



The Midnight Cry

April/May 2011, Volume 3, Number 3

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

*Jesus Christ
Our Passover*



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From the Editor ...



The sacred Passover service for this year of 2011 will be held Sunday evening, April 17, shortly after sunset. This is the precise time God commands for this most solemn ceremony (Ex. 12:6). Of course, that was the exact time in 31 AD that the true Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, came together with His disciples to observe His last Passover.

“And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer (Lk. 22:14-15).

God Almighty and His Son had *predetermined* the exact time for Jesus to fulfill the prophecies of the “Lamb of God”—and the time had come. A few days earlier, as Jesus and His disciples were approaching Jerusalem, He had explained to the disciples that, on the coming Passover, He would be cruelly treated and finally killed! It was the time when He, Himself, would become the sacrificial Lamb!

“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to **mock**, and to **scourge**, and to **crucify** him: and **the third day he shall rise again** (Matt. 20:18-19).

At the precise hour for His final Passover, our Lord apparently had stated with great emotion, that He “*desired with desire to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*” The Lamb of God would die on that very Passover day of 31 AD that had just begun as the sun had set.

But, the disciples still did not grasp the magnitude of His statements.

Christ and the Father had specified the exact time for this supreme sacrifice—even from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Now, the time had come for the all-important fulfillment of the many scriptures involving the most profound act of love—ever! God IS love, and those two mighty Beings had devised a plan to epitomize that greatest of emotions.

God the Father would allow His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who had created ALL things, spiritual and physical, to give His life for the SINS of the entire world!

“For by him 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: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the **HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH**: who is the beginning, **THE FIRST-**

BORN FROM THE DEAD; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence (Col. 1:16-18).

Jesus Christ, God in the *flesh*, would be the **FIRSTBORN** from the dead—and the **FIRST** of many brethren!

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be **the firstborn among many brethren** (Rom. 8:28-29).

As **CREATORS**, God Almighty and Jesus Christ are **CREATING** God-beings—that is the purpose of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. This is the **ONLY** way others can be brought into the unimaginable joys of the Family of God. Again, this plan and purpose is founded entirely on the love of God!

God the Father and the Word had meticulously planned every tiny detail of this process to create beings to be identical to them. They made it known, through the inspired scriptures, that Jesus would suffer tremendously and then be brutally killed—as a **PERFECT SACRIFICE**. The Father would observe every detail of that sacrifice!

“He [the Father] shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many: and he shall bear their iniquities (Isa. 53:11).

It would be absolutely necessary that Christ would give His **FLESH** for the *life of the world* and to spill His life's **BLOOD** for the *SINS of the world*.

“Yet it pleased the **LORD** to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the **LORD** shall prosper in his hand (Isa. 53:10).

The **CREATOR** would die for the sake of the **CREATED**!

“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* (Jn. 6:51).

“...and the **BLOOD** of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin (1 Jn 1:7).

And it would be absolutely necessary for God to be right there to witness the entirety of the sacrifice!

In the God-designed process of creating God-beings, it was critically important that the Word become flesh (Jesus Christ) and *dwell among us* (John 1:14). Jesus, as the Lamb of God, had to be subjected to every type of sin, yet could not yield to any transgression of the Law of God. He had to live a **PERFECT** life as “a lamb without blemish.”

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was **in all points** tempted like as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15).

Jesus was a human being, yet He was God in the flesh. He was given God's Spirit without measure (John 3:34) for the incredibly difficult task He had to perform. He was the **CREATOR**, living in human flesh, but willing to give His life as

a sacrifice for the **SINS** of all human beings who have ever lived through the process of birth He had begun with Adam and Eve.

Our Savior knew implicitly that He had no authority to change any part of this fantastic plan. Verses 19 and 30 of John 5 reveal the totally committed and unselfish attitude of our Savior:

“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself**, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise... **I can of mine own self do nothing**: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek **not mine own will**, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, and being in the flesh He could certainly experience pain—even intense pain. And the trauma of the impending super-trial at times troubled Him. Nevertheless, the stress did not cause Him to seek to avoid His mission. No! It caused Him to cry out to God—to draw closer to His Father. And always, the Father was there to give Him the needed support.

The following verses demonstrate their love for one another and the total commitment to the purpose of this ultimate sacrifice. Just a few days before He would give His Life, Jesus felt the tremendous weight of the events immediately ahead and cried out:

“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour... [And Christ then exclaims] Father, glorify your name (Jn. 12:27-28).

And God answered instantly with a booming voice that the populace thought was thunder:

“...Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him (Jn. 12:28-29).

At that final Passover observance with His disciples, Christ with all authority changed the emblems of the Passover! No longer would young lambs be slain and eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. Jesus, the Son of God, would now be our Passover Lamb.

On that evening our Lord took unleavened bread and blessed and broke it, emblematic of His soon to be whipped and beaten body—*through whose stripes we are healed.* And Hebrews 10:19-20 shouts aloud that His ripped and torn *flesh* was symbolic of the VEIL (curtain) in the Holy of Holies that would be ripped open, from top to bottom at the instant He died!

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the BLOOD of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his FLESH (Heb. 10:19-20).

He also took a cup of wine and blessed it and gave to the disciples telling them it represented His blood that He would give for the remission of sin: “For this is my BLOOD of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28). Then He delivered wonderful encouraging words to His beloved disciples—His friends. But time ran out, and He led them out to the Garden of Gethsemane.

They stopped in a quiet and comfortable spot, but then Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to proceed a little farther with Him. The men were very tired and sleepy, so our Lord went on a short distance more and felt the intense pressure of the impending trial.

He fell prostrate on the damp ground and fervently prayed:

“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. [And God responded immediately and sent an angel] And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground (Lk. 22:42-44).

There had never been nor would ever be again a trial so severe! All of His natural human emotions had to be completely controlled even though He would suffer pain beyond our worst fears. He would be brutalized, as Isaiah 52:14 attempts to convey: “As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.”

The apostle Paul was inspired to write Hebrews 5:7-9:

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.

Our Lord and Savior prayed fervently with strong supplications—and He knew His Father was there with Him, as Matthew 26:53-54 reveals:

“Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”

The wonderful mind of Jesus Christ was made up and determined to do what He came to do: the Creator would give His life for mankind whom He had created. He was not focused on the horrendous trial, but on the glorious outcome of the plan of God!

Now He was fully prepared—there was NO turning back! Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God! He would offer Himself as a SACRIFICE—the CREATOR would give His life for the CREATED!

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Heb. 2:9-10).

And one all-important aspect in bringing many sons to glory as God-beings is the fact that those many sons must be completely free of any spot, wrinkle or blemish caused by SIN! Therefore, through God's grace ALL sin can be washed away though the BLOOD of Jesus Christ. He would taste death for every man!

The demon-inspired mob, led by

Continued on page 13.

“With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer!” Those heartfelt words were spoken by the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as He began His final Passover evening. He was fully aware that He, Himself, on that day would become the true Passover Lamb—and He “desired” to hasten the conclusion of this greatest act of love.

He was facing His incredibly difficult trial. It seems that many of us face severe trials and tests around Passover time each year. Satan the devil knows his time is short, and he hates the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. The Passover represents to him, his most crushing defeat! The WAY had been perfected for the process of “bringing many sons to glory”.

The first Passover service conducted by the Worldwide Church of God in New Zealand was 43 years ago. The events that began then, some sixteen hours before the Passover, emphasize Satan’s rage in his attempts to hinder God’s people from observing this most solemn service.

Here is Mr. Wallace Lawton’s historic account of the amazing ordeal which four of God’s people had to endure to observe the Passover of April 10, 1968.

- Robert G. Ardis

The First New Zealand Passover Service 1968



The TEV Wahine lists heavily to starboard as it sinks in Wellington Harbour. Lifeboats from the ship can be seen to the left.

by Wallace T. Lawton

The timing of the first Passover to take place in New Zealand was destined to become an unforgettable part of New Zealand maritime history, proving to be one of the worst shipwrecks recorded.

Despite the frenzy of the storm - the worst ever recorded in Wellington - and the terrible damage done to the ship, the *Wahine* all that morning refused to concede. Astonishingly, she stayed upright, intact and afloat. But then, as the storm died away in the early afternoon, and with her battle almost won, the *Wahine* quietly rolled over and sank.

The four baptized South Island members of the Worldwide Church of God who embarked on their journey to the city of Auckland to attend the very first Passover service to be held in an upstairs room in the Strand Arcade knew nothing of the ordeal that they were to experience!

On the morning of April 10, 1968, Cyclone Giselle hit Wellington at

the same time as another storm that had driven up the West Coast of the South Island from Antarctica. The two storms met over the capital city, creating a single storm, just as the inter-island ferry *Wahine* was crossing Cook Strait.

The *Wahine* had left the port of Lyttelton (the epicenter of the earthquake that devastated the city of Christchurch February 22) at 8:40 p.m. the night before, carrying 610 passengers and a crew of 123. There had been storm warnings, but nothing to say that this storm would be any worse than other winds in the strait which is well known for its rough seas.

The ferry traveled up the east coast of the South Island and headed for Wellington Harbour. By now, the winds were gusting at between 130 and 150 kilometers per hour.

At 5:50 a.m. on the morning of April 10, the captain of the *Wahine*, Captain Hector Robertson, decided to enter the harbor. Twenty minutes later, the ferry was alongside Pencarrow Head. The winds had in-

creased to 160 kilometers per hour, and those on board could only see a distance of 800 meters. On board the *Wahine*, the radar system was no longer working.

A huge wave pushed the *Wahine* off course and in line with Barrett Reef, and the captain was unable to turn back on course. The force of another massive wave threw him across the bridge of the ship.

He decided to keep turning the ferry and try to bring the *Wahine* around and back out to sea again. For 30 minutes the *Wahine* fought the waves, but by 6:40 a.m. it had been driven back onto the rocks of Barrett Reef.

Most of the passengers did not realize that the ferry had struck rocks because they could tell little difference between that impact and the battering the ship was receiving.

Captain Robertson ordered the closing of all watertight doors and dropped both anchors when he learned that none of the engines were working.

Passengers were told that the ferry was aground on the reef, and to put on their lifejackets and report to their assembly points around the ship.

The accident was reported to the signal station at Beacon Hill, just

above Point Dorset, and the crew prepared the life-saving equipment. Flooding was reported in four compartments and the vehicle deck, which could affect the stability of the ship. As the intensity and power of the storm grew, the winds increased, and the *Wahine* dragged its anchors. At this stage, the weather was so bad that no

deputy harbor master managed to climb aboard the *Wahine* from the pilot launch that had also reached the scene.

At about 1:15 p.m., the combined effect of the tide and the storm swung the *Wahine* around so that there was a patch of clear water sheltered from the wind and the

sea on the starboard side. This was on the side toward which the ferry was leaning more and more.

Captain Robertson had not considered abandoning the ship earlier because he felt it was safer for the passengers to remain on board, given the storm conditions. But now the order was given to abandon ship.

Passengers, not told before how serious the situation was, were now confused and frightened. People slid across the sloping deck, trying to make their way to the



Track map of Cyclone Giselle

help could be given from the harbor or the shore.

Gradually, the *Wahine* drifted further down the harbor, until she was just by Steeple Rock, off Point Dorset. By now, a tug had set off from Queens Wharf to try and reach the *Wahine*. At about 11:00 a.m., a line from the tug was used to try and tow the ferry, but the line gave way. Other attempts failed, but the

lifeboats.

Only the four starboard lifeboats could be launched, and crewmen tried to get as many people as possible onto them. One lifeboat was swamped when it hit the water and people were lost in the sea. Some managed to hold onto the boat as it drifted across the harbor to the eastern shore. Other boats were also swamped, but many of the

passengers were able to reach the small rescue boats that were by now surrounding the *Wahine*.

Some people tried to make their own way ashore, jumping from the *Wahine's* decks. Others reached the inflatable life rafts that had been thrown overboard, but several of these were punctured in the wreckage. The waves of the sea were still battering the ferry, and people in the water struggled to keep hold of wreckage or the sides of the lifeboats.

The captain and deputy harbor-master were the last to leave after checking that no one remained on the ferry. They were in the water close to the wreck for an hour before being rescued. At about 2:30 p.m., the *Wahine* rolled completely onto her side. By then, the first of the survivors were reaching the shore at Seatoun. Rescuers there helped the passengers ashore, not realizing the extent of the disaster. Other survivors drifted across the harbor to Eastbourne, where over 200 survivors eventually landed.

Even now, four decades later, it still seems incredible - unbelievable that such a tragedy could occur. The *Wahine* was not in trouble far away off some remote, inaccessible, uninhabited shore; she was inside Wellington Harbour and only a few kilometers from downtown Wellington City, Capital of New Zealand. The ship was near new, fully operational, fully manned, on time, on her proper course and correctly loaded. There were two highly experienced, fully certified

master mariners on her bridge: Captain Robertson and Chief Officer Luly.

The *Wahine* had survived a mauling on Barrett Reef and had then just as miraculously avoided going ashore on Point Dorset. For many hours, despite her injuries and as the storm worsened, the *Wahine* remained defiantly afloat and upright. Then, with the weather rapidly moderating, and when her prospects should have been largely in the clear, the *Wahine* slowly, quietly rolled over and sank. At the time of her abandonment and sinking, the *Wahine* was scarcely half a kilometer from the wide beach and residential streets of Seatoun. Yet 51 people died in the sea.

A landslip had blocked the road to Eastbourne, and rescue teams were delayed in reaching the coast, but they were there in time for the flood of people who struggled through the surf to safety. 51 people died in the disaster, most of them middle-aged or elderly. Some were drowned or died of exposure. Others were thrown against the rocks by the surf on the eastern shore and died there.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurie and Sylvia Nathan, together with an elderly lady, Mrs. Mills, and another lady called Peggy, were among this group that were driven across to the eastern shore.

As Mrs. Mills was being rescued by someone who she described as "an Angel in blue trousers," another male passenger was dashed against the same rock she was

clinging to, and he was killed as his head was driven against the rock face.

Sometime later, a police officer describing that while he was rescuing an elderly lady, he had witnessed a man being killed by being dashed against the rocks before he was able to get to him. Incredibly, this "angel in blue trousers" who was part of those assisting with rescue services turned out to be a cousin of Mrs. Patsy Gerraty!

All of this was the beginning of pre-Passover problems!

Evangelist Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and Regional Director Mr. Graham Marshall attended this first Passover service together with Mrs. Patsy Gerraty and her sister, also long-serving deacon Mr. Barry Nottingham with other of the first members previously baptized by visiting minister Mr. Dexter Faulkner - about fifteen members in all.

Mr. Jim Roberts, who was bringing the wine, unleavened bread and trays, was caught in a lift that got stuck just below floor level. The service technician who was working to free the lift received electric shocks and severe burns and was taken away to hospital. The second service man was able to take off part of the lift roof, and the items needed for the Passover service were handed out through the top of the lift. The Passover service eventually got started two hours late. ❖



Salvage operations under way two weeks after the disaster

Jesus Christ Our Passover

*Pilate washed his hands,
For he knew it was not right,
But the mob cried, "Crucify Him,"
In the chill of the night.*

*Jesus was scourged,
More than any man, we are told.
Pilate gasped when he saw Him,
"The man, behold!"*

*Barely able to walk,
But determined to go on,
They laughed at and poked fun
Of God's precious Son.*

*Outside of the city He was driven,
Carrying that pole,
To which He was cruelly nailed,
Slowly pouring out His soul.*

*For six hours He hung there
As His strength continued to wane,
From the steady loss of blood,
The thirst, and the pain.*

*Then, "My God, my God,
Why have You forsaken Me?"
He cried aloud first.
And knowing all scripture must be fulfilled,
He shouted, "I thirst!"*

*Fully aware that the prophecies
Would not be denied,
Thus a drunken Roman soldier's spear
Ripped open His side.*

*Fatally wounded, He cried aloud
For all to plainly hear it,
"It is finished," "Father, into your hands
I give my spirit."*

*At three o'clock in the afternoon
Of Passover Day,
The God who became man,
Bowed his head and then passed away.*

*For three days and three nights
In the tomb He lay still,
Till all prophecies were completed
According to God's will.*

*But then His body stirred
And He sat up triumphantly,
Overcoming even death,
The Savior of you and me.*

*Nineteen hundred and eighty years ago,
His Resurrection occurred.
Alive evermore, First-Born from the dead,
Jesus Christ, the Living Word.*

*Interceding for us,
Such praises we should sing,
To God, our Holy Father,
And Christ our Savior and King.*

*Now, we in the Day of the Lord
Must be faithful in our race,
As we struggle to grow up
Into His knowledge and grace.*

*Jesus Christ is our Passover,
God's sacrifice for all men,
Now many sons can be brought
To glory in God's Family,
World without end.*

(Eph. 3:21)

by Robert Ardis

The Rest of the Story!



By Robert Ardis

Nineteen hundred and eighty years ago, around 9:00 a.m. on that fateful Passover morning of 31 AD, the sins of mankind had been heaped upon the ripped and torn flesh of the Lamb of God. *“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”* (1Peter 2:24). Jesus Christ had endured a night of horror, including the brutality of a Roman scourging administered so violently that it could have caused His death.

Meditating on the words of Isaiah 52:14 should cause us to shudder at the description given: *“As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.”* This is from the Word of God; thus it is an absolute fact—it is truth! Jesus’ face, His “appearance,” was so marred (disfigured) more than any man and His “countenance” more *than the sons of men.*

The CEV translates verse 14 this way: “Many were horrified at what happened to him. But everyone who saw him was even more horrified because he suffered until he no longer looked human.” The GNB renders verse 14 as: “Many people were shocked when they saw him; he was so disfigured that he hardly looked human.”

Jesus was an awful sight to behold! Pontius Pilate was a hardened Roman official, but when he saw Jesus, as the scripture states, he was “astonished” at the results of the vicious scourging. Most likely he gasped as he said, *“Behold the man!”*

Through that long night Jesus had suffered physically and emotionally. The demon-incited mob insisted that Pilate condemn Him to death. They cried out, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” So Pilate “washed his hands” of the affair, and condemned the Son of God to death by crucifixion.

Jesus was driven forth like an animal and forced to carry and drag the heavy pole He was to die on to Golgotha, an area just outside the walls of the city. Finally, arriving at that assigned place, He was made to lie down upon the pole. He was then brutally affixed to it by the hammering of large nails through His hands and feet. The stake, with His body fastened to it, was then lifted and dropped into a prepared hole in the rocky earth.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God was crucified!

Time passed slowly as He suffered in every pain-wracked cell of His body.

Psalm 22:14-15 gives some indication of His sufferings:

“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.”

From 9:00 a.m. to noon, it is recorded that Christ spoke three times. He encouraged one of the “thieves” that had also been crucified, by stating, *“Verily I say unto thee today—you shall be with me in paradise”* (Lk. 23:43). The man was to have his “calling” during the Last Great Day—the Second Resurrection (Rev. 20:12). Next, in an outstanding example, nearly beyond human comprehension, Jesus said: *“...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...”* (Lk. 23:34). Jesus’ third utterance before the darkness began was concern for His dear mother:

“When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!** Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home (Jn. 19:26-27).”

So, after Christ had hung there for three hours, suffering in deep agony, a very eerie darkness came over the land: *“And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the*

whole land until the ninth hour” (Mark 15:33). And with the darkness came another trial!

In that gathering darkness the physical pain was not all that He felt! Satan, the prince of darkness, and his wicked demons were there, trying in desperation to make Him sin—even one SIN! Psalm 22:12-13 pictures in symbolism the devil and the hateful demons:

“Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

And remember, Isaiah 53:11 tells us that God the Father had to watch every aspect of the SACRIFICE—and He watched this, too. Some have taught that God the Father, in His absolute purity, cannot “look on sin,” but scripture will show that is an entirely false assumption.

Of course, God and His Son knew Satan would be there at the crucifixion in a final attempt to thwart the plan of God. Satan is the embodiment of sin—and God could surely “look on him.” In fact, Satan has been commanded to appear before God at certain times. Job 1:6 and 2:1 state:

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

During His ministry, Jesus spoke of Satan’s intense evil in John 8:44:

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his

own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

That habitual liar and murderer, Satan, the devil, came before God with all of his wickedness on those commanded assemblies—until he was kicked out of Heaven. The point here is that God can and does “look upon sin”!

The Passover Lamb had not uttered a word during those hours of darkness, but around 3:00 p.m. on that eerie and dark Passover afternoon, in His deep suffering, Jesus realized that His sacrifice was coming to a conclusion. Scripture informs us that Jesus KNEW ALL THINGS involved in this sacrifice, especially from the point of His being taken captive by the mob to the time of His death. Notice the following scriptures:

“Jesus therefore, KNOWING ALL THINGS that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? [He had said this to Judas and the mob] (John 18:4).

“After this [“After what?” is what we will look at shortly], Jesus KNOWING that ALL THINGS were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst (John 19:28).

Earlier, He had prayed to His Father, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Lk. 23:34)! And in a few more moments, part of His last words would be, “Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit” (Lk. 23:46).

In over 70 places in the New Testament, Jesus addresses God as “My Father.” In His prayers and statements about the Father, Jesus always refers to God as “My Father.” In all of His prayers it is not record-

ed that He addresses God as “My God”! No! It is always “My Father.” Jesus knew more than anyone that God is God—but He addressed Him as “My Father”!

What I am stressing here is that Jesus uses the more intimate expression, “My Father,” especially in prayer. Therefore, it seems extremely unusual that the Son of God in His last few minutes of life in the flesh would cry out, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46).

Why doesn’t He say, “My Father, My Father”?

Had God deserted Him? Had the Father forsaken His Son in His final moments of LIFE? Was the Father unable to “look on SIN,” as is commonly taught?

Nothing—absolutely NOTHING—is impossible with God (Matt. 19:26), and the most vital event in the plan of God was occurring in those final moments of Jesus’ life. The Father had observed every single second of the SACRIFICE of His SON during those six hours. The three hours of deep darkness most likely has a more profound meaning than we understand, but He had not left the scene, according to Isaiah 53:10-11!

“Yet it pleased the LORD [the Father] to bruise him; he [the Father] hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin. He [the Father] shall SEE of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied [It would be a PERFECT SACRIFICE in every tiny detail]: by his knowledge [the Father’s KNOWLEDGE] shall my righteous servant justify many: for he shall bear their iniquities.

And scripture very plainly tells us in Hebrews 13:5 that “... for he hath

said, *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*" This scripture refers to Old Testament verses all the way back to Genesis 28:15; Deuteronomy 31:6 and 8; Joshua 5:1; I Chronicles 28:20; and Psalm 37:25.

The Father would NOT forsake or ever leave His Son!

The Father was right there—He had to be involved in this great SACRIFICE!

It was finally 3:00 p.m. on Passover of 31 AD, and the unusual darkness that had spread over the land for three hours was ending. Then the Lamb of God, **KNOWING ALL THINGS**, knew He had fulfilled all the scriptures—except TWO! In my opinion, the cries that He was about to shout aloud, were apparently a predetermined SIGNAL for His death. Jesus would cry aloud, as loud as He could shout, the words of Psalm 22:1 and then Psalm 69:5.

This was not a prayer to His Father. If it had been, He would have cried out, "My Father, My Father!" Next He shouted, "I thirst!" Jesus was enacting the prophecies written centuries before that would fulfill ALL SCRIPTURE (Matt. 26:54) and spur to violent action the frightened Roman soldiers.

He cried aloud Psalm 22:1: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani...?" To those standing there, these words sounded like He was calling for the Prophet Elijah to come take Him down from the stake!

He also cried out "*I THIRST!*" With His entire body nearly convulsing in pain, the singling out of His thirst as His major discomfort is proof that in those last moments He was *fulfilling scriptures* by what He was saying!

Read again John 19:28:

““ After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, *I thirst.*”

This was a fulfillment of Psalm 69:21:

““ They gave me also gall for my meat; **and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.**”

Beginning at Jesus' cry of "**My God, My God...**" I will copy the writings from all four Gospels writers according to the time order in which each event occurred. I will also include with the scriptures, page 31 of our booklet, *The Plain Truth About God's Healing*, which connects the scriptures correctly.

““ Some of them that stood there, when they heard that [His cry], 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 (Matt. 27:47-49).*”

““ Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar [Prov. 31:6]: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. **When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said it is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost (John 19:29-30).**”

Now quoting from our booklet, *The Plain Truth About God's Healing*:

““ 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 (Matt. 27) 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: 9 ("**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.**”

““ Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for the sins of the world. The sins of the entirety of mankind were placed upon Him as he hung upon that stake—and as the soldier's spear ripped open His side, He died of the massive loss of His blood—His life flowed away!

““ Exactly where the spear pierced [Strong's #3572 can mean *prick* or *pierced*] His side is not known. It must not have been thrust directly into His heart because He was able to cry out with a loud voice according to Luke 23:46: "**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**" John 19:30 adds also that he said, "**It is finished!**" The piercing of his side had to have been violently administered to leave a gaping wound large enough for Thomas, later, to *thrust in his hand* (John 20:27). One prophetic

phrase in Zechariah 12:10 leaves no doubt that the *piercing* of his side was a violent act: “...and they shall look upon me whom they have *pierced*...” The word used for *pierced* is *Strong’s # 1856* and is used ten times in the Old Testament, meaning *thrust through!*

End of quote.

“ And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father** [not “My God”], **into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost** (Lk. 23:46).

“ And Jesus cried with a loud voice [He screamed when the Roman soldier’s spear ripped open His side], **and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom** (Mk. 15:37-38).

God the Father watched the entire ordeal, according to scripture. To turn away and forsake His Son would contradict the Word of God. He heard His Son’s cry quoting from Psalms 22 and 69, knowing that all prophecies had now been fulfilled. The Father had not intervened. He had not sent an angel to stand with Jesus nor had He spoken to Him. Perhaps that is how the statement about “being forsaken” should be viewed. However, Jesus **KNEW ALL THINGS** that were going to happen in His **SACRIFICE**.

Jesus knew from the answer to His prayer in the garden that He had to “*drink the cup set before Him*,” according to the plan and will of God. There could be no turning back! And He had to do it by Himself!

“ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the

word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb. 1:3).

When our Lord cried out the words of Psalm 22, it was mistakenly thought by the soldiers to be an appeal for Elijah to come save Him. And it was the signal for the deadly stroke of the soldier’s spear to conclude the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. Every detail had been planned. The Son of God would have to die and be placed in the tomb before sunset of that Passover day (Jn. 19:31). The vital sign that Jesus gave to prove He was the Messiah was the time he would be in the grave—three days and three nights (Matt. 12:39-40). Then He would be resurrected! It was all planned out—and God does things right on time.

Jesus, the Son of God, died from the thrust of that spear and the Father instantly responded: ***the veil of the Temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom!***

“ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; **but that the world through him might be saved** (Jn. 3:16-17).

“ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him** (Rom. 5:8-9).

“ 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 (Jn. 6:51).

Jesus Christ is our Passover (1 Cor. 5:8). He gave His **FLESH**—His **Body**—for the life of the world! He poured forth His **BLOOD** for **ALL** of the sins of mankind! Leviticus 17:11 states that “*the life is in the blood.*” The **CREATOR** gave His **LIFE** for the created!

And the instant Christ died, the “**VEIL**” in the temple was ripped wide open! Through the **SACRIFICE** of the Lamb of God, access to God our Father was made available, and **ALL** sins could be forgiven.

“ 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; and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies having been washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He is faithful who promised** (Heb. 10:19-23, **God’s Word version**).

The **SACRIFICE** was completed through the greatest act of **LOVE** ever—now, “many sons could be brought to glory,” having full access to God, **OUR FATHER**, through the “opened” curtain!

Therefore, let us also “desire with desire” to observe the Passover this year in a more knowledgeable way and truly be thankful for the Great Plan of the two great Creator-Beings that have made it possible for us to share in the **LOVE** of the Family of God—forever! ❖

Cont. from pg 2 From The Editor

the traitor, Judas Iscariot, took Jesus captive late that Passover night. He was hastily taken to the religious leaders who had paid Judas to betray Christ. Caiaphas, the high priest, examined Jesus and finally demanded of Him if He was the Christ:

“But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven (Matt. 26:63-64).

At that instant, the brutalization of the Son of God began. He was spit upon, slapped in the face and ridiculed. Then He was sent to the Roman procurator, Pontius Pilate, who could find no fault in Jesus. Therefore, he sent him to Herod, the tetrarch of Galilee (Lk. 3:1) who was in Jerusalem for the Jewish Passover. This was Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great, and the one responsible for the death of John the

Baptist.

Herod was curious about Christ and hoped He would perform a miracle, but Jesus would not respond to anything Herod asked. He was fully aware of the scripture in Isaiah 53:7:

“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Therefore, He was sent again to Pilate and received a demonic scourging that could have caused His death. However, it was prophesied that He would die from a massive loss of His BLOOD. One phrase in verse 12 of Isaiah 53 states clearly, “because he hath poured out his soul unto death.”

Verse 10 indicates that Jesus could have died from the viciousness of the scourging, but that God *prolonged* His life.

And through the entire horrendous trial of that Passover, 1980 years ago, God the Father observed every tiny detail. Every scripture had to be fulfilled perfectly so that many sons

could be brought to glory.

God is LOVE, and only through the mind of God could such a wondrous PLAN originate. The Creator would give His life for the CREATED according to the will of Almighty God!

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (Jn. 3:16).

Our article, “The Rest of the Story,” in this issue of *The Midnight Cry*, will explore the depth of the love of God that is revealed in the supreme sacrifice of the Lamb of God. I hope that the article helps all of us to understand and appreciate, to a greater extent, what has been done for us by God, our Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in bringing many sons unto glory.

Brethren, I truly hope and pray that you will have a most meaningful and inspiring Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

Your brother in Christ,




Fantastic, miraculous, spectacular healings occurred in the first century through the ministry of Jesus Christ—and by His apostles and disciples. Were those astonishing healings only for that time in history?

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall

recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

Are we not believers today? Yet, so many are sick and need healing—and some have died—just as I Corinthians 11:29

states. What does “not discerning the Lord’s body” mean? Why is God not healing those who really do believe today?

Is the rarity of true healings today due to a lack of faith by the people of God?

Do God’s people really understand and apply all of the Biblical instructions regarding true healing?

The wonderful answers to these questions are joyfully presented in the pages of this booklet and come directly from the Word of God! This is NEW TRUTH given by the grace of God our Father and from the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior (II Peter 3:18).

Download or call for your FREE copy of The Plain Truth about God’s Healing and “Prove all things.”

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.

Faux job numbers could lead to real trouble

Deception is a dangerous thing. You never really know when a lie may turn on you.

Take, for instance, the Labor Department's annual springtime boost in the faux jobs market. While it's nice that the government thinks there is an employment boom coming, this won't be a good development if that boom turns out to be imaginary yet still causes the Federal Reserve to prematurely tighten credit conditions.

Early this month Labor reported that 216,000 new jobs were created in March. It was better than Wall Street expected.

But the figure included 117,000 jobs that the department thinks, but can't prove, were created by newly formed companies that might not even exist. In fact, the department is getting so optimistic about the labor market that it increased this imaginary job count from just 81,000 in March, 2010.

As I've been telling you for months, the spring always causes the Labor Department to goose its job-creation numbers. And maybe sometime in the future this process will be warranted. But during 2009 and 2010 these springtime assumptions -- which are officially called the Birth/Death Model by Labor -- led to major errors in the annual job count.

The next three months should be doozies. In April 2010, the Labor Department guessed that 188,000 jobs were created by these newly formed, maybe nonexistent companies; last May's total job num-

ber was jacked up by a 215,000 guess, and June got an artificial boost of 147,000 jobs.

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

Comment: Massaging statistics to suit a particular point of view is not a new procedure, but as this report points out, deception is a dangerous thing even a lie!

Even faithful Abraham thought he could get away with deceiving the Egyptian Pharaoh when to protect himself he said his wife Sarai was his sister. Pharaoh found out after God sent plagues on him and his house, and he sent Abraham on his way. It could have been much worse if pharaoh had married Sarai.

Why do men have to lie? The Bible tells us that Satan is a liar and the father of all lies, and yet we think deceit will help us out of a difficulty or problem.

"Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled gravel." Prov 20:17

A very descriptive account of when we lie we actually deceive ourselves of the outcome. We especially need to be aware, and on our guard spiritually, that men do in fact lie in wait to deceive us.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" Eph 4:14

Yes, you never really know when a lie may turn on you. Deception is a dangerous thing.

Europe 'losing' superbugs battle

Antibiotic-resistant infections have reached un-

precedented levels and now outstrip our ability to fight them with existing drugs, European health experts are warning.

Each year in the EU over 25,000 people die of bacterial infections that are able to outsmart even the newest antibiotics.

The World Health Organization says the situation has reached a critical point.

A united push to make new drugs is urgently needed, it says.

Without a concerted effort, people could be dealing with the “nightmare scenario” of a worldwide spread of untreatable infections, says the WHO.

One example is the New Delhi or NDM-1 superbug recently found in UK patients.

They brought the infection back with them from countries like India and Pakistan, which they had visited for medical treatment and cosmetic surgery.

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

Comment: Nearly three people an hour, in Europe, die from infections that we cannot treat. This of course is extremely bad and yet it is due to become far, far worse!

“A third part of thee (Israel) shall die with the pestilence...” Ezek 5:12 A pestilence is a destroying plague, or any usually fatal epidemic disease.

“And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

And I looked, and behold a pale horse, and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. Rev 6:7-8

When the fourth Seal is opened fully, a third of Israel and a quarter of the earth's population will die and no amount of drugs will save them. Mankind will learn that it pays to obey their creator, but it won't be until much more suffering is applied. Debt now equals total U.S. economy

Israel warns travellers of Passover attacks

Israel on Sunday urged its citizens and foreign Jews to exercise special caution against possible militant attack when travelling over the Passover holiday as tensions in the Gaza Strip rise.

The government routinely issues warnings ahead of Jewish holidays, especially the week-long Passover festival that begins next week, but Sunday's advisory warned of an increased threat because of the spiral in cross-border fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza.

“Following events in the Gaza Strip, terrorist elements intend to carry out attacks on Israeli and Jewish individuals abroad ahead of, and during, the Passover holiday in the Mediterranean basin and in the far east,” the national anti-terror bureau said in a communique issued by the prime minister's office.

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

Comment: Members of God's True Church are quickly approaching the time to renew their baptismal covenant with God. On Sunday April 17 in the evening we will be participating in the wonderful and meaningful Passover Service in commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Thankfully, most, if not all of God's people will be able to take the ceremony either alone or with others of like mind in peace and safety. Not so with the nation of Israel which will be persecuted even more than usual during the Passover season. None of us though should take our peace and safety for granted as we live in a world of very fragile peace where strife and violence can erupt at any time. We can pray to God and thank Him for continued peace, especially during this Passover and unleavened bread season, and look forward to the time when total peace will come to Israel and the world.

“Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.

The LORD shall bless Thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.” PSA 128:4-6

Europe feels strain as US alters Libya policy

Transatlantic relations are being tested by the US's refusal to lead the military mission in Libya, with figures on both sides of the ocean depicting the conflict as a wake-up call for Europe's military and political establishments.

Britain and France are straining to fill the gap left by Washington's decision to pull back, as Europe's military ambitions are tested.

The Pentagon said on Tuesday that it had flown 1,600 sorties since operations began on March 19 and would no longer be involved in air strikes against Libyan targets. It would continue support missions, such as aerial refuelling, and would remain on alert for emergency strike missions, if requested by Nato.

Defence experts maintain that the US move has a longer-term significance, since it signals that Europeans cannot rely on Washington to provide security in crises in their neighbourhood.

"What we've seen in Libya is hugely significant," said Lord Hutton, a former defence secretary in the last Labour government. "The US has been saying for 10 or 15 years that it wants the Euro-

peans to share more of the security burden and we have to heed that lesson. We should be doing much more in Europe. We cannot go on expecting the US to take the leading role.

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

Comment: As Washington pulls back on their military mission in Libya, out goes the cry in Europe to fill the military gap. This is being looked upon as a wake-up call for Europe's, military and Political establishments. This could mark the start of the formation of the rebirth of the Holy Roman Empire known as the Beast in prophetic Bible terms.

The "first Woe" or the fifth trumpet is described in Revelation 9:1-11. The power that causes the destruction labelled as the "first woe" emerges out of the "bottomless pit". We see this interpreted in Revelation as a final revival of this great empire. This power takes political and military control of Europe.

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." Rev 17:8

The Midnight Cry Has Begun

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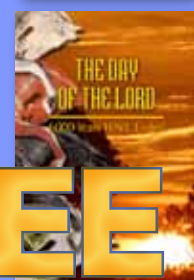
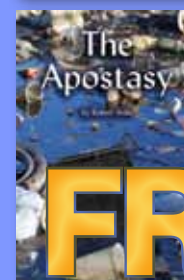
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