



The Midnight Cry

MAR/APR 2014, Volume 6, Number 2

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding



**For God So
Loved The World...**



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From the Editor ...



Greetings everyone! I am sure you have been preparing for the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread that are fast approaching. What an amazing and loving Plan our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ His Son has created. This fantastic Plan was designed that human beings like you and me could have a special invitation to be born into the very Family of God! God's annual Holy Days depict the Plan of God! The Plan begins with the Passover portraying the sacrifice of the perfect Lamb of God.

In this special issue of the Midnight Cry we have compiled a "package" of several articles, previously presented in the Midnight Cry, that detail the vital biblical facts of the true Passover. The marvelous opportunity to live God's Plan each year begins with the Passover—and then—the Days of Unleavened Bread. Please read and carefully study the inspired messages presented in the following pages. Hopefully they will help you in having a more meaningful Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

Passover 2014

The sacred Passover service for this year of 2014 will be held Sunday evening, April 13th, 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 BC 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 (Luke 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 Pass-over 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 FIRSTBORN 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 fore-

know, 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. (1Jn 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 became flesh (Jesus Christ) and dwelled 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 at-

titude 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, thus 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 wonderfully encouraging words to His beloved disciples—His friends—but time ran out, thus 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 sleepy and tired, 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 (Luke 22:42-44).

There had never been nor would it ever be again; a trial so severe! All of His natural human emotions had to be completely controlled although He would suffer pain beyond our worst fears. He would be brutalized as Isa. 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 Heb. 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 Mat. 26:53-54 reveal:

“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 that which He came to do: the Creator would give His life for mankind that 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 the traitor, Judas Iscariot, took Jesus captive late that Passover night. He was hastily taken to the reli-

gious 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 (Mat. 26:63-64).”

At that instance 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 (Luke 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 Isa. 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 Isa 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 God prolonged His life.

And through the entire horrendous trial of that Passover 1983 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 (John 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 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 you have a most meaningful and inspiring Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

Your brother in Christ,



The Rest of the Story!



By Robert Ardis

Nineteen hundred and eighty-three 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 69:21.

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 (“***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 (I 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! ❖

Jesus' Last Passover

When and How Was It Observed?

by Wallace T. Lawton

In the February 2010 *Midnight Cry* article entitled “The Quails of Exodus 16,” the Biblical use of the Hebrew terms *ben ha-arbayim* and *ba-erev* were carefully explained. Our merciful God had the miraculous account of the quails of Exodus 16 preserved in Scripture to prove conclusively that the correct time for keeping the Passover service is immediately after sunset (*ba erev*) of the 13th of Nisan, which is then the time period of dusk (*ben ha-arbayim*)—beginning the new day of Nisan14.

We hope the article did prove to you the exact time God intends for the Passover to be observed! And we knew a follow-up article would be required about the New Testament Scriptures, because there is almost

as much confusion surrounding the New Testament Passover as there is about the Old Testament Passover.

The Truth of God's Word is available and can be understood, in spite of mistranslations or misrepresentations. The truth of Jesus' last Passover has been faithfully preserved in the New Testament, just as the truth about the Old Testament Passover has been preserved. Satan may try to bury the truth under an avalanche of lies and false doctrines, but the Truth of God always prevails! Yet people choose to believe false doctrine because they want to cling to their traditions, and do not love the Truth of God! (Mark 7:7-13 and II Thess. 2:10)

Luke 22:7 in the KJV reads, “**Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the Passover must be killed.**” This sentence has caused some

confusion! It is certain that this sentence does not refer to the first day of Unleavened Bread because the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins after, not before, the Passover.

In the first century, it was commonly known that “the day of the unleaveneds,” as in Luke 22:7, was the 14th of Nisan—Passover day!

G. Amadon, in an article titled “The Crucifixion Calendar,” pointed out the error of those translators who translated this verse to read, “the first day of the festival.”

““ But on what authority should the Hebrew translators, as Salkinso and Delitzch, introduce the word *chag* [a Hebrew word for “feast”], into these texts when the corresponding Greek has no word for “feast” and speaks only of the “first of the unleavened bread”—a common expression for the Jewish 14th with practically all first century writers (Journal of Biblical Literature, vol. LX111, 1944, pp. 188-189, emphasis added).

JESUS' LAST MEAL REALLY WAS THE PASSOVER

Jesus Himself tells us that He kept THE TRUE PASSOVER, as recorded in the Gospel of Mark. Scripture shows that there is no question whatsoever that our Lord observed the true Passover at the beginning of the 14th, twenty-four hours before the Jews' Passover.

Let's begin in Mark 14:12:

““ And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the Passover...”

This verse is a mistranslation as

proven by the Old Testament Scriptures! The Passover was killed on the 14th, and the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on the 15th.

Therefore the literal translation of verse 12 from the Greek should be **“the first day of the unleaveneds”!** The Passover was to be killed between the evenings of the 13th and the 14th, as proven in last month’s article. Then the daylight portion of the 14th was the first day of the unleaveneds, defining the first day of the year, when the people were required to “unleaven” their dwellings in preparation for the Days of Unleavened Bread—as commanded by God in Exodus 12.

Let’s continue in Mark 14, verse 12: “...when they killed the Passover...” This expression is most revealing because of the intrinsic meaning of the Greek verb. The English word translated they killed comes from the Greek verb *ethuon*. The verb root is *thuo*. The verb *ethuon* reflects the following case and action:

- 3rd person plural - they;
- Imperfect - meaning an action not yet completed, but taking place at that very moment – were killing;
- Active indicative - being done personally at that moment by the subject - they.

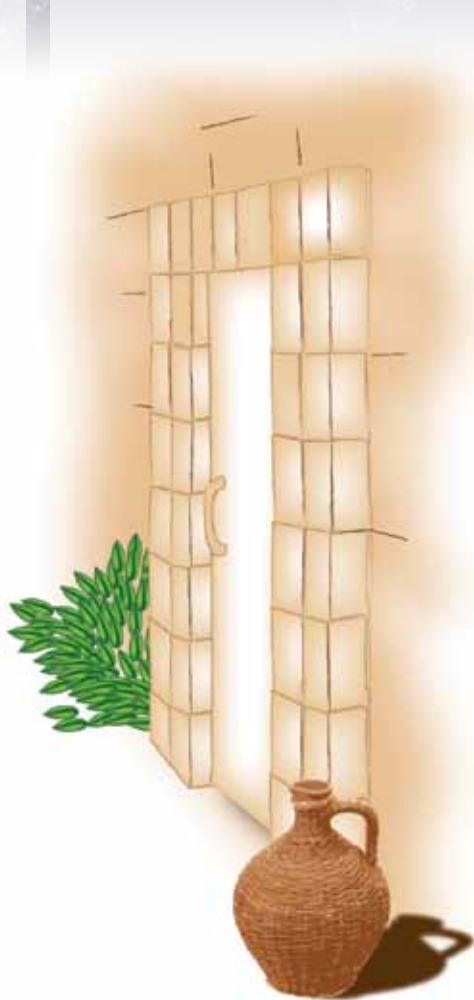
A literal translation of the Greek would be as follows:



And on the first day of the unleaveneds, when they were killing the Passover...

The original Greek text shows that the lambs were being killed at that very moment, as Jesus sent His dis-

ciples into the city of Jerusalem! These lambs were not being killed by the priests at the temple; that would be done the next afternoon, for the 14th/15th temple Passover.



“Go into the city, and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water - follow him! And wherever he may enter, say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, where is the guest-chamber where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”

The word “they” in this verse can only refer to those who were killing the Passover lambs at that moment on the 14th. “They” could not possibly be referring to the priests at the temple, because the

temple-sacrificed Passover lambs were not slain until the next afternoon. The only logical conclusion is that “they” refers to those who were killing the Passover lambs at houses or inns, where the domestic Passover of the 14th would be kept. The lambs were being killed at the beginning of the 14th, according to the statutes and ordinances of Exodus 12. This was the exact moment that Jesus sent His disciples into Jerusalem, “... when they were killing the Passover...”

There can be no doubt whatsoever as to the time of day these verses are specifying! The disciples knew that it would soon be time to eat the Passover, but they did not know where Jesus wanted them to make the necessary preparations. Since the killing of the domestic Passover lambs was happening before their very eyes, the disciples asked this urgent question, as the properly translated combined verses of Mark 14:12 and Luke 22:7 convey:

On the first day of the unleaveneds in which it was obligatory for the Passover to be killed, when they were killing the Passover, His disciples asked Him, ‘Where do You desire that we should go and prepare the Passover that You may eat?’

The Gospel accounts clearly show that the domestic Passover was a common practice! It is also apparent in these accounts that the disciples were accustomed to keeping the domestic Passover, as indicated by their question, “...Where do You desire that we should go and prepare the Passover that You may eat?”

It should not surprise us to learn that the domestic Passover was

common at that time. The temple could not possibly accommodate the vast numbers of people and lambs required for everyone to keep the Passover within the allotted time. It would have taken several days for all the lambs to be killed before the altar. The domestic Passover was not only common, but it was, of necessity, the predominant practice.

When we examine all three Gospel accounts which record Jesus' instructions to His disciples, it is obvious that Jesus kept the domestic 14th Passover. The evidence is overwhelming!

The Gospel accounts clearly show that the domestic Passover was a common practice!

a man carrying a pitcher of water - follow him! And wherever he may enter, say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, where is the guest-chamber where I may eat the Passover with My disciples? And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. There prepare for us.' And the disciples went away, and came into the city, and found exactly as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover (Mark 14:12-16).

of the house, The Teacher says, where is the guest-chamber where I may eat the Passover with My disciples? And he will show you a large upper room furnished. There prepare the Passover.' After departing they found everything exactly as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover (Luke 22:7-13).

Jesus did not tell the disciples that they were going to eat a pre-Passover meal a day earlier, as some have claimed. Jesus specifically told them to prepare the Passover. It was the Passover that Jesus ate, not some other type of meal! That is what Jesus Himself said! "I will eat the Passover with my disciples!" Jesus was not instituting a new pre-Passover meal, kept a day early! No! It was simply the Passover! The disciples did not know or understand

Matthew's Account

Now on the first of the unleaveneds, the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You desire that we should prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He said, "Go into the city unto such a man, and say to him, The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover with My disciples." And the disciples did as Jesus directed them, and they prepared the Passover (Matt. 26:17-19).

Mark's Account

And on the first day of the unleaveneds, when they were killing the Passover, His disciples said to Him, 'Where do you desire that we go, so we should prepare that You may eat the Passover?' And He sent forth two of His disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and you will meet

Luke's Account

Then came the day of the unleaveneds in which it was obligatory for the Passover to be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare for us the Passover, in order that we may eat it.' But they said to Him, 'Where do You desire that we should prepare?' And He said to them, 'After entering into the city you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he enters. And you shall say to the master

Jesus did not command Peter and John to go to the temple to sacrifice a Passover lamb. His command was to follow a certain man to a certain house and prepare the Passover at that house. They would eat the Passover there. NOTHING COULD BE MORE CLEAR!

that it was Jesus' last Passover, or that He would end the old covenant with that Passover, or that He would institute the new covenant Passover that night before He was crucified!

Furthermore, Jesus did not command Peter and John to go to the temple to sacrifice a Passover lamb. His command was to follow a certain man to a certain

house and prepare the Passover at that house. They would eat the Passover there. NOTHING COULD BE MORE CLEAR!

Jesus' own words to His disciples are overwhelming evidence that it was the Passover, not a pre-Passover commemorative meal. The context of these Scriptures proves it was the Passover! The word Passover is used eleven times in these three accounts. Furthermore. "The house" is mentioned three times. Not once is the temple mentioned, nor is the temple - killed Passover lamb remotely indicated in these accounts. There can be no doubt that Jesus kept the domestic Passover on the 14th day of the 1st month, as commanded in Exodus 12.

Jesus' own words to His disciples are overwhelming evidence that it was the Passover, not a pre-Passover commemorative meal.

In spite of these clear, easy-to-understand Scriptures, the advocates of a 15th of Nisan Passover refuse to acknowledge Jesus' own words. In their study papers and doctrinal presentations, these direct statements of Jesus about His last Passover are either ignored or deliberately left out!

In summary, the New Testament clearly reveals that:

- Jesus kept THE PASSOVER, not some other meal.
- It was a proper, Scripturally-based Passover.
- He ate it on the correct day, the 14th of Nisan, at the proper time.
- He used a domestic, home-sacrificed lamb, not a temple-sacrificed lamb.

There is no indication in the Scriptures that Jesus ever kept the Passover on any other day than was ex-

PLICITLY commanded in Exodus 12. If He had done so, He would have been disregarding and opposing the very instructions He gave as Lord of the Old Testament. In other words, Jesus would have sinned, had He at any time in His life in the flesh ever obeyed the traditions

of men instead of the commandments of God. And if He had sinned, He would have died for His own sins and could not be our Saviour!

It is of paramount importance that, as

genuine Christians (those who follow Christ and keep His commands), we must renew our covenant annually at the correct time and in the correct way, as our Lord instructed us through the apostle Paul.

1Corinthians 11:23-32:

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; And giving thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way He took the cup also, after supping, saying, ‘This cup is the New Covenant in My blood; as often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show the Lord’s death until He shall come. So that whoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, he will 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 who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks condemnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. (MKJV)

With the new knowledge of “discerning the Lord’s body,” and a proper understanding of the “exact” time to take the Passover service, let us also:

“Keep the Feast [of Unleavened Bread], not with old leaven neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (I Cor.5:8).

“..Your word is truth” (John 17:17). ❖



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Prepare for the Spring Holy Day Season

by John Durrad

I have found it rather strange that as we approach the start of God's Holy Day season, our minds have been directed to the end of God's Holy Day season. Of course, I'm talking about our preparation to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. It is very necessary to start thinking about the Feast this year and finalise our plans. There is nothing wrong in forward planning for the Feast, but now we do need to get our minds back to the soon coming start of God's Holy Day Plan.

Creation is the proof of the existence of God! Creation identifies God! The Sabbath is a weekly memorial of creation. It is a weekly reminder of God's power to create; therefore, it identifies God to us. The weekly Sabbath keeps us in the true remembrance and true worship

of the true God. No other day but the 7th day of the week could have that great significance and meaning. It was designed to keep us in the true worship of God.

Now, in like manner, God gave His Church 7 annual Sabbaths. These Holy Days were given to keep us constantly in the understanding of God's Plan of redemption—all the way from the sacrifice of Christ, to the putting out of sin, the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, the return of Jesus Christ, the restraining of Satan, and the giving of the Holy Spirit to all mankind.

The whole story of the redemption of man was to be acted out in these Feast Days, year after year continually. They have vitally important symbolism and meaning, and we learn by doing! That is, we grow in understanding of their meaning by keeping and living out these days as they come to us. God wants to impress the meaning of these days on His people. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote:

Now when God made the Sabbath for man, He gave man a rest day carrying great significance and purpose. To His Church in the wilderness, God said that the Sabbath was a covenant sign between Him and His people. A sign is a supernatural proof of identity. It is the sign by which we know that He is God...Now in like manner, when God gave His Church seven annual Sabbaths, God, in His wisdom, had a great purpose... For these annual days picture the different epochs in the plan of Spiritual creation – mark

the dispensations, and picture their meaning... God's feasts, or holy days, or Sabbaths, were commanded to be kept year after year, and forever!... Thus God purposed to impress the truths these "high" Sabbaths picture upon all the minds of His children through all time, keeping His Church in the true understanding of His plan! (*Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Day—Which?* HWA)

Three times, or three seasons in a year, God commands we appear before Him (Deut. 16:16). We are approaching the first of these seasons now – the Spring Holy Day season. There are three major events in God's Spring Holy Day season, all of which appear in the 1st month of God's sacred calendar. The three major events are, of course, the Passover, the Night to Be Much Observed, and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Let's look at some ways to prepare for and successfully keep these three major events of the Spring Holy Day season.

PASSOVER

The Passover occurs every year on the 14th of Nisan, and is kept just

Passover

after sunset the previous evening. How do we prepare for this most important event?

“ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show [proclaim] the Lord's death till he come, Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink

this cup 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 (1 Cor 11:26-28).

How do we eat and drink unworthily? It means in an un-

worthy manner. No human being is worthy of Christ's sacrifice. **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Rom 3:23).

We can, however be worthy in our attitude. Taking the Passover worthily means we enter into the service with deep respect for Christ's sacrifice. We must not be casual. We must focus on Christ's sacrifice, as we did prior to baptism. We must look at the way we are presently living our lives. Are we overcoming sin? There is much to do.

What is our responsibility, given Christ's sacrifice? Paul says we must examine ourselves. Salvation is not a group affair. We have an individual responsibility to take stock of our lives over the past year, and implement change where necessary. Christ is knocking on your spiritual door. How are you going to respond to Christ?

When we examine ourselves, we should measure ourselves against Jesus Christ, not other human beings.

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? (2 Cor 13:5)

As we grow in a deeper and more profound knowledge of spiritual things, our ability to see ourselves

We have an individual responsibility to take stock of our lives over the past year, and implement change where necessary.

accurately becomes more acute. We see things about ourselves and our nature that we never saw at baptism. This is right! It is progress! It is what God intended.

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good, Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful (Rom 7:12-13).

Paul is asking if that which is good (the law) brings death to him. He answers himself by saying that it was sin. Sin brought death to him, by the law. Why? In order that sin might be shown to be exceedingly sinful!

When Paul received God's Holy Spirit and began to grow, he found that his more profound knowledge of God's spiritual law made sin appear a lot worse than he first imagined. And so it is with us. The longer we live with ourselves in the flesh, the more our knowledge of God's Law convicts us of the sinfulness of our human nature.

As we approach the Passover, we have had one more year to live

with ourselves. God is now asking us once again to partake of the broken Body and shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

Has this past year convinced you that you need the sacrifice of Christ even more profoundly than ever before? Yes, you've overcome sin. Yes, you've grown in Bible understanding. Yes, you understand government more. Yes, you get on better with other members. But have you grown in personally knowing that you need Jesus Christ more than ever before? God wants us to approach the Passover with the most earnest and heartfelt desire for the forgiveness of Christ. No one who has lived another year in the flesh with the presence of the Holy Spirit can approach the Passover without a deeper and more sincere need for the sacrifice of Christ.

From a practical point of view, we should approach the Passover service with regard

When we examine ourselves, we should measure ourselves against Jesus Christ, not other human beings.

to the symbols used—eating the unleavened bread which represents Christ's broken Body, and drinking the red wine which represents his shed Blood. Also,

of course, we follow the example of Christ with the foot-washing ceremony—a lesson in humility.

If, for any genuine reason, you miss the Passover service, you may take the second Passover 30 days later.

And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the Passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day ...

And Moses said unto them, stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you. And the LORD spake unto Moses saying ... The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it ... (Num 9:6-11).

Please note: you may not plan to skip the first and take the second Passover. You plan to take it on the 14th of Nisan. Only unforeseen circumstances that cause you to miss the Passover enables you to take it one month later. Those not able to travel to a Passover service (house-bound) will be given instructions on how to keep it at home.

Always remember that this is a very solemn occasion and should be approached with deep respect and reverence.

THE NIGHT TO BE OBSERVED

Following the evening of the Passover, we keep the Night to Be Much Observed. It will be kept at the very

of Egypt. It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations (Ex. 12:41-42).

Notice again from Mr Armstrong's Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days – Which?:

The night is to be “much observed.” This means we should pay careful attention to detail in our observance of this evening. Some may feel that, although it may be an enjoyable evening, it is not as important as the Passover or the other Holy Days. But that is the wrong way to look at it. All of God's Holy Days, including the Passover and Night to Be Much Observed, are part of ONE PLAN! Remove one Holy

We are told to remember this day, just like Malachi tells us to remember what Christ taught through the

We are told to remember this day, just like Malachi tells us to remember what Christ taught through the Elijah—to remember where it all began and to hold fast

Elijah—to remember where it all began and to hold fast!

The ancient Israelites had been held in bitter slavery. They groaned for deliverance. And God delivered them on the night after Passover – the Night

to Be Much Observed. Egypt is a type of sin. Think about it. Walking out of Egypt was the most emotional, exhilarating, joyous experience of their wretched lives.

God wants this night to be a joyous, happy occasion. We should celebrate because we, too, have been delivered from Egypt—spiritually! Because of Christ's sacrifice, God requires that His Church also celebrate this fantastic occasion as a memorial of that night.

Let's consider some practical, yet necessary, aspects of this occasion. This night is actually the beginning of the first Holy Day. We should dress in our Sabbath best. We should follow the Bible principle of

dressing properly for special occasions (Matt 22:11-13).

Try to meet with other members of

the Church if at all possible. If nobody invites you, invite someone to your place. Gathering in someone's home is best, but if not possible, a nice restaurant would be appropriate. Try to get a private room away from the public. Loud music, interruptions and background noise will

Night to be Much Observed

start of the 15th of Nisan, which is a Holy Day.

“ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land

Day and the plan fails. Keeping the Passover alone is not enough. We must observe this 2nd night to properly keep the Days of Unleavened Bread. It commemorates the Israelites walking out of Egypt by night (Ex 13:3-4).

greatly detract from the evening. Make sure the manager knows our dietary requirements, including the need for unleavened bread and unleavened products only. Remember, this is not a worldly party. It should be dignified. We should rejoice, but be moderate with our eating and drinking.

“ Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand (Phil. 4:4-5).

Remember, also, there will be a double service the next day, so don't stay too late.

A word of caution here—some of the split-off groups have gotten away from diligently keeping God's Holy Days, including the Night to Be Much Observed.

...let us truly realise that Satan, the devil, would use all of his vast powers of deception to confuse God's people about the accuracy of God's Calendar. He is doing this today by deceiving a number of individuals and groups into producing their own calendars and dates for God's Holy Days. In doing so, they are arrogating God's authority – an extremely dangerous thing to do! Mr. Herbert Armstrong faced the same disputes and arguments in his day that are being brought up again today. Mr. Armstrong proved that the Hebrew Calendar was God's Calendar back in the 30's and 40's, and the Church of God has followed it since then (*The Plain Truth about God's Calendar*, Mr. Robert Ardis, page 7).

Although we may look on this evening as a social gathering, it is more a gathering of God's Church for a specially commanded purpose. Just

as we would not invite a non-member mate or a member of a split-off group to services, neither should we invite them without ministerial approval, to the Night to Be Much Observed. This is a very special occasion for members and prospective members of God's Church. However there are certainly circumstances where someone else would be welcome, but first seek approval.

This is a night to discuss spiritual subjects. We need to leave our day-to-day cares out of the conversations on this night. God provided this occasion for us to truly celebrate coming out of the slavery of sin. Because of what God has done for us, we owe it to Him to celebrate with a high hand the Night to Be Much Observed. By doing so, we will be giving great honour to God.

THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Seven special days with great meaning and a Holy Day at each end!

“ Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even

the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no

manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you (Ex. 12:15-16).

In a Good News article of March 1979, Mr. Armstrong wrote this:

To keep us constantly in the MEMORY of the great fact that, having had our sins FORGIVEN by Christ's BLOOD (Pictured by the 14th) we are not to stop there and REMAIN in sin, but to GO OUT away from sin! Why should we observe the 14th, picturing the remission of past sins, and then we, COMMANDMENT KEEPERS Of ALL people, refuse to continue the Feast of Unleavened Bread, picturing the COMING OUT of sin – seven days of unleavened bread symbolizing and picturing COMPLETE putting away of sin or, in other words, THE KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS!

These FEAST DAYS picture the KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS!... To what extent shall we

Days of Unleavened Bread

put away sin? Not partially, but COMPLETELY! And, as leaven is also a type of sin--leaven puffs up, and so does sin--and, as SEVEN is God's number symbolizing COMPLETE-

NESS, we are to follow the Passover with the seven Days of Unleavened Bread!

The process of removing leaven from our homes, and the preparing and eating of unleavened bread, are the physical symbols of this festival. Of course, it is sin we must be putting out, but God places much emphasis on the symbolism of unleavened bread. God's command is unmistakable. Remove the leaven! We may not eat it or have it on our premises. If we want to be diligent in clearing out sin, then we must be diligent in removing leaven for this seven day period.

Now notice that it is not enough to just remove leaven – we must replace it with food that represents righteousness.

“ And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread (Lev 23:6).

For seven days we must eat unlev-

ened bread, it is after all the feast of unleavened bread!

This festival, however, is so much more than ridding our homes of

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**Now notice that it is not enough to just remove leaven – we must replace it with food that represents righteousness.**  
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leaven, and consuming only unleavened products. It is an annual God-given opportunity to: Remove, Replace, Re-educate, Rejoice.

REMOVE ALL that leaven.

REPLACE With a variety of unleavened products that will remind you of God's righteousness.

RE-EDUCATE Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about this festival.

REJOICE Because God has revealed

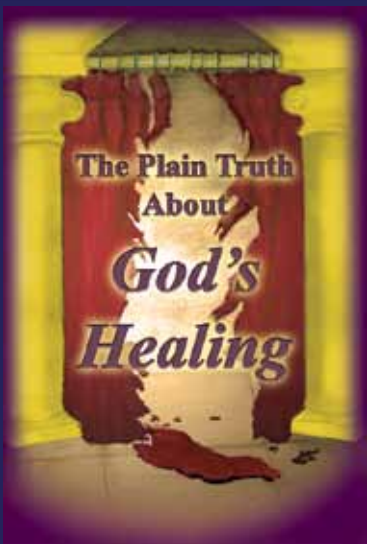
the meaning of this festival to us.

There is much to do to prepare for God's Spring Holy Day season. It is a pathway out of sin. We have been delivered from Egypt just like the ancient Israelites, except our deliverance is spiritual.

“ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:16-18).

Let us now show God that we mean business in the process of ridding our lives of sin. How do we do that?

By preparing carefully and diligently NOW for the soon coming Spring Holy Day season. ❖



Discerning the Lord's Body

There are many who are weak and sick in God's Church. Some have died of terrible illnesses. Why? What has happened? God is God - He changes not! Are we doing something biblically wrong? Are we weak in the faith? Are we not discerning the Lord's body properly? These are honest questions! Now we need to honestly ask for answers and then diligently search the scriptures to determine if we are rightfully discerning the Lord's body - or do we have more to learn? We must examine this question prayerfully and carefully!

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 (1 Cor. 11:28-30).

Ask for, or download, the Church of God's Faithful booklet *The Plain Truth About God's Healing*.

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

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

understanding?

- 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 Encyclopedia (*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*

Expository 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 Rabbinate 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... [Approx-

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

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.

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 sac-

rifice, 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 tra-

dition, 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 definition 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.

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

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:

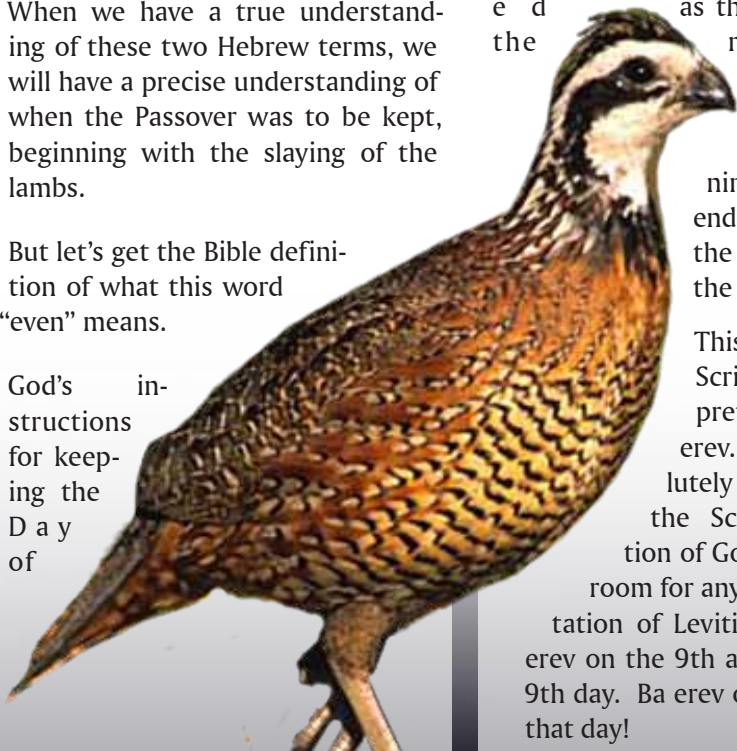
“And it came to pass, at even [*ba erev*, the sunset ending that Sabbath] that the quails came up, and covered the camp and in the morning the dew lay roundabout the host.

The promise of the quail was given on the 15th day of the 2nd month (verse 1). 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 arbayim, 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.”

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.

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.

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.

“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

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). ❖

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).



NOW IN PRINT!

Review:

Vital Truths Concerning Passover

by Robert Ardis

With Passover only weeks away, here is a short summary of some of the vital truths we have learned or reviewed recently about the important subject of God's True Passover

- The Hebrew word *ba erev* is translated in many places in the Old Testament as the English word *even* or *evening*. However, by allowing the Word of God to define *ba erev*, we found in the article, *The Quails of Exodus 16* that *ba erev* means *sun-set*—the end of the day!
- In the article it is also made plain that another Hebrew term *ben ha arbayim* is mistranslated as *even* or *evening* by Strong's Exhaustive Concordance in eleven different places in Moses' writings. Yet it is correctly translated as *dusk* by the Jewish Publication Society or as *twilight* in Young's Literal Translation of the Bible. The 1965 Bible in Basic English also properly translates *ben ha arbayim* in Ex. 12:6 as: "Keep it [the Passover lamb] till the fourteenth day of the same month, when everyone who is of the children of Israel are to put it to death between sundown and dark."
- For Ex. 12:6 the KJV renders *ben ha arbayim* as *evening*, but in their margin it correctly states the term as *between the two evenings*.
- The Holy Scriptures make it very clear that Passover occurs on the 14th of the first month and the Days of Unleavened Bread commence on the 15th. Num. 28: 16-17 declares: "And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten."
- The Passover on the 14th and Days of Unleavened Bread beginning on the 15th are two different occasions, but unleavened bread is used in both of them. On the Passover the unleavened bread represents the broken [ripped and torn] BODY of Jesus our Savior. The unleavened bread eaten during the seven Days of Unleavened Bread picture sincerity and truth!
- The original Passover lambs were to be slain *ben ha arbayim* [between the two evenings] as the sun set [*ba erev*] on the 13th of the first month. Again, see the February 2010 *Midnight Cry* article, *The Quails of Exodus 16*.
- The lamb was then prepared and roasted and its blood smeared on the doorposts and lintels of the homes of the Israelites.
- The Passover lambs after roasting were eaten in haste somewhere around 10 to 11 PM along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.
- The Eternal as the Death Angel "passed over" the homes that were "under the blood of the lamb" at the midnight hour of the 14th. Notice Num. 28:16 again—"And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the Lord's PASSOVER"! The Bible says He "passed over" on the 14th – not the 15th!
- If there had been any "first-born" during the original "Pass Over" that were rebellious and stubborn, insisting on keeping the Passover on the next night of the 15th, they died in their stubbornness by the hand of God at midnight on the 14th. What a lesson for today!
- After the Lord "Passed Over" their homes the Israelites were commanded to stay in their homes until morning (Ex. 12:22).
- Pharaoh called for Moses in the night to come to him (v.30-34), but Moses could not leave his house till morning as had God commanded.
- As the morning arrived, the Israelites left their homes and spoiled the Egyptians in haste preparing to leave (v. 35-36). The Israelites had been doing this since God had brought the plagues upon Egypt, but apparently completed their spoiling of Egypt as they prepared to depart (see Ex. 3:21-22 and 11:1-3).

- Preparing to leave as the morning of the 14th came was a monumental task of organization although it must have been already pre-planned. And let's add here that IF the Passover had occurred at midnight of the 15th, they could not depart by night as the scriptures tell us because they were not to leave their homes until morning! Therefore they would be leaving in the daylight portion of the 15th and the night time portion of the 16th—biblically incorrect and impossible!
- Two to three million Israelites, now released from slavery, in addition to their flocks and herds had to gather in an orderly fashion and begin their march out of Egypt. The scriptures are plain that they left Egypt on the NIGHT of the 15th: "And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow AFTER the Passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians. For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments" (Num. 33:3-4).
- Add to this Ex. 12:41-42: "And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the self-same day it came to pass, that ALL the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt." [For these MILLIONS to leave in an orderly fashion it required the daylight portion of the 14th to assemble and ALL of the night of the 15th to have ALL of the Israelites to make their march out of Egypt.]

"It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations"

- This night to be observed is the beginning of the Days of Unleavened Bread the 15th of Nisan—the day that begins at sunset on the "morning" AFTER the Passover (Num. 33:3). It is biblically impossible for the "Pass Over" to occur on the night of the 15th, then stay in their homes until MORNING and still leave by NIGHT!
- Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8) and He is our Passover (I Cor. 5:8). He changed the emblems of the Passover from the slain lamb to the unleavened bread and wine to represent his beaten and torn body and His spilled blood.
- Jesus kept His last Passover at the precise time between the evenings of the 13th and the 14th and true Christians are commanded to keep it as he instructed on that Passover evening.
- The apostle Paul was inspired to write in I Cor. 11:23 "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed..." Jesus our Lord on the true Passover Night became the Passover Lamb by changing the emblems to symbolize His Body and Blood. He tells us to observe this in memory of Him.
- Prov. 14:12 tells us: "There are ways that seem right to a man but the ends thereof are the ways of death". No

commands or instructions are given for commemorating 3:00 PM on the afternoon of the 14th as the time of Jesus' death! The Passover lambs were to be slain between the evenings of the 13th and 14th—not at 3:00 PM! The temple sacrificed lambs beginning at 3:00 PM on the 14th is a TRADITION of the Jews instituted hundreds of years after the commands in Exodus 12. Nowhere in the Bible are instructions to observe 3:00 PM, but it seems so right to do it to some very confused people.

- There are no commands to observe Jesus' resurrection either, but it seems so right to more than a billion people as they celebrate the pagan Easter in "honor" of Jesus. All of these ways of man and his traditions produce vain and confused doctrines of demons, but in their self-righteous deception they love those Satan inspired traditions more than they love the Word of God (II Thess. 2:9-11)!

Mr. Lawton closes his article this month by quoting from I Corinthians 5. I will do this too using part of verse 7 and all of verse 8:

“...For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Have a truly inspiring Passover on Sunday evening, April 13, 2014; then the next night have a wonderful Night to be Much Observed and Days of Unleavened Bread. ❖



For God So Loved The World...

By Robert Ardis

Today as I write, it is January 27, 2014, and I just received a telephone call informing me that I have been blessed with a brand new baby great-grandson. The happiness and relief was very apparent in my daughter's voice as she relayed the good news to my wife and me. The wife of my daughter's second son gave birth to this fine baby boy, their first child, at 5:04 this morning! The entire family is happy and so very thankful.

Over 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born as the firstborn Son of God Almighty! When thinking about the firstborn Son of God, especially at this time of year, we usually do not consider the birth of Jesus Christ, but we are told to remember His death (1Cor. 11:24-26)! Passover is eleven weeks from today! Our Lord Jesus was born into this evil world to be the Passover Lamb, to be slain for the sins of all mankind.

I am usually emotionally moved when I get to hold the miracle of a newborn baby. Is it possible for

us to grasp the emotions God the Father must have felt when He first saw His Son, Jesus Christ, as a tiny, helpless, little baby boy—just like my new great-grandson?

The Father certainly remembered that Jesus, before He became flesh as a tiny baby boy, had been with Him throughout all eternity, and, as the WORD, had created ALL things—material and spiritual—except God Himself (Eph. 3:9). And God knew that Jesus would be the FIRSTBORN from the dead (Col. 1:18).

In the Holy Bible, the apostle John is inspired to record this important part of the wonderful plan of God:

“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of

grace and truth (Jn. 1:1-4, 14).

The Word was made flesh—He became the only begotten of the Father—and as a healthy child with good physical parents, He grew as a child should. “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him” (Lk. 2:40).

Then, when Jesus was about 30 years old (Lk. 3:23), He was baptized by John the Baptist. All through Jesus' young life He had kept His Father's commandments and was morally perfect. He had not sinned, but was baptized as an example for everyone else to follow. Luke 3:22 relates the concluding events of His baptism:

“ And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

John the Baptist was a relative of Jesus of Nazareth, and had known Him most of his life. After Jesus' baptism, John makes the declara-

tion: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29).

Yes! Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God! He was "...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8). And He is our Passover!

“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even *Christ our Passover* is sacrificed for us (1Cor. 5:7).

Jesus Christ willingly gave His own life, that all of mankind could be saved! The Creator laid down His life for the created. And God the Father was willing to give His beloved Son *"in whom He was well pleased."*

“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).

Our Lord knew the Scriptures, and He knew that He must fulfill every detail of the prophecies describing Him as the Lamb of God. He was well aware that He would be scourged, crucified, and killed (Matt. 20:19). And He knew that He of Himself could do nothing!

“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 (Jn. 5:19).

Jesus fully realized that He had to remain very close to the Father in everything He did. He did

this through prayer, supplication, strong crying and tears.

“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 (Heb. 5:7-8).

Christ was so close to the Father—the Father dwelled in Him!

“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works (Jn. 14:10).

The Father knew the needs of His Son and filled Him with the Holy Spirit.

“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him (Jn. 3:34).

God filled Jesus with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, He was in instant touch with the Father and able to perform all the requirements of the Passover Lamb. And Hebrews 1:3 tells us He did 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.

In 31 AD, Jesus desired with deep desire to keep that last Passover with His disciples, His close friends. During the meal, our Lord washed

the feet of the men there, even Judas Iscariot. Judas was deceived by Satan the devil, and was conspiring with the Jewish authorities against Jesus. Later that night Judas would lead a mob to where he thought Jesus would be so they could take the Lamb of God captive.

As the meal was concluding, Jesus took unleavened bread and prayed over it, stating that the bread was symbolic of His body, which would be "broken" (He would be excoriated—His flesh literally ripped and torn) within the next few hours. He also took the wine and asked God's blessing on it, and told the disciples that the wine represented His blood, which would be shed for the remission of ALL sin.

After the Passover meal, Jesus led His disciples out to an area called the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked Peter, James, and John to proceed a little farther with Him, but He asked the others to wait where they were. Peter, James and John followed Christ a short distance and were told to watch and pray and wait there for Him. He wanted to go and pray by Himself. Jesus knew that the prophecies of Isaiah 52:14-15 and chapter 53 would be fulfilled before that Passover day ended. Jesus Christ then prayed to His Heavenly Father as never a man prayed before! He prayed with such intensity that His sweat was as great drops of blood.

“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. 22:44).

Those "great drops of blood" were the first portion of His blood that He would shed for the sins of the world. His LIFE was contained in His blood, and the Savior and Cre-

ator of mankind would pour forth His life on Passover so that all men can have eternal life!

“ For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul (Lev. 17:11).

Jesus Christ was seized by an unruly mob on that fateful night in 31 AD. It was the precise time that God had recorded that Jesus would become the sacrificial Passover Lamb. During that night He suffered all the brutalities that Satan could inspire the Roman soldiers to inflict upon the Son of God. He was slapped, punched, pummeled and finally scourged to the extent that He was unrecognizable—He ceased to appear as a human being! Isaiah 52:14, in the King James Version, states: “As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men...”

In the Contemporary English Version, it reads:

“ 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.

It would not have been unusual if Christ had died from the Roman scourging as described in the verses above. He received the maximum punishment that could be delivered. However, God did not allow Jesus to die from the effects of the scourging—He was to die from the massive loss of His BLOOD.

“ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an of-

fering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days [God would prolong Jesus’ life], and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand... Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath **poured out his soul** [#5315, His LIFE] unto death [*Being the Passover Lamb, the Son of God was to die from the loss of His blood, in which His LIFE was contained*]; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors (Isa. 53:10,12).

In the New Testament, the apostle Peter quotes Isaiah in 1Peter 2:21 and 24:

“ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps...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.

These powerful scriptures show that, as Jesus endured the violent scourging, **our sins were laid upon Him**, and He then **carried them to the stake** upon which He was crucified. Our physical sins had NOT been forgiven by the scourging, as some erroneously teach, but all sins were laid upon the Lamb of God. They were forgiven when He was killed by the Roman’s spear ripping open His side, and His blood gushed forth.

John 19:33-34 in most versions of the Bible is rendered incorrectly. Please see our article in this issue of the *Midnight Cry*, titled “The

Rest of the Story,” which explains the series of events in the six hours of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

John 19:33-34 should read as follows:

“ But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: *But* [For] one of the soldiers with a spear [had] pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”

Christ’s spilled BLOOD represented His LIFE, which He willingly gave as a sacrifice for all mankind, but what about the water? What was it that flowed out along with Christ’s blood? Some authorities say this could have been urine or the fluid that collected around Jesus’ over-taxed heart. However, the Word of God states that it was “water” (#5204, water, rain). If it was pure water, it must have been a fairly substantial amount to actually be noticed as it flowed out with His blood.

This brings us to 1John 5:6:

“ This is he [Jesus] that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Notice! It states that Jesus came by WATER and BLOOD! He CAME where? He CAME to this earth in the flesh as the Lamb of God. And blood is the life of flesh (Lev. 17:11). Thus, we have seen that His BLOOD represented His life—“...the life is in the blood.” But, what does the WATER symbolize?

Look at Jesus’ own words in John 7:38-39:

“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

Observe! The scripture tells us plainly that the rivers of living water are symbolic of the Holy Spirit!

At an earlier time on one of His journeys, our Lord asked a Samaritan woman for a drink of water from a well from which she was drawing water. The woman was shocked that a Jewish man would even speak to a Samaritan woman; thus she questioned Jesus as to how He could speak to her. Christ then replied:

“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, Please give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask him, and he would have given you living water (Jn. 4:10).”

Three days and three nights after Jesus gave His life, He was resurrected, and He was with His disciples for 40 days before ascending up to the throne of God. The disciples were greatly encouraged by the marvelous miracle of His resurrection. They had been timid and cowardly, but now they became His witnesses. However, they still did not understand the plan of God because they had not yet received the Spirit of God.

Then, on the Holy Day of Pentecost (Firstfruits) of 31 AD, He sent the Holy Spirit to His apostles and the other faithful who made up the 120 who were obediently waiting in the city of Jerusalem.

On that day, the apostles were filled with the Spirit of God. Many people in Jerusalem heard about the “sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind,” the “tongues like as of fire” on the heads of the believers, and the miracle of beginning “to speak with other tongues” (Acts 2:2-4). A huge crowd of “men out of every nation” gathered. And “they were all amazed and marvelled” because every man could hear and understand, in his own language, the messages that were being delivered by the apostles (Acts 2:6).

God’s Spirit gave Peter great boldness, and he delivered a mighty sermon to the multitude. His main theme is stated in Acts 2:38:

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [Spirit].”

That was the formula—repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit!

Jesus Christ had earlier set the example of being baptized, as we previously read in Matthew 3:13. He was baptized and had received the Spirit of God without measure—“for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him” (Jn. 3:34). Thus, as John 7:38-39 declares, “out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (***But this spake he of the Spirit***)...”

When the Roman soldier’s spear ripped open His side, and BLOOD and WATER gushed out, our Lord and Savior cried aloud: “It is finished—into your hands I commend my Spirit” (Jn. 19:30 and Lk. 23:46)—and He died! (Again, be sure to read “The Rest of the Story”

for the correct sequence of words spoken by Jesus from the stake.)

The WATER that came forth from His side represented the Holy Spirit that Jesus was filled with! He cried out to His Father in Heaven to receive His Spirit!

His spilled BLOOD was His life and was shed that ALL SIN could be forgiven. The instant He died, there was an earthquake and the VEIL in the temple was ripped in two, from top to bottom. From that moment, access to God the Father Almighty was possible. Our sins are forgiven through the BLOOD of Jesus Christ, and we can come before our Father through the ripped and torn flesh of our Savior’s BODY!

“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).

Jesus said:

“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... Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you (Jn. 6:51,53).”

God’s faithful ones do this in symbolism every year at the solemn Passover service, as He has instructed and inspired the apostle Paul to write in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26:

“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto

you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, *ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*"

Yes! We observe the holy Passover service every year at the proper time and we remember the tremendous sacrifice that was offered for us!

When Jesus was born into this wicked world, God was prepared to give His only begotten Son for the sins of all mankind. Yes! God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16). He sent Him as a tiny, helpless baby boy. Thirty years later, the Mighty Father beheld the baptism of His Son and exclaimed, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17). Then, after His death and resurrection, how do you think the Father felt about His victorious Son? What did the Father do when Jesus first appeared before the throne there in Heaven?

God the Father, being God Almighty, experiences deeper feelings than any of us humans can possibly feel. There is no doubt that the Father was completely elated that His Son had accomplished the task that had been set before Him! Now it was absolutely certain that millions or even billions of God-beings could be created! The CREATOR'S plan was a total SUCCESS!

“ But this man [Jesus Christ], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God... For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified (Heb. 10:12,14).

Daniel 7:13-14 describes the scene in Heaven when our Lord Jesus comes before the Father:

“ I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Jesus declares the results of that same scene to His disciples in Matthew 28:18:

“ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Also, in Revelation 19:11-13 and 16, we see this wonderful picture:

“ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God...

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Yes! Jesus our Lord will soon take His position over the earth as KING of Kings and LORD of Lords! Thus, as we prepare for Passover, we will remember our dear Savior as the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. We will deeply meditate on our Lord's sacrifice and on the Father's supreme gift of His dear Son! We will certainly be thankful that Jesus Christ tells us in Revelation 1:17-18:

“ ...Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, *behold, I am alive for evermore*, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

He has overcome all things and is coming quickly to take over the rule of Planet Earth—and we will be with Him! As the 144,000 first-fruits, we will take our positions to rule the earth as another step in the great master plan: “And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:10).

Therefore, as we enter the Passover season, and REMEMBER the great SACRIFICE, we can be thankful, we can rejoice, we can praise God our Father and Jesus Christ the Living Savior for the success of their plan—and for giving us the opportunity to be a part of it!

Finally, we are encouraged by this message from Jesus Christ:

“ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (Jn. 16:33). ❖

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.

Christians ordered to teach Wiccan, pagan rites

A dispute over whether government can require Catholic schools to teach Wiccan and pagan rites as equal to the Ten Commandments and the resurrection of Jesus is heading to Canada's highest court.

"Faith-based educational institutions should be free to live and operate according to the faith they teach and espouse," said Gerald Chipeur, Q.C., of the Canadian firm Miller Thompson LLP.

"If the government can force Loyola High School to violate its faith, then the government can do the same to others," said Chipeur, a lawyer affiliated with the Alliance Defending Freedom.

The battle is over a government program adopted in Quebec in 2008 called "Ethics and Religious Culture" that is mandatory for all public and private schools. It presents all religions, from Christianity to Wiccan, "as equally valid" and requires schools to teach the beliefs in that fashion.

It also bans teachers, including those at private, denominational or church schools, from expressing their opinion that their own school's faith is preferred.

The government order was challenged by Loyola High School, which is run by the Jesuits, a Roman Catholic order founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola. The school provides an education that is "publicly faithful to the authoritative teachings of the Catholic church."

ADF filed a brief with the Supreme Court of Canada in support of the Catholic school after the court granted permission for other denominations to present arguments in the case.

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

Comment: Freedom of speech, freedom of movement, and freedom to choose what to believe in, your religion,

are things we in the Western world can so easily take for granted. Then, when a government attempts to tell you what to believe and even what you must be taught, we should be concerned.

Even God gives us a choice in how we conduct our lives although He does direct us to the way which will bring happiness.

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" Deut 30:19

Every human being will have the same chance to choose or reject God's way when He calls them.

It's a pity the Canadian Government will not afford the same choice to what the Catholic Church may teach.

Our concern must be that this could open the door to further involvement of Government in matters of faith. This is in fact exactly what will happen as the prophecy of Daniel 11 starts to unfold.

Markets hold breath as China's shadow banking grinds to a halt

A slew of shockingly weak data from China and Japan has led to a sharp sell-off in Asian stock markets and the biggest one-day crash in iron ore prices since the Lehman crisis, calling into question the strength of the global recovery.

The Shanghai Composite index of stocks fell below the key level of 2,000 after investors reacted with shock to an 18pc slump in Chinese exports in February and to signs that credit is wilting again. Iron ore fell 8.3pc.

Fresh loans in China's shadow banking system evaporated to almost nothing from \$160bn in January, suggesting the clampdown on the \$8 trillion sector is

biting hard.

“It seems that rising default risk has started to erode Chinese investors’ confidence,” said Wei Yao, from Societe Generale. “Together with continued regulatory tightening on banks’ off-balance-sheet activity, we are certain this slowing credit trend has further to go and will inflict real pain on the economy.”

Japan’s economy is losing steam as the monetary stimulus from “Abenomics” wears off and the country braces itself for a rise in the consumption tax from 5pc to 8pc. Economic growth slumped from 4pc in early 2013 to 0.7pc in the fourth quarter, while the country racked up a record trade deficit.

The Economy Watchers Survey saw the steepest drop last month since the March 2011 tsunami and is now lower than when Abenomics began. Marcel Thieliant, from Capital Economics, said Japan faces a “sharp slowdown”.

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

Comment: What good do Governments do with all the taxes they collect from the people? The answer is, not a lot! This article prompted me to look at the taxes levied on the British people.

Paying the lowest rate of income tax, along with Council tax, national Insurance, and VAT (Value Added Tax, car road tax, and extra taxes on many other items (petrol etc.) the average British worker is lucky

to have 50% of his earning to spend. If you are one on the higher rate of income tax you might have 30% left of your wages.

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria)

*And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.”
Luke 1:1-3*

Not much has changed then. Makes you all the more ready to accept God’s tithing system.

Israel Bombs Syrian Military Sites In Golan Retaliation

Israel’s military has launched airstrikes on the Syrian-held side of the Golan Heights. The strikes are in retaliation for a roadside bombing on Tuesday.

According to statements from the Israeli military, the targets in Wednesday’s air force attacks included a Syrian military center, a training facility and artillery batteries.

“The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] targeted several Syrian army positions which aided and abetted the attack against IDF personnel yesterday,” a statement said.

<http://www.dw.de/...>

The Midnight Cry Has Begun!

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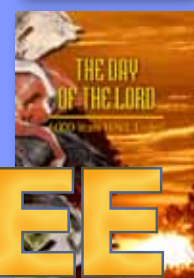
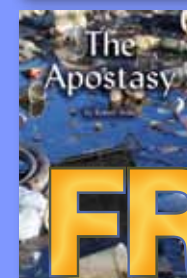
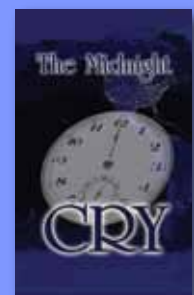
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