Wallace T. Lawton

Very few of God's people understand that the 'quails' mentioned in Exodus 16 confirm the exact time for the observance of the true Passover. The significance of this God-ordained miracle, and the understanding of the timing, lies in the clarification of two Hebrew phrases which have been little understood.

God gave specific commandments to the children of Israel, through Moses, concerning the Passover and

the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In the book of Leviticus we read:

“These are the appointed seasons of the Lord, even holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed season. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at dusk is the Lord's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread unto the Lord; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread (Lev. 23:4-6, Jewish Publication Society of America (JSPA).

These scriptures specifically state that the Passover is on the 14th day of the month at dusk. The term

translated "at dusk" in the JPSA version is translated "at even" in the King James Version. This translation in the KJV has led to much confusion because the KJV also translates another Hebrew word, "at even," or the Hebrew term here translated "at dusk" in the JPSA, as "ben ha arbayim." This term is also footnoted in the KJV as "between the two evenings."

Understanding the meaning of this term is especially difficult for individuals, including ministers, who rely on Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible as an authoritative study aid. The reason is this: Strong lists the word "even," or "evening," as #6153, and in Strong's Hebrew and Chaldee dictionary, that word is not ben ha arbayim. Ben ha arbayim is not even listed or numbered! Strong shows only the word ba erev throughout his concordance references. In every place where ben ha arbayim is used in the Scriptures, Strong's concordance numbers and defines it as #6153, ba erev, which is incorrect. Ba erev IS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORD, WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MEANING!

Unfortunately, this omission of the Hebrew term ben ha arbayim in Strong's concordance has added to the confusion about the correct time for keeping the Passover, and has helped perpetuate the question of whether it should be observed on the 14th or the 15th day of the first month. To make matters worse, many ministers and church congregations establish set doctrine based on Strong's word numbering, definitions and meanings.

While Strong's concordance may be a valuable tool for study, it should never be used as the final determining factor for doctrine. We can arrive at proper and true understanding of this question by carefully

studying the use of Hebrew words in Scripture itself.

Numbers chapter 9 clearly establishes that God's command was to keep the Passover in the 14th day of the first month, and not in the 15th day of the first month. But we need to understand what time of day on the 14th the Passover lambs were to be slain, because that was the beginning of keeping the Passover. In order to understand the precise time of day on the 14th that they were to be slain, we need to understand what the Hebrew term *ben ha arbayim* means, as used by God in the Bible.

Let's go to Exodus 12 to examine the original command about the slaying the Passover lambs:

“Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year; you shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats; and you shall keep it unto [until] the fourteenth day of the same month; and the WHOLE ASSEMBLY of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at dusk [ben ha arbayim] (Ex. 12:5-6 (JPSA).

Again we see that the term *ben ha arbayim* has been translated “at dusk” in the JPSA. In the KJV, the same Hebrew term has been translated as “at even” in Numbers 9:3, and as “in the evening” in Exodus 12:6, but with the accompanying marginal definition, “between the two evenings.” “Between the two evenings” is the most literal and accurate English translation of the Hebrew term *ben ha arbayim*. Understanding the correct meaning of this term is the focal

point in understanding precisely at what time of day, on the 14th, the Passover and the slaying of the Passover lambs, was to begin. Remember there are definite requirements for the Passover ceremony: ALL THE STATUTES and ALL THE ORDINANCES had to be observed in that same day.

What is the meaning of this term, *BEN HA ARBAYIM*, or “between the two evenings”?

While Strong's concordance may be a valuable tool for study, it should never be used as the final determining factor for doctrine.

- Does it mean the time between the evening of one day and the evening of the next day?
- Does that mean that the Passover lambs could be slain at any time in that 24-hour period?

- Does it mean between noon, the point when the sun at its zenith, and sunset, when the sun has completed its descent?
- Does it mean from the midpoint in the afternoon, approximately 3 PM, until sunset late on the 14th?
- Does it mean from sunset until dark, at the beginning of the 14th?
- How can we really know?
- Should we rely on scholars' interpretations of this very ancient term?
- Can they give us an accurate definition and proper understanding?

We can arrive at proper and true understanding of this question by carefully studying the use of Hebrew words in Scripture itself.

standing?

- Should we accept the traditional Jewish interpretation, which arose many centuries after the Passover was instituted, and which proclaims a mid-afternoon to sunset definition of the term?
- Does this interpretation fit the original ordinances of the Passover that God gave through Moses?

Today, the Jews combine the Passover and the first day of Unleavened Bread into one festival. However, some Jews today will admit that originally the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread were separate. Here is what the Jewish Encyclopaedia (*Vol. 9, Funk and Wagnalls, 1905*) says (emphasis mine):

Comparison of the successive strata of pentateuchal laws [first five books of the Bible] bearing on the festival makes it plain that the institution, as developed, is really a composite character. Two festivals, originally distinct, have become merged....

While the Egyptians allowed the Jews to retain their ancient calendar, there was a change made in the beginning of the day—it became common to begin the day at sunrise. This custom was adopted, and persisted among the Jews even down to New Testament times (see *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, April, 1946).

Information from the Hebrew Union College has admitted this fact. (The proof of this is also given in *The Ex-*

pository Times, June 1948, pp. 250, 251.)

Throughout the Bible, there is a very clear distinction between the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. We can't just lump them all together into seven days.

In a noted Hebrew-Chaldee lexicon, we find this:

Between the two evenings, Ex. 16:12; 30:8, [is] used as marking the space of time during which the paschal lamb was slain, Ex. 12:6; Lev. 23:5; Num. 9:3; and the evening sacrifice was offered, Ex. 29:30, 41; Num 28:4 (*Gesenius-Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to The Old Testament*).

That statement is correct, of and by itself, but Gesenius does not define which specific time period of the day this term is designating. He does, however, state the rabbis' later interpretation of ben ha arbayim:

The Pharisees, however, and the Rabbinates considered the time when the sun began to descend to be called the first evening (Arabic 'little evening'); 'when it begins to draw towards evening;' and the second evening to be the real sunset (*Ibid.*).

Although this interpretation has been adopted into Judaism, it is not a Biblical definition and is not supported by the Holy Scriptures.

As a result of this interpretation, the Jews have for centuries killed their Passover lambs late on the afternoon of the 14th. Josephus writes this account of the temple-sacrificed Passover lambs:

So these high priests, upon the coming of their feast which is called Passover, when they slay their sacrifices from the ninth

hour to the eleventh... [Approximately 3 PM to 5 PM] (*Wars of the Jews*, Bk. VI, Ch. IX, Sec. 3).

Josephus is giving an actual historical record of how the Passover was observed. But it is important to understand that this account is related to the temple sacrifice of the Passover lambs, which was a LATER INSTITUTION - in fact, introduced approximately 800 years after the original Passover. Josephus is not

The Hebrew term ben ha arbayim is of ancient origin and is found only in the Pentateuch. It is therefore imperative to let the BIBLE INTERPRET ITSELF in the use of this term, rather than reading into the Bible the opinions and interpretations of men, which attempt to justify later practices and traditions.

describing the domestic sacrifice of the Passover lambs by the heads of the households at home.

On the other hand, in his narration of the original Passover, Josephus shows that the domestic sacrifice of the Passover lambs on the 14th was still a practice of the Jews during his lifetime. He writes,

But when the fourteenth day was come, and all were ready

to depart, they offered the sacrifice, and purified their houses, using bunches of hyssop for that purpose; and when they had supped, they burnt the remainder of the flesh, as just ready to depart. Whence it is that WE DO STILL OFFER THIS SACRIFICE IN LIKE MANNER TO THIS DAY, and call this festival Pascha... (*Antiquities of the Jews*, Bk. II, Ch. 14, Sec. 6).

Josephus is clearly referring to the original ordinances of the Passover, as he specifically names several of them in this account of how the Passover sacrifice and the entire ceremony was done! As Josephus shows in this narration of Exodus 12, explaining the original Passover, all of the ordinances of the original Passover, including the domestic sacrifice of the lambs, were still being observed side by side with the temple sacrifice of the lambs during his lifetime. Clearly all nine requirements - all the statutes and all the ordinances of the original Passover, including the domestic sacrifice of the lambs - are included in his statement: "WE DO STILL OFFER THIS SACRIFICE IN LIKE MANNER TO THIS DAY!"

Some scholars totally ignore this plain statement by Josephus and look wholly to the temple sacrifice of the Passover lambs to explain when the Passover should be observed. Their one-sided explanation, whether deliberate or otherwise, leads those who read their writings to assume that the domestic sacrifice of the Passover lambs by the heads of the households at home was no longer practiced, and that the original ordinances of the Passover were no longer in effect. This false assumption is part of the line of reasoning that attempts to justify the traditional Jewish practice of killing the lambs

late on the afternoon of the 14th and eating the Passover on the 15th. Some even claim that this Jewish tradition, which was adopted long after the original Passover, is the way the Passover has always been observed.

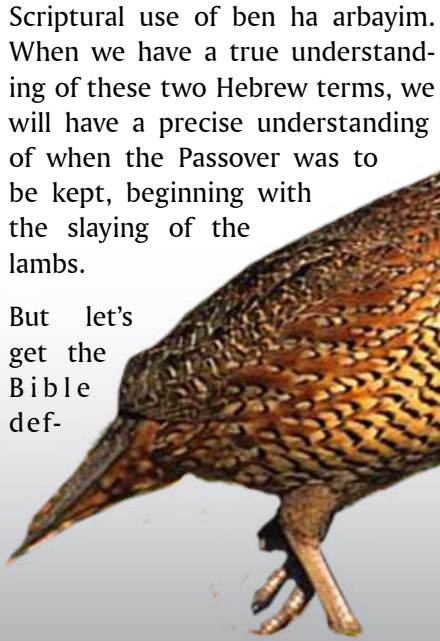
The Hebrew term *ben ha arbayim* is of ancient origin and is found only in the Pentateuch. It is therefore imperative to let the BIBLE INTERPRET ITSELF in the use of this term, rather than reading into the Bible the opinions and interpretations of

men, which attempt to justify later practices and traditions. THE BIBLE MUST INTERPRET ITSELF! THAT IS

THE ONLY WAY TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH OF GOD AND TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE BIBLICAL MEANING OF BEN HA ARBAYIM!

In order to understand the Scriptural use of *ben ha arbayim*, it is important to understand another Hebrew term often used in the Bible to denote time. That term is *ba erev*. The relationship between these two expressions is the key that unlocks the Scriptural use of *ben ha arbayim*. When we have a true understanding of these two Hebrew terms, we will have a precise understanding of when the Passover was to be kept, beginning with the slaying of the lambs.

But let's get the Bible defined-



Exodus 16 proves that *ben ha arbayim* is not in the afternoon!

inition of what this word “even” means.

God’s instructions for keeping the Day of Atonement are clear and precise, and can be found in Leviticus 23:32:

“It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.

The term translated “at even” in the JSPA version is the Hebrew term *ba erev*, which means sunset. The term *ba erev*, or sunset, is very specific! It does

not include any time before sunset, or after sunset. *Ba erev* is the precise time of the ending of the day. It is a very short period of time. *Ba erev* cannot begin until the sun appears to touch the horizon. It is over the instant the sun falls below the horizon, (typically 3-5 minutes).

It is obvious that *ba erev* of the “ninth day of the month at even” is the beginning of the Day of Atonement, and in verse 27, the Day of Atonement is specifically designated as the tenth day of the month.

Thus we can conclude that *ba erev* of the ninth day was the end of that day and the beginning of the tenth day.

This is the true, Scriptural interpretation of *ba erev*. This is absolutely established by the Scriptural revelation of God. There is no room for any other interpretation of Leviticus 23:32. *Ba erev* on the 9th always ends the 9th day. *Ba erev* of any day ends that day!

Exodus 16 proves that *ben ha arbayim* is not in the afternoon!

The Quail

Here described in Exodus 16 is a mighty miracle from God! Verse 13:

“And it came to pass, at even [*ba erev*, the sunset ending that Sabbath] that the quails came up, and covered the camp and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

The promise of the quail (verse 1) was given on the 15th day of the 2nd month. The context reveals that this day was a weekly Sabbath. God told the people that they would eat the flesh of the quail at dusk or *ben ha arbayim* (verse 12). God did not send the quail until *ba erev*, or sunset, that ended the Sabbath day (verse 13).

These statements are absolutely correct! There can be no doubt whatsoever concerning their Scriptural accuracy.

The account of the events in Exodus 16 makes it absolutely clear that the quail did not come before the Sabbath day had ended at sunset, or *ba erev*. God had said, “...at dusk, [*ben ha arbayim*, between the two evenings], you shall eat flesh” (Exodus 16:12). The Israelites could not eat the quail before the quail had arrived.

Since the Israelites could not eat the quail before the quail had arrived, and since God did not send the quail until after the Sabbath had ended at sunset, or *ba erev*, we know that they ate the quail after sunset. And since God Himself said that they would eat the flesh at dusk, or *ben ha arbayim*, “between the two evenings,” we know that *ben ha arbayim* is the time period that immediately

follows sunset.

Ben ha ardayim, or “between the two evenings,” begins when the sun has set. It is the period of time that begins the new day – not the late portion of the day from noon to sunset! Any other interpretation is in contradiction to the word of God.

Lev. 23:4-8: This scripture specifically states that the Passover is on the 14th day of the month at dusk. The Hebrew term here translated “at dusk” in the JPSA is ben ha arbayim. The same term is also footnoted in the KJV as “between the two evenings.”

“And ye shall keep it [the lamb] until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. (Exodus 12:6)

“In the evening” is better translated “between the two evenings.” It is referring to that period of time

between sunset and dark. So the lambs were to be killed after sunset but before dark. Notice that they were to keep the lambs until the 14th, not after or toward the end of the 14th. “Until the 14th” would be at sunset immediately after the end of the 13th.

The account of the events in Exodus 16 makes it absolutely clear that the quail did not come before the Sabbath day had ended at sunset, or ba erev.

Thus, as we examine ourselves between now and Passover so that this solemn and sacred ceremony can be observed exactly as God intends, we can study, learn and be ever thankful that the God-ordained miracle of the quails of Exodus

16 confirms the exact time for the Passover observance.

Let’s continue to follow all instructions that the Word of God gives to his Faithful:

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

Continued from page 2

From the Editor

2:24 is also very clear that, after the scourging and other cruelties to Jesus’ BODY, no sins had been forgiven. He bore the sins of the world in His ripped and torn BODY to the cross!

Can you realize from these few lines that the Passover has been kept with mistaken beliefs about the Body of Christ? The Church has not discerned the Body of Christ correctly. The article about Mr. Armstrong’s DUAL TEST is presented in this issue with a challenge to you: “Don’t believe me or any man—believe the Bible.”

Remember:

“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (I Cor. 11:27-30).

Please accept our loving challenge and study carefully the article concerning the DUAL TEST, as well as the other powerful articles and features in this month’s issue. Prove ALL things; hold fast that which is good!

Your brother in Christ,

Editor’s Note: *The revealing article “The Quails of Exodus 16” by Wallace T. Lawton is an accepted portion of Church of God’s Faithful official doctrine in regard to the Passover. The explanation of the Hebrew terms ba-erev and ben ha-arbayim are plain and clear, and are supported by the example of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.*

The correct time for the observance of the Passover has raged back and forth through the centuries—and as long as there are scholars the controversy will continue. Thus the information given in the article by Mr. Lawton has been attacked also—but that is to be expected! Nevertheless, Mr. Lawton is preparing an additional article for The Midnight Cry! The article will not be a rebuttal, but will show the Biblical facts from the New Testament that the CGF accepts as doctrine. He will cover the example of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the inspiration from the Spirit of God to the apostle Paul to record the instructions for Passover in I Cor. 11:23-32.

Remember, God’s true Church is set apart by Truth (John 17:17).

How to Present New Truth According to Herbert W. Armstrong's

DUAL TEST

By Robert Ardis

In the late 1920's and early 1930's, Mr. Herbert Armstrong determined that the Seventh Day Church of God headquartered in Stanberry, MO was the One True Church of Jesus Christ! That tiny church had more Biblical truth than any other church he had investigated in seeking the True Church. He later understood that that church was actually the Sardis Church of Rev. 3:1-6.

To prove that the church was the One True Church, and to dispel any doubts in his own mind, Mr. Armstrong used a Dual Test to determine if that church was actually the True Church of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Armstrong first presented to the leader of the church a written expose on a doctrine of the church that was in Biblical error. After studying Mr. Armstrong's correction of the doctrine in question, the church leader admitted that the church's teaching was not Biblically

correct. Nevertheless, he refused to accept Mr. Armstrong's clarification and change the church's teaching.

That was step one in the DUAL TEST.

Next, Mr. Armstrong presented *New Truth* to the church leader, which, upon a lengthy time of study, the leader admitted was indeed New Truth. But he would not teach it because of supposed adverse affects on the church membership. The New Truth presented to him was the vital key to Biblical

prophecy: *The United States and Britain in Prophecy!* This brief account of church history and the creation of the DUAL TEST is from *The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong, Vol. 1*, beginning on page 359. Also request or download our article, "HWA's DUAL TEST".

**Step #1:
THE TRUE CHURCH
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DOCTRINE.**

The DUAL TEST that Mr. Armstrong used those many years ago

to assess the legitimacy of the Sardis Church can be used today, to test the many divisions of the "Churches of God". And, of course, this can be used on an individual basis, too.

In simple terms, the first step in the DUAL TEST to prove the authenticity of a church [or individual] would be as follows:

DUAL TEST Step #1:

THE TRUE CHURCH MUST BE WILLING TO CONFESS ANY ERROR IN ITS TEACHINGS ABOUT THE BIBLE, AND ELIMINATE IT AS A CHURCH DOCTRINE.

Notice the following scriptures:

John 16:13:

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Certainly, the True Church of God will respond to TRUTH and admit error when error is exposed.

Eph. 4:15:

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ...

The true Church must teach TRUTH, not error—and teach it in love.

Ezek. 33:11:

“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your

evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? (Gal. 6:16).

A church claiming to be the True Church of Jesus Christ must “turn,” or repent of any false teachings!

DUAL TEST Step #2:

THE TRUE CHURCH MUST ACCEPT NEW TRUTH AS IT IS REVEALED IN THE WORD OF GOD!

John 17:17: “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” The True Church of Jesus Christ must accept New Truth and be Set Apart by Truth!

II Peter 3:18:

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

The True Church of Jesus Christ will be continually growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ—the Living Word of God! Growth in the *knowledge of Jesus Christ* is seeing and understanding New Truth from the Holy Bible—the written Word of God—when it is revealed by God’s Holy Spirit!

The CGF has been given over 75 New Truths in the past 12 years that were apparently not known or taught by Mr. Armstrong. And we have followed his admonition of, “Don’t believe me or any man—but believe your Bible.” And we have seen that Mr. Armstrong was also in error in a few of his teachings. Much of what has been revealed in this Laodicean era of the Church was not revealed to Mr.

Armstrong because it was not time for it to be revealed. This fact, in regard to healing, is addressed in our booklet, *The Plain Truth about God’s Healing*.

However, you can be sure that God’s end-time apostle would have followed the directions of his DUAL TEST, and he would have turned from any of his own teachings if he found them to be in error. And he would have proven, accepted and proclaimed any New Truth as

it was presented to him. We have the example of his changing the Day of Pentecost from Monday to Sunday, and of his correcting the Divorce and Re-marriage doctrine.

In this light, this article will present a major error in Church of God doctrine that has been taught for years. Then, the correct Bible teaching on the subject will be given, which can be scrutinized by the Holy Scriptures—and proven by Mr. Armstrong’s DUAL TEST. In subsequent issues of *The Midnight Cry*, several other incorrect doctrines which have been accepted as truth will be

challenged—and the actual TRUTH about those doctrines will be presented and subjected to the DUAL TEST.

The Forgiveness of ALL Sin!

Since the early days of the Radio Church of God and later the World-

wide Church of God, we were taught that the broken unleavened bread we partake of at Passover represented the broken body of our Savior. We were taught that the PENALTY for our “physical sins” was removed as we accepted the sacrifice of His beaten BODY, and as we, in faith, ate the unleavened bread—and that *through His stripes we are healed*.

Let me quote from Mr. Armstrong’s 1979 booklet, *The Plain Truth about Healing*, beginning on page 46, the third line under the heading “What About Medicine,” and continuing on page 47, the third paragraph.

In regard to taking the bread—symbol of Christ’s body beaten with stripes to pay for us the penalty of broken laws governing physical health—the inspired teaching is “For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily [the RSV translates it “in an unworthy manner”] eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body”—that is, His body was broken or beaten with stripes, paying the penalty we suffer in sickness or disease. That is why [RSV] many of you are “weak and ill, and some have died” (I Corinthians 11:29-30)...

Much of what has been revealed in this Laodicean era of the Church was not revealed to Mr. Armstrong because it was not time for it to be revealed.

This is important; UNDERSTAND the meaning of what was written here! Taking the broken unleavened bread means we ACCEPT Christ’s beaten and broken body (prior to being taken to the cross) that WE MAY BE HEALED. How does

His broken body make our healing possible?

It is important that you UNDERSTAND the answer to this—because some have been falsely teaching there is no such thing as a physical sin. I John 3:4, properly translated from the Greek says, “Sin is the transgression of LAW.” It does not refer to—or say—the spiritual law of the Ten Commandments. Yet it is referring to LAWS INSTITUTED BY GOD—not to transgressing man-made codes.

God so designed our physical bodies that they function according to definite PHYSICAL LAWS...

How does Christ’s broken body make our healing possible? I answer with another question: How does Christ’s shed blood—His death—make possible the forgiveness of spiritual sin—transgression of the spiritual law—the Ten Commandments? Simply by having paid the penalty in our stead—that’s how! His beaten body paid in our stead the PENALTY we are suffering when the physical laws in the human body have been transgressed and brought on the PENALTY of the sickness, disease or whatever—sometimes the first death!

For all of these years, at Passover, we have partaken of the unleavened bread, believing that, through Jesus’ beaten and brutalized body that *our physical sins are paid for—*

forgiven! Then, *through His spilled blood*, symbolized by the wine, *our spiritual sins are forgiven!*

But is that true? The wages of sin is death...not scourging (See Rom. 6:23)!

So what do we have here? Asking

For all of these years, at Passover, we have partaken of the unleavened bread, believing that, through Jesus’ beaten and brutalized body that our physical sins are paid for—forgiven! Then, through His spilled blood, symbolized by the wine, our spiritual sins are forgiven!

the question about the meaning of Christ’s scourging and the removal of “physical sin” is the beginning of applying the first step of the DUAL TEST: “THE CHURCH MUST BE WILLING TO CONFESS ANY ERROR IN ITS TEACHINGS ABOUT THE BIBLE, AND ELIMINATE IT AS A CHURCH DOCTRINE.”

But is that true? The wages of sin is death...not scourging (See Rom. 6:23)!

Thus, the question has been presented, but before we give the Bible’s plain teaching about the *forgiveness of sin*—physical sin or spiritual sin—let me give another quote. This quote is from the 1986 Ambassador College *Correspondence Course*, Lesson #25, “The Passover,” under the sub-heading, “Why did Christ have to Suffer?”

“Did Jesus suffer this excruciatingly painful torture so we might

receive healing of our bodies through faith in His beaten body? Isa. 53:5; I Pet. 2:24; Ps. 103:2-3; Jas. 5:14-15.

COMMENT: Through His beating, scourging and crucifixion, Jesus Christ paid the penalty of our physical sins—trans-

gressions of God’s laws of health—which are the causes of all sickness (Matt. 9:1-7). He suffered so we, through faith in His body that was beaten for us, may be forgiven

all our physical sins—the healing of our bodies when we are sick—in addition to being forgiven our spiritual sins (the breaking of God’s spiritual laws) through His shed blood.

That is why Jesus instituted the breaking of unleavened bread as part of the New Testament Passover service. It is a symbol of His broken flesh to remind us that it is by His “stripes we are healed.” [My emphasis]

The teaching for all these years has been that our physical sins are forgiven through Christ’s beaten and torn body—and our spiritual sins are forgiven by His shed blood!

“Is that true?” we ask again.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL sin. (I John 1:7)

Understand: ALL sins are forgiven through the spilled blood of Jesus

Christ. His life was in His blood (Lev. 17:11); through the loss of His blood, He gave His life for the life of all mankind.

“In whom we have redemption *through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace...* (Eph. 1:7)

Notice carefully: “...through His BLOOD, the forgiveness of SINS...” ALL SINS.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...* (I Pet. 1:18-19)

We are redeemed through the precious BLOOD of Christ.

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. *Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood...* (Rev. 1:5)

We are washed from our sins—ALL SINS—in His own BLOOD.

Isn't it evident already that there has been serious error taught in the Church of God? All sins are forgiven through the BLOOD of Jesus Christ! The scriptures are so plain on this that there can be no point of argument!

Discerning the Lord's Body

Since Christ's BLOOD cleanses us from ALL sin—what was the purpose of the scourging and the

other brutalities Jesus suffered in His flesh before the crucifixion? The scriptures are plain that one of the reasons for His scourging was that *by His stripes we are healed*. In this physical life, healing is greatly desired when one is suffering an awful sickness or disease. I myself am afflicted by multiple myeloma, cancer of the bone marrow, and in faith I look forward to God's healing *through the stripes of Christ*. But is the healing of our physical bodies the main point in the brutalization of our Savior's body? What was the main purpose of having His body so horribly beaten and torn? Have we not understood this vital purpose?

“*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL sin.*” (I John 1:7)

I Cor. 11:27-29 states how serious this question really is!

“Wherefore **whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.**

It is very plain from the above

scriptures that ALL sins are forgiven through Christ's spilled BLOOD. His life was in His BLOOD; thus He gave His life for the world (John 3:16).

Christ also tells us in John 6:51:

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: *and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

His flesh was given for the LIFE of the world by both the physical principle, “through His stripes we are healed,” and by the spiritual principle of His “bearing our sins to the tree.”

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed (I Pet. 2:24).

As He endured the horrible scourging and cruel abuses of His body—His flesh—the sins of the entire world were placed upon Him and He bore them to the cross! Understand! *The sins were NOT forgiven yet—He bore them to the “tree”—the cross.*

Christ's scourging did not forgive any sins—He bore the PENALTY of our sins, ALL sins, upon His beaten body to the stake. **The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23)—not scourging!**

Meditate on John 6:51 and I Pet. 2:24! His FLESH was given for the life of the world! The sacrifice of the Lamb of God was a complete and perfect sacrifice. Isaiah 52:14 and 53:10-11 vividly show the severity of Christ's suffering to make Him the perfect sacrifice!

“As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: ... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise [Strong’s #1792; beat to pieces] him; he [God] hath put him to grief: when thou [God] shalt make his soul [His life] an offering for sin, he [God] shall see his seed, he [God] shall prolong his days, and the pleasure [Strong’s #2656; purpose] of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He [God] shall see of the travail of his [Christ’s] soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

What then is represented in the scourging of Christ’s body? What was the main purpose of the beating and tearing of His BODY? What does the Word of God tell us about the ripped and torn BODY of our Savior?

The plain answer is presented in Heb. 10:19-20, MKJV:

“Therefore, brothers, having boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He has consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh...”

Our sins are forgiven through Christ’s spilled BLOOD; thereby we may, without spot (Jude: 24), come boldly before God through the WAY opened to us by the ripped and torn VEIL—that is the FLESH of our Savior!

As our Lord and Savior was nailed

to the cross, He bore all of the sins of the world upon His ripped and torn body! Then the time came on that afternoon in 31 AD, when all

What then is represented in the scourging of Christ’s body?

of the scriptures of Isaiah 53 had been fulfilled or were about to be fulfilled. At the specific time in God’s Plan, the violent thrust of the Roman soldier’s spear ripped through Jesus’ side. His life’s BLOOD gushed out, He cried aloud to God, and He died! At that moment, God supernaturally caused an earthquake to strike with such force that the VEIL of the Temple was rent in two—exposing the Holy of Holies—where God had dwelt.

At this point, I wish to add a short portion of a statement recorded in our booklet, *The Plain Truth About God’s Healing*, page 32:

“Allow me to interject a portion of scripture at this point that is usually omitted in nearly every translation except *Moffat*. *Moffat*’s translation of verse 49 is from two ancient manuscripts that logically connect the other scriptures describing the final moments in Jesus’ life—and they substantiate the important fact of the Lamb of God dying from the pouring out of His life’s blood (Isa. 53:12). Therefore, Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the old 58 lesson *Ambassador College Correspondence*

Course (ACC) adopted the *Moffat* translation of the scriptural clause at the end of verse 49 of Matthew 27: (“Seizing a lance, another pricked his side and out came water and blood.”) The ACC also explained John 19:34 as follows: “(For) one of the soldiers with a spear (had) pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”

Mat. 27:50-51: “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent...”

“Therefore, brothers, having boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He has consecrated for us THROUGH THE VEIL, that is to say, HIS FLESH...”

(Please request or download our booklet, *The Plain Truth About God’s Healing*, which explains other points on healing that you have probably questioned or wondered about.)

Read again Heb. 10:19-20, this time from the *Living Bible*:

“And so dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. This is the fresh, new, life-giving way which Christ has opened up for us by tearing the curtain—His human body—to let us into the holy presence of God.

Understand! Christ’s ripped and torn flesh was symbolic of the veil separating the Holy of Holies from the remainder of the Temple. *That was where God dwelled!* All the sins

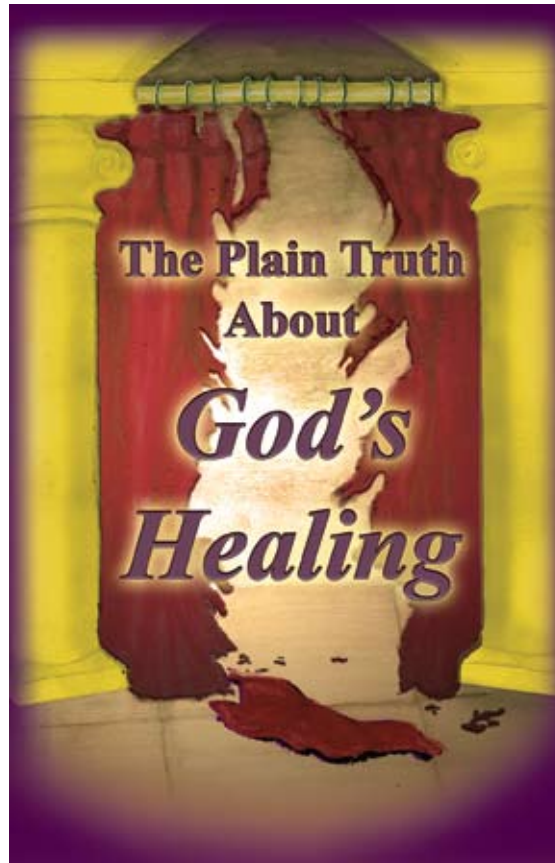
of the world were upon Christ's scourged flesh, but at the moment He died by *pouring out his life*—His BLOOD, the sins of the entire world that He bore for us on His BODY could be forgiven—washed away by His spilled blood! The PENALTY was paid! **The wages of sin is DEATH...** And the veil of the Temple was rent wide open through the rent and torn flesh of the BODY of Christ! *Access to the great God of mercy* was then made possible, and the forgiveness of ALL of our sins was made possible! Admittance to God and the power of His Holy Spirit is so vitally important, yet we have taken this for granted and failed to emphasize this at the Passover service — until now!

The ripped and torn flesh of Jesus' body represented the veil in the Temple. God shook the earth by a strong earthquake, and the actual veil of the physical temple was rent in two from top to bottom when he died. *Through His blood all sins are forgiven—and through His torn body we may approach God Almighty!*

Summation

1. ALL sins are forgiven through the BLOOD of CHRIST! ALL SINS! *This is NOT a point of argument!* The Bible is very plain about this statement. The wine that is partaken of at Passover represents Christ's BLOOD—HIS LIFE—that He gave for the sins of the world (our own personal sins).
2. Jesus' beaten and torn BODY represented the ripped and torn VEIL in the TEMPLE, providing access to the

Great God! Through His total sacrifice, *He bore ALL of our sins to the "cross"*, and by His stripes we are healed. "Physical sins" were NOT forgiven by the scourging or the other abuses to His BODY. The unleavened bread we eat at Passover does NOT represent our "physical sins" being forgiven! The broken



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bread pictures His ripped and torn body, symbolic of the ripped and torn VEIL in the Temple providing access to God our Father.

In this brief article, a DUAL TEST has been presented to you. First, errors have been revealed in a major doctrine that you and your

church have most likely been practicing. Second, the corrected plain Truth from the Word of God has been shown on this vital subject.

Now, dear reader, whether you are a church leader or an individual seeking Truth, what will you do with this new understanding? Passover is only weeks away! True Christians are required to humbly EXAMINE ourselves so that we may partake of this solemn and sacred ceremony in a thankful and faithful attitude—in a proper manner—and observe it according to the Word of God.

“But let a man *examine* himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup (I Cor. 11:28).

Also II Cor. 13:5:

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

With this new understanding, our EXAMINATION should also include a thorough application of the DUAL TEST that has been presented in this article. Partaking of the Passover is very serious and must be done in accordance with scripture—in Truth—not ERROR! “For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (II Cor. 13:8).

We are living in dangerous Bible times, so I will conclude with Rom. 13:11:

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.

Amen! ❖

This Month's Top Articles from

The Faithful Watchman

Newsletter of the Church of God's Faithful



Through *The Faithful Watchman*, we endeavor to keep ourselves abreast of how our Lord Jesus Christ is orchestrating the ride of the 4 Horsemen as He sets the scene for the Two Witnesses to begin their 1260 days of prophesying and for the Great Tribulation to begin. Read daily updates to *The Faithful Watchman* online at setapartbytruth.org.

Report: EU biofuel targets could make 100 million hungry

Up to 100 million more people could go hungry if member states agree to increase the consumption of biofuels in line with EU targets, a new report from development charity ActionAid has warned today.

Despite long-standing concerns that increased demand for biofuels made from food crops has contributed to food shortages and deforestation, the EU currently has a target to increase the share of biofuels used in transport fuel to 10 per cent by 2020.

However, according to the ActionAid report, the targets will lead to a four-fold jump in biofuel consumption, with two thirds of all biofuels used in the EU being imported from the developing world.

It calculates that if all global biofuel targets are met, food prices could rise by an additional 76 per cent by 2020, forcing an extra 600 million people into hunger.

<http://www.businessgreen.com/...>

Comment: We can't win. Cleaning up our environment by using biofuels made from food crops for our cars will cause yet more food shortages and famine in our world. As if we didn't have enough people going hungry and even dying of starvation, we now want to feed our cars with food taken from human beings.

Is the problem too many people, or too many cars? What is more important your car, or a human life? Put like that, perhaps we have too many cars going to and fro in our land for our

own good.

"Their land is also full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots:" Isa 2:7

We see that this is not a new problem. People do enjoy the freedom of personal transport. However, our chariots today do pollute the atmosphere, and something needs to be done to make cleaner vehicles, without causing an even greater problem of starvation to more and more people.

It can be done, and will be done - but not yet! We first have to learn to trust in God and not our own devices. When that happens, our air and water will be pure and there will be no hunger.

"Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses and trust in chariots, because they are many, and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!" Isa 31:1

Iran is now a 'nuclear state' says Ahmadinejad as thousands take to the streets

Iran is now a 'nuclear state', President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced this morning.

As Gordon Brown warned that the world's patience is wearing thin, Ahmadinejad told scores of cheering Iranians that the Islamic Republic is capable of producing weapons-grade uranium.

He spoke as tens of thousands of people took to the streets in Tehran to mark the 31st anniversary of the

News Stories are searched and compiled by Mr. Ron Chambers. Comments, unless otherwise specified, are written by Mr. John Durrad.

Islamic revolution.

Despite fears of violence, opposition supporters found themselves largely overwhelmed by the clerical regime and pro-government demonstrators. The massive security clampdown appeared to succeed in preventing protesters from converging into a cohesive demonstration.

Large numbers of riot police, members of the Revolutionary Guard and Basij militiamen, some on motorcycles, deployed in back streets near key squares and major avenues in the capital to move against protesters.

He said it had produced its first batch of 20 per cent enriched uranium - and had the capability to enrich to far higher levels at its Natanz plant.

Enriching uranium produces fuel for a nuclear power plant but can also be used to create material for atomic weapons.

The international community has warned Iran against further enrichment activities, threatening new UN sanctions.

Today Gordon Brown again reiterated the threat of sanctions.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/...>

Comment: So it is now official, from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad himself. Iran is now a "nuclear state".

Isn't this what Mr Obama, Mr Brown, and many other heads of countries been saying for years. So now is the time to get tough, whatever they mean by that. Probably just sanctions! That will really frighten the Iranians.

Mr Obama's policy of appeasing the Arab and Muslim communities has hardly worked. In response to Mr Obama's friendly gesture, the Iranian regime held a rigged election, intimidated and tortured, even murdered its opponents, and continued with its nuclear programme unchecked.

When will the world wake up to the fact that Iran doesn't just threaten Israel, but America and Europe as well? Living with a nuclear Iran simply

means the surrender of the West.

"One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee; till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill." Isa 30:17

Vatican theologian: relics risk superstition

A Vatican theologian said today that veneration of relics ran the risk of replacing authentic faith with irrational superstition.

The warning came as pilgrims began queuing to pray before the 13th-century remains of St Anthony of Padua, one of the Catholic world's most popular saints.

Monsignor Pietro Principe, a theologian whose Biblical commentaries are published by the Vatican, said that the "display of the mortal remains of saints and the cult of relics are part of our tradition. However we nowadays run the risk of crossing the boundary from popular devotion to superstition."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/...>

Comment: An interesting comment made by this Vatican theologian when he said, "...we nowadays run the risk of crossing the boundary from popular devotion to superstition." The veneration of relics or any physical object to try to replace a true faith in God is not new.

"Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

God that made the world and all things therein, saying that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands." Acts 17:22-24

US unable to guard against cyber attacks: Intel director Blair

The chief of US national intelligence warned Wednesday that America's "cyber defenders" are not yet able to guard national networks against the threat of attack. The comment follows revelations that California-based Google and three major US oil companies may have been compromised by overseas hackers.

Speaking to a congressional committee, Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair said that hackers are becoming more sophisticated and that the "technological balance" favors those looking to use cyberspace maliciously. He highlighted that the threat affects not only private company networks but also national security, reports Fox News.

[Blair] said one critical "factor" is that more and more foreign companies are supplying software and hardware for government and private sector networks.

"This increases the potential for subversion of the information in ... those systems," Blair said.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/...>

Comment: The control by computers of our industrial, electronic, mechanical and information systems has moved man's progress forward at a

startling rate. All this would be good in an ideal world, but unfortunately we are yet to reach that state.

It seems incredible that in 2007 there were around 37,000 cyber attacks by hackers in the United States alone. Any one of these could spell disaster to security systems as it has been seen that control by malicious hackers can seriously compromise even the best systems.

Increasingly, we seem to trust and depend on our financial and technological systems. We have seen what can happen with our financial systems as we continue to totter on the brink of collapse. Now more and more our computer systems become vulnerable to this cyber attack.

Mankind has yet to learn that he cannot trust in his own devices to obtain a stable and happy society. Man's heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, and he doesn't yet know it cannot be trusted. However there is someone who can be trusted.

"Thus saith the LORD; cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is." Jer 17:5, 7

Until this happens, computers will rule man, and not the other way round.

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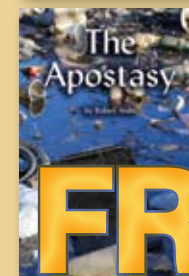
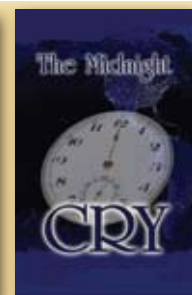
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