

The Advocate of Truth



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"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:35-38).






Elder Jerry Womble

1942 - 2023

“Well done...thou good and faithful servant.”

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive, and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive, and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words” (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Jerry Dale Womble, 81, passed away peacefully on June 11, 2023, at his home in San Antonio, TX. He was born January, 27 1942, in Amarillo TX; preceded in death by his parents, Roscoe Carson “Man” and Dora

Lee Womble, his wife Jackie Womble, and son Kent.

Jerry is survived by his daughters Sherry Womble and Cindy Buechner; son-in-law, Timothy Buechner; grandchildren, Greg (Mariel) Buechner, Shawna Corley, Rafe (Ashley) Corley, Morgan Buechner, Joseph Buechner; and great-grandchildren, Adam Buechner, Malachi Buechner, Kayson Corley, Laurel Corley, Kamden Corley, Atlas Corley and Yorik Buechner.

For most of his life, Jerry lived in Morse, TX and was a very hard-working farmer and rancher. As he got older, he transitioned to crop adjusting. He always enjoyed his work and all who he worked with.

While working and raising his family, he was also a kind and caring minister for the Church of God (7th Day). As a member of the Apostolic Council over the years he represented the church in many capacities as well as traveling around the United States and to other parts of the world. He continued delivering sermons regularly up until two months ago.

He will be greatly missed by all.



A soldier has fallen in the midst of the fray
One who fought through the heat of day
Not by the sword, which is of man,
But by the sword of the Spirit-strong and grand.

We know this soldier, we helped him fight
We prayed together to banish the night
And light from his pen flowed out o’er the world
And the banner of Christ by his writings unfurled.

Good-bye to this soldier, who fought with his pen
Good-bye to this soldier and leader of men.
God knew him in life. He knows him in death

Report on June 2023 Apostolic Council Meeting

We are grateful and thank God that we had a successful Apostolic Council meeting held in June 2023 in Dallas Texas. Everyone had a safe trip to and from the meeting. We had attendees from around the world including Mexico, Honduras, Panama, Grenada, Canada, and many locations throughout the United States. One sad item was that brother Jerry Womble (one of the Twelve Apostles) was too sick to attend the meeting and passed away shortly after the meeting. He will be missed.

Thanks to all of those who sent in tithes and offerings to the Publishing House in Salem West Virginia, we had a good year financially. Because of this we were able to allocate money to help many of our church locations throughout the world. Some of the areas we were able to send help to were: Kenya (helped expand the medical clinic there), Nigeria, Malawi, Congo, Burundi, India (helped with church building), Philippines (helped improve the headquarters church building), Myanmar, and Nicaragua. We were also able to help local churches in the United States including local church building repairs, sponsoring a youth retreat in San Antonio, a Young Adult's retreat in Dallas, and a Women's meeting in Houston.

We are also planning on conducting an upcoming week long ministers training session in Salem West Virginia in November. Hopefully this will become an ongoing event to help train young minister candidates to help support the church for future generations until our Lord returns.

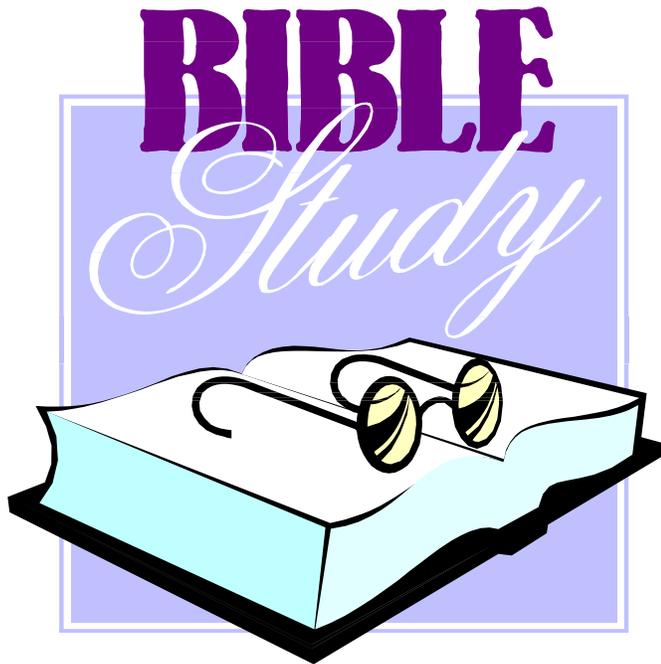
The ministers were well fed and cared for by the brothers and sisters in Dallas and on Friday special meals were provided by the Houston church.

We had a great church service on Sabbath after the meetings. The church was full and we had a good time with a great Sabbath School service led by Pascacio Tavizon and sermon given by Kent Cornwall. There were also many musical special presentations given by several different groups.

We would like to again thank everyone who sends in tithes and donations which allows us to do this good work for the Lord and keep the publishing and ministry work for the church active and growing.

Members of the Twelve pictured below left to right: Apostle Errol Noel (Grenada), Apostle Kent Cornwall (Canada), Apostle Warren Randall Jr. (Florida), Apostle Tim Buechner (Texas), Apostle Paul Herrera Sr. (Texas), Apostle Pascacio Tavizon (Mexico), and Apostle Ricky Herrera Sr. (Texas). More pictures from meeting pages 18-19.





Taken from **The Instructor of Truth Part I** - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

Part 20 - DANIEL 8 (THE 2300 DAYS)

QUESTION: What did Daniel see when he lifted up his eyes?

ANSWER: "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last" (Daniel 8:3).

QUESTION: What was the ram doing?

ANSWER: "I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts (kingdoms) might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great" (Daniel 8:4).

QUESTION: What then did he see?

ANSWER: "And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn (King Alexander the Great) between his eyes" (Daniel

8:5).

QUESTION: What did the he-goat do?

ANSWER: "And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power" (Daniel 8:6).

QUESTION: Because of his choler (anger) what else did he do?

ANSWER: "And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he as moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand" (Daniel 8:7).

QUESTION: What happened to the he-goat?

ANSWER: "Therefore the he goat waxed (grew) very great" (Daniel 8:8 first part).

QUESTION: What happened to the great horn?

ANSWER: "and when he was strong, the great horn was broken" (Daniel 8:8 middle part).

QUESTION: What came up in its place?

ANSWER: "and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven" (Daniel 8:8 last part).

NOTE: The great horn that was broken off was Alexander the Great the King of Greece. After his death four of his generals (the four horns that came up) divided his kingdom among themselves.

QUESTION: What came out of one of them?

ANSWER: "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed (grew) exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land (Palestine or Israel)" (Daniel 8:9).

QUESTION: How great did it become?

ANSWER: “And it waxed (grew) great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them” (Daniel 8:10).

QUESTION: Was the king really great, or did he exalt himself?

ANSWER: “Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down” (Daniel 8:11).

QUESTION: What else did this little horn do?

ANSWER: “And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered” (Daniel 8:12).

QUESTION: What did he tread down?

ANSWER: “Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?” (Daniel 8:13).

QUESTION: How long would this be done?

ANSWER: “And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” (Daniel 8:14).

NOTE: The margin says for days, ‘Evening and morning’. This is because there were the evening and morning sacrifices at the sanctuary. These were to be taken away by the little horn power for 2300 evening and morning sacrifices or 3 years, 2 months, and 10 days.

QUESTION: When Daniel sought for the meaning of the vision what happened?

ANSWER: “And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then,

behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man” (Daniel 8:15).

QUESTION: Who was sent to Daniel and for what purpose?

ANSWER: “And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai (the river Ulai), which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision” (Daniel 8:16).

QUESTION: How did the angel Gabriel begin the interpretation?

ANSWER: “So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision” (Daniel 8:17).

NOTE: God had given to Gabriel the task of making Daniel understand the vision, therefore, when Gabriel was through explaining, Daniel himself fully understood. The expression here, ‘At the time of the end,’ does not mean just before the second coming of Christ, but rather at the time or near the end of the Grecian Empire as we will prove.

QUESTION: What would Gabriel make Daniel know?

ANSWER: “Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be” (Daniel 8:18-19).

QUESTION: What empire did the ram represent?

ANSWER: “The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia” (Daniel 8:20).

QUESTION: What empire did the he-goat represent?

ANSWER: “And the rough goat is the king of Grecia”

(Daniel 8:21 first part).

QUESTION: What did the great horn represent?

ANSWER: “and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king” (Daniel 8:21 last part).

NOTE: This great horn represented the first king of the Grecian Empire, Alexander the Great. This was when the empire was united.

QUESTION: What happened to the kingdom?

ANSWER: “Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his (Alexander’s) power” (Daniel 8:22).

NOTE: After the death of Alexander, his four generals, of his four great armies, known as the northern, southern, eastern, and western armies, divided the kingdom between them and ruled over the four divisions.

QUESTION: How do we know that, ‘At the time of the end,’ means in the latter times of the divided kingdom of Grecia?

ANSWER: “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full” (Daniel 8:23 first part).

QUESTION: What would happen at this time?

ANSWER: “a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark (cruel) sentences (judgments), shall stand up” (Daniel 8:23 last part).

QUESTION: What would this king do?

ANSWER: “And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully (unmercifully), and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people (Israel)” (Daniel 8:24).

NOTE: The mighty and holy people mentioned here were the Israelites who were God’s chosen people. The king to whom this refers was Antiochus Epiphanes. His name was Antiochus, he added the title, Epiphanes, himself. It

means the exalted or great one. This fulfilled the prophecy of verse 11, that he would magnify himself in his heart. He subjected the people of Israel from 168 B.C. to 164.

QUESTION: Against whom did he stand up?

ANSWER: “And through his policy also he shall cause craft (craft and greed) to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart (Epiphanes), and by peace (the promise of peace) shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes (Jesus Christ)” (Daniel 8:25 first part).

NOTE: The Prince of princes is the Lord Jesus Christ. All things connected with the sanctuary at Jerusalem represented the coming saviour to the world. When Antiochus had Jerusalem sacked and pillaged, and had the furniture of the temple, the gold and the silver taken to his Macedonian capital, when he did away with the daily sacrifice which represented the dying Lamb of God, when he had an image of the goddess Diana placed upon the altar for the people to worship, when he substituted the offering that was to be offered from a lamb to a pig, he was standing up against the Prince of princes and defying the God of heaven.

QUESTION: What would be his end?

ANSWER: “but he shall be broken (come to his end) without hand” (Daniel 8:25 last part).

NOTE: While Antiochus was in Egypt and had withdrawn his Jerusalem armies to help him put down the rebellion there, Judas Maccabeus and his small army of patriotic and true Israelites marched on Jerusalem. They overthrew the Grecians and restored the temple worship after 2300 evenings and mornings of desolation and desecration. Word reached Antiochus in Egypt of this uprising in Jerusalem. He gave orders for the Jerusalem army to return to Jerusalem at once with himself in the lead. He swore that when he arrived there that he would make Jerusalem the common burial ground of the Jews. As he and his army hastened back to Jerusalem a sudden violent pain besieged him in his bowels. In desperation he urged his charioteer forward with great speed. One of the wheels of his two wheeled chariot hit a huge rock in the

road throwing the impious creature to the ground. He still defied the God of heaven and shaking his fist up towards the heavens he urged his men to pick him up and carry him. They made a litter and began to carry him. The impact of the fall had broken open his bowels and worms were breeding in them. As his men carried him forward in the litter the stench became so bad that he would be broken without hand. He then made the confession that man should not consider himself equal with God. He lived however until the following year and died in the year 163 B.C.. (The last two notes were digested from the Book of the Macabees in the Apocrypha.)

QUESTION: How can we know positively that this vision has to do with evenings and mornings and is not a vision of 2300 years?

ANSWER: “And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days” (Daniel 8:26).

NOTE: Daniel had this vision about 555 B.C. which was 387 years before the prophecy was fulfilled. Therefore God told him to shut up the vision because it would be or would begin to be after many days. Or it would be many days until it would be fulfilled. The fulfillment of the prophecy as has been stated before was only a little more than three years.

QUESTION: After the vision in what condition was Daniel?

ANSWER: “And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king’s business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it” (Daniel 8:27).

NOTE: Daniel understood the vision himself, because this was the angel Gabriel’s mission. However the expression, ‘none understood it,’ means, ‘no one besides Daniel understood it.’”

STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED



The problems of man are still as they have always been. Satan is still using the same arguments to distract man from the truth. Not only was this a problem in the Province of Galatia but throughout all of Christendom down to this very day - the problem of keeping the law of Moses. As the Church of God grew, Satan began his method of counterfeiting the truth. As the number of Gentile converts increased and the work among them became better known to “certain of the sect of the Pharisees,” (Acts 15:5) the question arose whether a Gentile could become a Christian and be saved without first becoming an Israelite. The more the Gentiles were converted, the harder Satan began to stir the pot of dissention. Certain agitators from Jerusalem began to follow the Apostle Paul to the communities where he had organized Churches with pastors, and elders, and teachers. Paul received the disturbing news that “certain lewd fellows,” were sent from Jerusalem to “subvert the gospel of Jesus Christ” (Acts 17:5; Acts 15:24; II Timothy 2:14).

Paul writes immediately to the harassed saints and says: “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him (Jesus) that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; which is not another; (for it had been taught by the Jews since Moses) but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ” (Galatian 1:6,7).

The Apostle Paul calls the men that were causing trouble “Spies.” Men that “Spy out our liberty” (Galatians 2:4). What liberty was Paul referring to? Liberty from the law of Moses. This shows to us one of the great contrasts between the two laws. The Ten Commandment Law is “the perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25) The Law of Moses “gendereth to bondage.” (Galatians 4:24)

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5: 1). Paul knew the trickery of Satan. By keeping the law of Moses you lose sight of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Law of Moses in all its ramifications pointed to Jesus Christ. The Apostle fully realized that the work of these Judaizers spelled out ruin for the Church of God.

It meant that men would be taught that something else was necessary for their salvation besides the Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel of Jesus was being shorn of its strength and purpose and was being robbed of its vitality. Just as today, men are losing the intention of the Heavenly Father and His Son by telling people they must become Israelites and must obey certain parts of the Law of Moses (keeping the feast days especially) in order to be saved. Jesus was (and is) put into the shadows again.

The laws of Moses pointed to Jesus. They were shadows of things to come. (Colossians 2:17) “For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered (every feast had its own sacrifices) year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect... Above when he said, sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings (feast day offerings” (Exodus 23:14-18) “...thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Hebrews 10: 1- 10).

The Lord Jesus was in Paul’s time (in ours also) - dethroned as Saviour and Head of the Church of God. The life of the Spirit (Christ in you) which made men new and transformed them into Sons of God was to be taken away and in its place the keeping of the Mosaic laws substituted. These deceivers, (wolves in sheep clothing) were again exhorting God’s Children to go back to the “weak and beggarly elements” of the law. “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.” (Galatians 4:9; 5:1-4)

There are no “weak and beggarly elements in God’s Ten Commandments. They are perfect. “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.” (Psalm 19:7). “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good.” (Romans 7:12).

Notice what Jesus said concerning the Ten Commandments of His Father. “And behold, one came and said unto him, (Jesus) Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him,... if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:16-17). Then Jesus went on to name some of the Ten Commandments to make sure that He would not come to believe to mean any other laws.

In comparison, notice how Paul praises the Ten Commandment Law, which also is being discredited by Satan. Man has always tampered with God’s just and holy law and they tell the public that the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross and done away. Is it any wonder then that there is so much lawlessness in the world today?

“Now the end of the commandment is charity (love to God and to your fellow man) out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;” (I Timothy 1:5-8). The following verses 9 to 11 prove that Paul is speaking of the Law of God and not the law of Moses. Notice again how Paul pleads with his friends further by saying: “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?..”(Galatians 3: 1).

Saints and brethren are also being bewitched today with this same evil teaching that we must keep portions of Moses law in order to receive eternal life. They profess that we accept the gospel of Jesus Christ but still want to hold fast to the Old Testament shadows which Christ dispelled on Calvary. They are contending that salvation is dependent on keeping of the feasts of Israel and not solely on Jesus and His righteousness.

We read in Acts 4:12 that there is no salvation in any other, save the Lord Jesus and Paul says if salvation came through the law then there was another way and “Christ is dead in vain “ (Galatians 2:21). The Apostle Paul, seeing

that his work was seriously in jeopardy, as well as the fellowship of believers, and the unity of the Church being impaired, determines to go up to Jerusalem for the Church to settle this matter. The Church convened in Council as we are told in Acts 15:5-11:

“But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying that it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. And the Apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.” The Council was to decide once and for all that the saints were not to keep the law of Moses and that they were not to tempt God, “... to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples...” (verse 10) by making Moses’ law mandatory. It was an unbearable law. It was an “added law.” It was added to Israel’s way of life when they either refused or could not keep God’s Ten Laws. “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom (Jesus) the promise was made...” (Galatians 3:17-21).

Notice again that the added law (Moses’) was to remain till Jesus should come. There is no salvation in Moses’ law but in the righteousness of Jesus. The theme of the first Jerusalem Council was: “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved....” (Acts 15:1).

What Law was abolished? The law of commandments contained in ordinances was abolished. They were all “taken out of the way.” (I Corinthians 3:14-17) “For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.” Circumcision was part of the law of Moses. If ye be circumcised, Christ profited you nothing. If you do just one part of Moses’ law you are required to keep all of it. If you keep the feast days of Moses’ law, you must do everything required by Moses’ law. (Galatians 5: 1-3) But we thank God that his added law ended at the Cross of Calvary. Just think according to Moses’ law you could get a divorce for any reason (Matthew 19:7-9) and yet people will tell you that certain parts of Moses’ law are still applicable.

When Jesus cried from the Cross with a loud voice: “It is finished!” the veil in the temple tore from top to bottom. The law of sacrifices and ordinances, with all the rules and regulations came to an end. The Bible says: “For

he (Jesus) is our peace’ who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us (meaning the veil in the temple); Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Ephesians 2:14-16).

So Jesus ended “the commandments contained in ordinances,” at Calvary. The word “ordinances” means “ceremonies.” There is not a single ceremony in the Ten Commandments. There were ceremonies added to the keeping of the Sabbath Day later by Moses and other leaders of Israel but originally God had no ceremony connected to His Laws. Deuteronomy 5 :22 says: “These words (verses 6-21 the Ten Commandments) the Lord spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice; and he added no more...” Each of these laws are definite statements of what the Lord requires of His people. “And now, Israel, (today, Children of God) what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul. To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

The ordinances were handwritten and were told to Moses by angels (Galatians 3: 19) while the Ten Commandments were written with the finger of God the Father on two tables of stone. “And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God” (Exodus 31:18). “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Colossians 2:14).

Here again we read that it was the ordinances which Moses wrote with his own hand that was nailed to the cross. Note that this law of ordinances was contrary to and against mankind. In Colossians 2: 20-23 we are told that we are not to “touch, taste, or handle” these ordinances. In other words, we are to stay entirely away from them. Still there are some who want to take some of

these ordinances of the cross and command people to keep them. Let us leave them alone and let them continue to hang on the cross.

The Two Baptisms

Another great contrast between the two laws is the lesson of two baptisms. We first read of baptism as it was done by John the Baptist. Have you ever thought it strange that no one questioned John's actions? There was no question concerning baptism because baptism was a recognized procedure of the law of Moses. The word "baptize" is a Greek word. The Aramaic word is "immerse" and it appears a few times in the law of Moses. Let us read a few verses of Hebrews 9:8-14: "The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings (different immersions), and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation (until Jesus came). But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the Holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us...How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge (immerse) your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

These verses show to us again that the "carnal ordinances" came to an end with the Lord Jesus' sacrifice. We are washed by His blood. That is why we are "baptized into Jesus Christ" (Romans 6:3-5). The Apostle Paul rebaptized the disciples in the name of Jesus for they had only experienced the "Baptism of Repentance" by John the Baptist (Acts 19: 1-6). Baptism is immersion as required by the law of Moses, as a rite of purification from ceremonial uncleanness. Immersions or "divers immersions" go back to Leviticus 11:32: "...it must be put into water...so it shall be cleansed." The rule states: "Every thing that may abide the fire, ye shall make it go through the fire, and it shall be clean: nevertheless it shall be purified

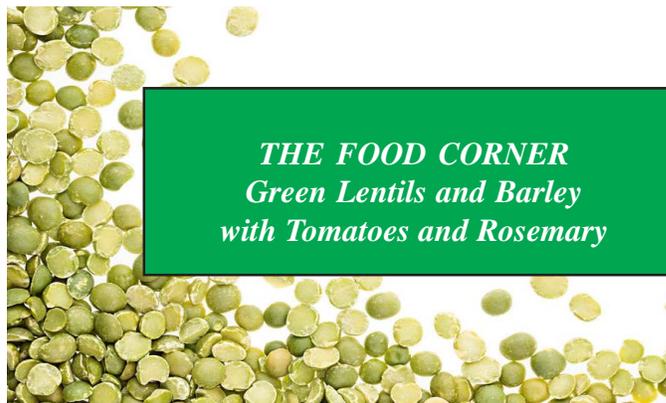
with the water of separation: and all that abideth not the fire ye shall make go through the water" (Numbers 31:23). See also on the subject of diverse immersions: Leviticus 14:6-8; Numbers 19:7-10; Numbers 31:21-23.

This proof is that water baptism was a Mosaic rite. This is why Peter commanded the believers to be baptized for the remission of sins. But the brethren at Pentecost were not baptized as John baptized, or Moses immersed, but they were all baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, the "new and living way" (Acts 2:37,38; Hebrews 10:20). "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that rock was Christ" (I Corinthians 10:1-4). This again shows to us that Israel was familiar with "divers washings." They were baptized into their leader Moses. We are also baptized into our leader, the Lord Jesus Christ. Israel was brought under the obligations to Moses' law. So also are we brought under the obligations stated by Jesus Christ. We are to follow nothing else save "the doctrine of Christ." "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (II John 9).

Man comes to God with no merit of his own for he is a sinner by nature. Remember our definition for sin? It is the transgression of God's Law. (I John 3:4) Man has the knowledge of what sin is. When man comes to God he must repent of his sins. Then he loves God enough to be his obedient child. It is this understanding of the greatness of God's love that draws him to repentance and love. And in response to that love, he gives himself wholly to God by faith. It is important for us to understand that the new way in Christ Jesus is the concept of faith not that of simple intellectual belief, but a total commitment of one's self to God. This makes the salvation experience not a mechanical action but a dynamic experience. With this general understanding of the doctrine of justification by faith, let us not return to the "weak and beggarly elements" of the laws of ceremonies and ordinances.

“Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain” (Galatians 4:8-11).

The Ten Commandments of God are perpetual and immutable. The crime wave that is sweeping the world, wherein each offense is a definite violation of one or another of the Ten Commandments, should make every father and mother carefully consider that these Commandments must be taught. The hateful deception that God’s holy Commandments have been abolished and nailed to the cross has had a world wide sowing, and how horrible the harvest. But the searchlight of God’s precious Word focused squarely on the situation will clearly discern long hidden truth and people are everywhere awakening to the fact that it was the law of Moses and not the Law of God that was abolished and abrogated at the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.



- 1/4 cup French green (or regular green) lentils*
- 1/3 cup pearly barley*
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil*
- 1/2 cup chopped onion*
- 1/2 cup chopped celery*
- 2 1/2 cups canned whole tomatoes, cut into pieces*
- 1 3/4 cups water*
- 2 tablespoons honey*
- Salt and pepper to taste*
- Pinch dried rosemary, optional*
- 1/2 cup shredded carrots*

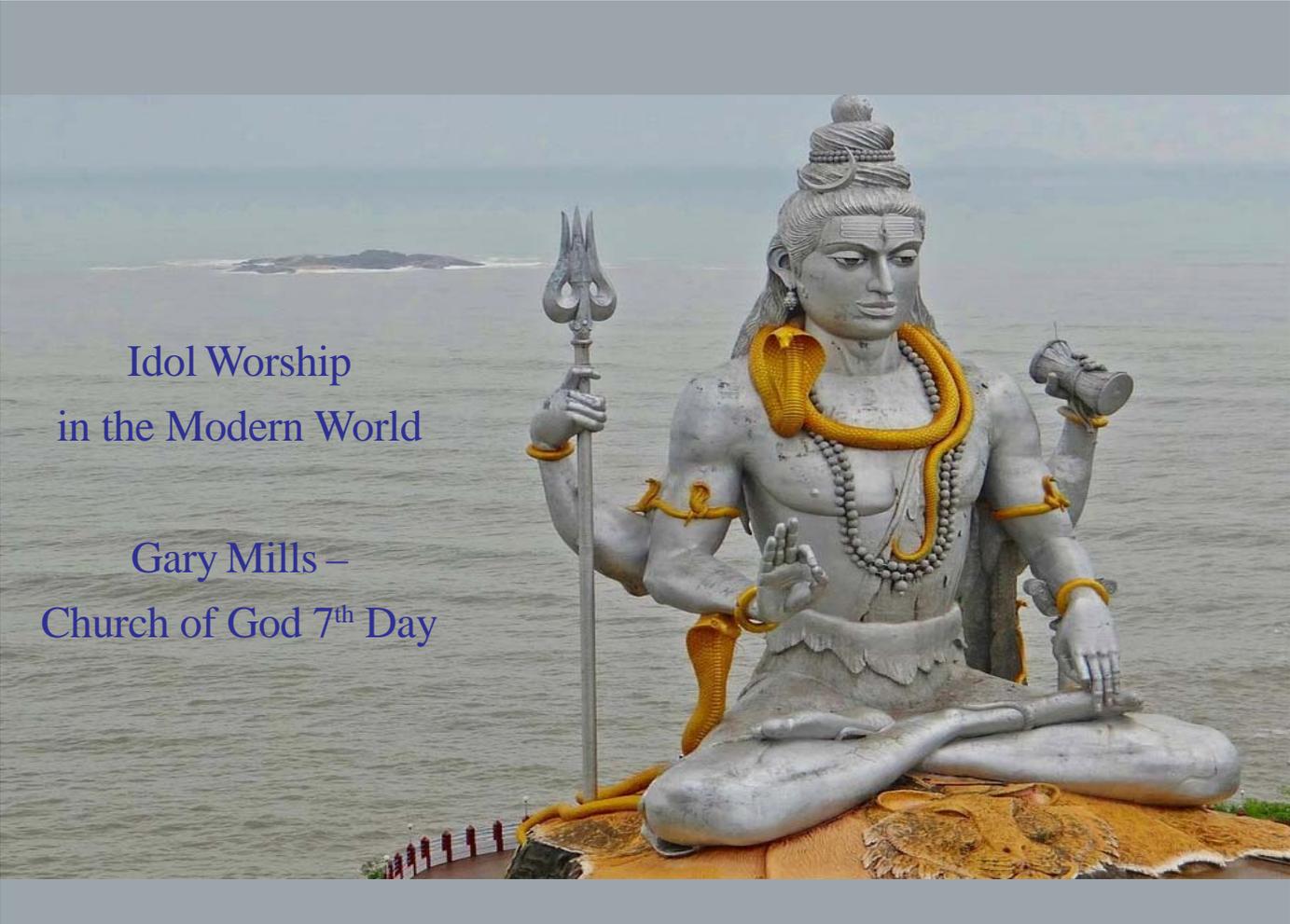
Place the lentils and barley in a pot and cover with water. Swish them around, drain and cover with fresh water. Repeat until the water runs clear. In a medium sized pot, heat the olive oil and sauté the onion until tender. Add celery and cook 5 minutes longer. add remaining ingredients except the carrots, and bring to a boil; cover and simmer 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove cover, add carrots and cook 5 minutes longer or until barley and lentils are tender. Serve hot. Makes 6 servings.



"And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, Brought beds, and basins, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse, And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness" (II Samuel 17:27-29).

Submitted by Jonathan Pompay from Wynocte. PA

Source: "The Essential Book of Jewish Festival Cooking" by Phyllis Glazer with Miriyam Glazer



Idol Worship in the Modern World

Gary Mills –
Church of God 7th Day

So, what is an idol? An idol is when something or someone becomes more important to us than God.

In ancient times that would have looked like bowing down to worship a golden statue. Modern-day idols look different- more like getting our identity from our job or staring at our technology all day. Anything that becomes more important to us than God becomes an idol; and we all have them. Idolatry today might look different, but it is all around us.

The New Testament is also vocal about idolatry. Colossians 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry” and Romans 1: 22-23 “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.”

Many times the New Testament warns of being seduced by the things of this world to the point where they become the most important thing in our life- which is, by definition, idolatry.

We see time and time again in the Bible that we tend to drift away from God. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are full of warnings against idolatry because we are so prone to wander. We must be diligent in examining our life for idols.

Now that we know what is an idol and have a good idolatry definition, let's switch gears and look at what modern day idols are still worshipped. We need to examine our lives and make our own list of anything which we may be putting before God.

This isn't a list of things we should use to beat ourselves up over or use as ammo to shoot at others. This is a list of things that can take the place of God in our

lives. When a good thing becomes an ultimate thing, ultimately it becomes a destructive thing in our lives. That's idolatry. What we should do with this list is use it to prayerfully evaluate our lives to make sure nothing has become more important to us than God. We should each ask ourselves what is an idol in my life?

Let's look at an example. One example is the modern use of the cross in religion. It is a common notion that Christianity adopted the usage of cross in churches after the crucifixion of Jesus. However, history has it that the cross "had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) in that country and in adjacent lands, including Egypt." In other words, crosses were already being used for religious purposes even before Jesus time.

After Christianity started to become secularized in AD 313 and crucifixion being abolished in AD 337, crosses started to appear in churches as the church in Rome began to accept the worship of pagan objects and along with all sorts of pagan rituals. The cross appeared in churches' interior in AD 431, and was set up on churches' steeples in AD 586. Clearly it was never the teachings of Jesus nor acts of his disciples to erect the cross in church.

Ironically you cannot find any biblical evidence about the setting up of crosses as the symbol of the church. Many who worship the cross justify their acts by saying, "Since Jesus died on the cross for us, we commemorate His sacrifice by looking at the cross." However, the Bible says that the thing we should engrave on our hearts is Christ's precious blood of sacrifice that He shed on the cross.

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

Most of us have watched a baseball game. Chances are we have all seen a batter about to enter the batter's box make the sign of the cross. Or perhaps we are basketball fans. We have seen it there too as certain players prepare to shoot a free throw, they will also make the sign

of the cross. It is common to see little silver crosses hanging on a chain around a person's neck or dangling from the rearview mirrors of cars. Is this merely the affirmation of one's faith or something much more serious, such as idolatry? Let us read one of God's ten commandments in Exodus 20:3-5 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"

How much clearer could it be? No image or likeness of anything!

God hates idolatry. Why would He consider the symbol of the cross any differently? While some may justify having one by saying that the cross serves to remind them of Jesus Christ, it is really nothing more than a "bronze serpent."

There is no biblical connection between the true Son of God and the cross of Tammuz. Hanging a cross on the walls of one's home or from a chain around one's neck puts a person at odds with God. Since He has commanded us not to do this and tells us plainly that He is "a jealous God," this is not a position any of us would want to be in.

The cross did not enter 'Christendom' until the time of the Emperor Constantine in 325 AD, when he convened the Council of Nicaea, enforcing the display of the cross at all churches and private homes throughout the Empire. One finds it bizarre that an instrument of torture should receive worship. If Jesus had been killed by a shotgun, electric chair, gallows, or guillotine, would we feel compelled to wear these miniatures of these gruesome objects around our necks?

What most people do not fully realize is that Satan has deceived this whole world (Revelation 12:9) "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Many of the comfortable, familiar customs and traditions of this world have, indeed, been borrowed

from rank paganism and have nothing at all to do with true Christianity. God tells us to prove all things (I Thessalonians 5:21) “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” Before we accept any practice, we should always inquire into its origins. We must assure ourselves that it does not transgress any of God’s laws. So, is the sign of the cross really an emblem of true Christianity or is it something far different? Let’s look at a few more verses for the Bible. In Matthew 12: 38 – 40 Jesus was asked about the use of signs or symbols “Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

The book of Psalms also speaks about idolatry. Psalms 115 4-8: “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.”

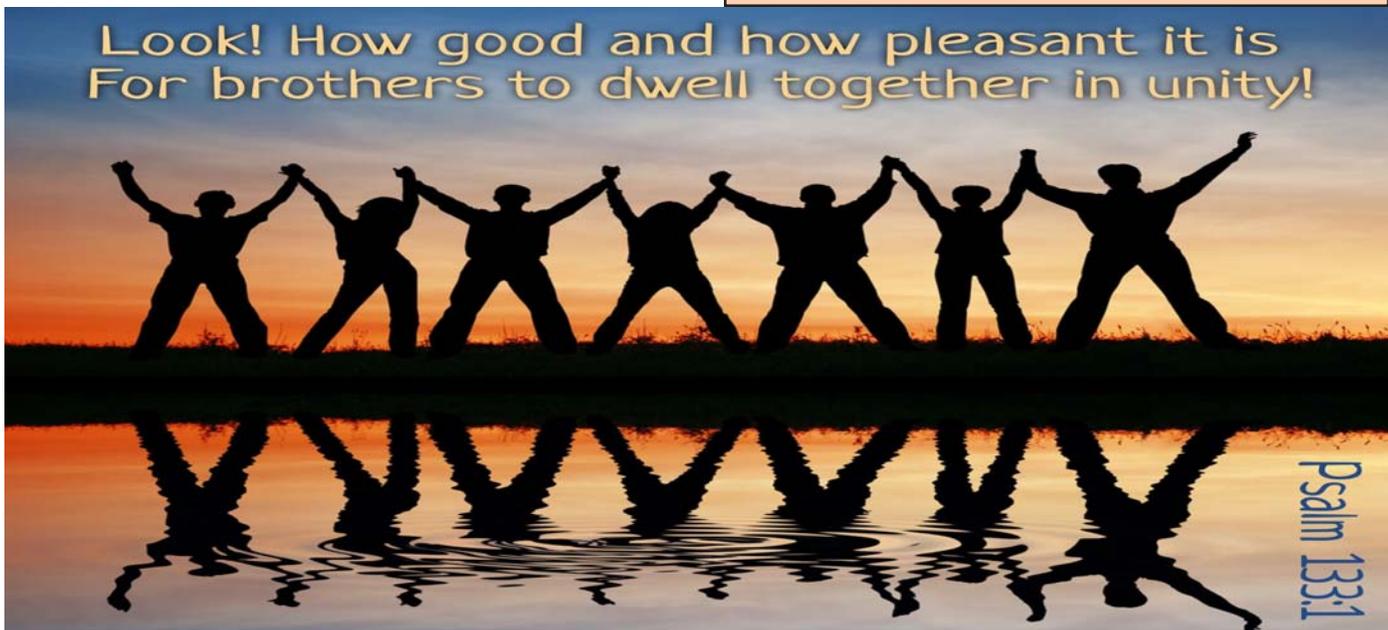
Psalms 135 15: “The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.

It is so difficult in our modern materialistic world of today to keep from putting material things ahead of God in our hearts. We need to continually examine ourselves and work to put God first in our hearts and minds.

Brotherly Love

But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. I Thessalonians 4:9

Lord, you have brought us together, sons and daughters all, and made us into one family, teaching every one of us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are Your Church. We are different in many ways: rich and poor, black and white, male and female Some of us lead and some follow, each according to the talents You have given us and the needs of the community. in many ways we are more different than we are alike yet your love for us knows no human boundaries. We are family. we are Your Church.



Twenty Three Hundred Evenings and Mornings

By David DeLong

In the book of Daniel, chapter 8, there is an account of the temple in Jerusalem being desecrated by an evil king for 2,300 evenings and mornings. Some believe that the 2,300 evenings and mornings are actually 2,300 days, and that these days represent 2,300 prophetic days, or years. Now, days can sometimes represent prophetic days, or years, such as is the case in Numbers 14:33,34; Ezekiel 4:4-6. However, we will show by this article that the 2,300 evenings and mornings are not prophetic years, but are actual evenings and mornings that the temple in Jerusalem was desecrated.

The prophecy in Daniel, chapter 8, tells of a ram with two horns that was smitten by a he-goat, which came from the west, with a notable horn between its eyes. This notable horn was broken, and in its place four other horns came up. Out of one of these horns came another, little horn which desecrated the temple in Jerusalem and stopped the daily sacrifice for 2,300 evenings and mornings. Of this little horn the Scriptures say: "And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered. Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Daniel 8:12-14).

Daniel 8:19-26 gives the interpretation of this prophecy. "And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn

that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days."

How do we know that this prophecy is about literal days and not days for years? The passage gives us the clues. When the phrase "the evening and the morning" is used it refers to literal days (see verse 26). For instance, when the Lord created our universe, He did so in six literal days, using the phrase, "the evening and the morning were the first day...the evening and the morning were the second day"..., etc.

Twenty three hundred evenings and mornings is 1,150 literal days, or a little less than three and one half years. This was the length of time that the evening and the morning sacrifices were stopped by a wicked king named Antiochus Epiphanes, who came from Syria. When Alexander the Great died (the notable horn that was broken on the he-goat), his kingdom was divided by four of his generals (represented by the four horns that came up in his place). These generals ruled over four divisions of Alexander's kingdom: Syria, Egypt, Thrace, and Macedonia. Then, out of one of these divisions, Syria,

came forth a little horn (Antiochus Epiphanes) who desecrated the temple in Jerusalem (it is reported that he offered a pig on the altar to his god, Jupiter), from 168 B.C. to 165 B.C.

After the 2,300 evenings and mornings, the altar and the temple were rededicated to the Lord by the Israelites, and is a holiday observed by them called Hanukkah.



My spirit is willing, but my flesh is weak,
 O Lord I beg, Your help I seek
 To overcome this pain I have from within,
 For I am falling into the depths of sin.

My hold on reality, I'm losing grip,
 My sense of sanity has nigh near slipped;
 The pain within, is squeezing my will--
 A losing battle, I'm fighting still.

A servant to You God, I truly want to be,
 But I'm lost dear Lord, I really hope You see
 I want to see the light and beauty in my day--
 How to overcome and to find my way.

My spirit is willing, my flesh under control,
 The Bible my guide, I go where I'm told;
 Faith in the Lord, this I now carry
 To overcome sin and smile my victory.

By Sister Alcyon De Coteau
 Grenada West Indies



If you go onto Facebook, you can hear a sermon on the 2300 Days from Brother Richard Santiesteban at the Dallas Texas Church Friday Night Service - Log in Facebook, search -

 **Church of God 7th Day Dallas, TX**
 Page · Religious Organization · 1.3K followers

 **Church of God 7th Day Dallas, TX** was live. Jul 1 · 🌐

7/1/2022 Friday Night Service
 Message: "2300 Days"
 Brother Richard Santiesteban

Check out Friday Night Services on Facebook Live





THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

June 2023 Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas



Pictured above: Gary & Ludina Mills



Pictured above: Alex Rosales, Juanita Rosales, Marilyn Cornwall, Kent Cornwall, Walter Goff, Katrina Goff

Below: Members enjoying fellowship

Pictured far right: Nathaniel Cruz & Morgan Buechner



Ministers pictured below first row: Manuel Gonzalez (California, Board of 7), Gonzolo Hernandez (Mexico City), Osman Pineda (Honduras), Alfonso Telesca (Texas, Board of 7), Apostle Kent Cornwall (Canada), Apostle Paul Herrera Sr. (Texas), Apostle Pascacio Tavison (Mexico)

Middle Row: Walter Goff (Panama), Gary Mills (Ohio & West Virginia, Board of 7), David DeLong (West Virginia), Tomas Oliveras (California), Mario Cantu (Texas), David Royer (Panama, Board of 7)

Back Row: Apostle Errol Noel (Grenada), Apostle Warren Randall Jr. (Florida), Apostle Tim Buechner (Texas), Ben DeLong (West Virginia, Board of 7), Apostle Ricky Herrera Sr. (Texas) and Richard Santiesteban (Texas, Board of 7)



**LESSON I
PAUL PREACHES**

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:20-31.

Golden Text: Acts 9:20.

"And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."

1. What did Paul start doing after he was baptized and received the Holy Spirit? Acts 9:20.
2. What did the people think of Paul's actions? Acts 9:21.
3. How did the Jews feel about Paul preaching Jesus? Acts 9:23-24.
4. How was Paul's escape made? Acts 9:25.

NOTE: Name two similar escapes in biblical history. Joshua 2:15 and I Samuel 19:12.

5. When Paul returns to Jerusalem, who did he wish to see, and did they want to see him? Acts 9:26.
6. Who defended Paul, saying he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus? Acts 9:27.
7. What was about to happen to Paul again as he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus? Acts 9:29.
8. Where did the brethren send Paul to escape from Jerusalem? Acts 9:30-31.

NOTE: Already we see Paul begin to suffer for Christ's sake. We see him speaking boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and for this his life was threatened. Did he give up? No!

**LESSON II
GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS**

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:1-48.

Golden Text: Acts 10:34.

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a

truth I perceived that God is no respecter of persons".

1. Who did God tell Cornelius to send for, and what kind of man was Cornelius? Acts 10:1-5.
2. Did Cornelius do as the Lord had told him? Acts 10:7-8.
3. What vision did Peter see, and what did the voice speak? Acts 10:10-16.
4. What was Peter's reply to the voice, "...Rise, Peter; kill, and eat"? Acts 10:14.

NOTE: Peter thought the Lord was referring to the eating of clean and unclean foods. God knew that Peter did not eat unclean animals, but He was showing that if a clean animal touches an unclean animal, it does not become unclean.

5. Why was it necessary to prepare Peter for the meeting between him and Cornelius? Acts 10:20, 28. Peter was a Jew and Cornelius was not.
6. Did Peter go with the men even though it was against all customs? Acts 10:21, 29.
7. What did Peter tell the people? Acts 10:34-35.
8. What proof was there, that day, that God is no respecter of persons? Acts 10:44-48.

NOTE: Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan? Jesus taught the people that the Jews were not always right and that often those disliked do more real work for God than professed members. Jesus was trying to tell them that whatever part of the world you are from (race) made no difference, but the fruit of the people's labor did.

**LESSON III
BARNABAS SEEKS PAUL**

Scripture Reading: Acts 11:19-30.

Golden Text: Acts 11:24.

"For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."

1. Who do we find preaching to the people that are scattered abroad? Acts 11:19-20.
2. Did the people there believe in the Lord? Acts 11:21.
3. Who did the church send for, and where was he to go? Acts 11:22.
4. How did Barnabas feel about going to Antioch? Acts 11:23.
5. What kind of man was Barnabas? Acts 11:24.
6. Where did Barnabas first go, and why did he go there? Acts 11:25.
7. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Antioch? Acts 11:26.
8. What did the prophet Agabus report to the brethren in Antioch? Acts 11:28.

NOTE: Dearth means famine.

9. Who was sent to help relieve the brethren in distress? Acts 11:29-30.

NOTE: Are you willing to go to the aid of your brethren even in if it means a time of affliction for you?

**LESSON IV
THE ARREST OF PETER**

Scripture Reading: Acts 12:1-25.

Golden Text: Acts 12:24.

"But the word of God grew and multiplied."

1. For what deed was Herod known? Acts 12:1-4

NOTE: We see the early church being persecuted, but

still prevailing.

2. While Peter was in prison, what did the church continue to do for him? Acts 12:5.
3. Tell in your own words what happened to Peter that same night Herod was to bring him forth. Acts 12:6-10.
4. Who did Peter give credit for his escape? Acts 12:11.
5. What were the people doing at the house of Mary? Acts 12:12.
6. Who answered the door when Peter knocked, and what did she then do? Acts 12:13-14.
7. Did those in the home believe her, and what was their reaction when they saw Peter? Acts 12:15-17.
8. What happened when Peter's escape was made known to Herod? Acts 12:18-19.
9. What was the final outcome of Herod? Acts 12:21-23.
10. Did God's work continue to grow, and who joined Barnabas and Paul? Acts 12:24-25. This is the same young man in whose house the brethren prayed for Peter.

Answers to Bible Numbers on page 23.

1. 13
2. 3
3. 100
4. 1,000
5. 10
6. 70
7. 7
8. 3,000
9. 8
10. 100
11. 7
12. 17
13. 2
14. 2



WHEN THE GATE WAS OPEN*by Iris Dahlberg*

Ming is a little blond dog with long, curly hair. When Wilene first saw him, she thought he was the prettiest and cutest little puppy she had ever seen. As he grew bigger, he liked to run and play in the yard with Wilene and her little sister, Darla. Mother and Daddy liked him, too.

But there was one naughty thing about Ming. He liked to sneak through the gate, if it was open a crack, and run away! It was not that he was unhappy at home. Oh, no! He simply liked to be free to chase pussycats walking by, or cars, or just run and see what was happening down the street.

"You must shut the gate tight," Mother often reminded the girls. And yet Wilene would sometimes forget and leave it open. Usually Ming would be way down the street before anyone could catch him.

One night when Daddy got home late, he noticed that the gate was open. "Ming, here Ming," he called. But Ming didn't come. He got back in the car and drove all around the block, calling. But Ming didn't answer. Daddy looked in the next block, and the next one, too. He saw a big, black dog and a fuzzy little brown dog with sharp teeth hanging over his chin, and several other dogs, but he didn't see Ming.

"Where is Ming?" Wilene asked the next morning.

"I'm afraid he has gone away," said Mother. "You left the gate open last night, and he is gone." Wilene and Darla were sad. They missed Ming so much, they cried.

"I know he misses us, too," said Wilene. "I'm sorry I didn't shut the gate. Couldn't Jesus help us find him? I will never leave the gate open again if Ming comes home!"

"We can pray," said Mother. "I'm afraid someone else has taken Ming to his house."

Several days went by, and Ming did not come home. Wilene asked many people if they had seen him. One day a little boy who lived down the street said, "A dog like that came to our house. My mother penned him up to keep him from getting run over. We didn't know he was your dog since you are new on our street. Finally

Mother gave him away to a lady who lives on the other side of town."

Wilene's Mother got the lady's telephone number and called her. "I'm sorry, but the little dog ran away," said the lady, "and we haven't seen him for two days."

"Ming is up to his old tricks!" said Mother.

"Maybe he's trying to come home," said Wilene hopefully. "I'm going to keep asking Jesus to send Ming home, and I believe He will."

"Look at this!" exclaimed Daddy as he was reading the newspaper that night. "It says here that a little dog has been found. The description is quite like our Ming. I will call the telephone number given here right away." And so he did.

"Yes, we found a dog like yours," said the man who answered the telephone when Daddy called. "But someone has already come and and gotten him. I felt sorry for the little dog when the lady took him away. He barked and barked and didn't want to go with her. I wondered if he was really her dog."

Daddy told the man all the interesting things about Ming that made him different from any other dog. He told how Ming held his head up and licked with his tongue and how he would lie down and spread out his feet.

"That must be your dog!" said the man. "That is exactly the way he acted!" And so he gave Daddy the telephone number of the lady who had taken Ming.

"But I don't have the dog anymore," the lady explained when Daddy talked to her. "He barked so much that I gave him away to my niece."

Daddy and Mother got into the car and drove to the niece's house. It was late at night now and was all dark. "The man who lives here works at night and doesn't get home until 2:15 in the morning," a neighbor, who was passing by, told them. Daddy and Mother waited and waited.

Finally the man came home from work. "My wife is in the hospital," he explained. "I thought the dog looked lonesome, so I took him to a friend's house to stay."

Daddy and Mother went to the friend's house with the man. The lights were on, and the television was playing, so they rang the doorbell. A dog came to the door and barked. It sounded like Ming. When a lady opened the door, they saw the dog, and it was Ming! He barked

and barked and jumped up and down. He was so happy to see Mother and Daddy.

"He must be your dog," the other people agreed. So Ming went home with Mother and Daddy.

When Wilene and Darla woke up the next morning and saw Ming, they hugged him and hugged him. They were so glad to see him. Ming kissed them with big puppy dog kisses. He was so happy to see them. Then Mother and Daddy and the two girls thanked Jesus for helping them find Ming.

Nowadays, whenever someone walks through the gate to see Wilene and Darla at their house, big sister Wilene always comes running to make sure that the gate is closed. She hasn't forgotten the promise she made the time Ming was lost.

BIBLE NUMBERS

1. How many times did the Israelites march around the city of Jericho? Joshua 6:14,15
2. How many times did Peter deny Christ? Matthew 26:34
3. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? Genesis 17:17
4. How many years are there in a millennium?
5. In the parable of the lost coin, how many pieces of silver did the woman have? Luke 15:8
6. How many people did Jesus appoint and send out two by two? Luke 10:1
7. How many years did it take Solomon to build the temple? I Kings 6:38
8. How many people were added to the believers on the day of Pentecost? Acts 2:41
9. How many people were in the ark? Genesis 7:13
10. In the parable of the lost sheep, how many sheep did the man have to begin with? Luke 15:4

11. What number in Scripture often speaks of perfection or completion?
12. How old was Joseph when his brothers sold him to the Midianites? Genesis 37:2
13. How many spies did Rahab help to hide in the city of Jericho? Joshua 2:4
14. The law of God was given to Moses on how many tablets of stone? Exodus 31:18



*When you're gloomy, when you're sad,
When you're grouchy, when you're mad,
Life will seem not near as bad,
If you smile.*

*If you've had a trying day,
And meet folks along the way,
But you have no words to say,
Give a smile.*

*Maybe they've had troubles too,
Maybe even more than you-
But a sunbeam may break through,
If you smile.*

*If you have no joy at all,
And your faith seems very small,
And you feel like you could bawl,
Try to smile.*

*Yes, I know it costs a lot,
Sometimes all that you have got,
But you've won the fight you fought,
If you smile.*

Frieda Funk in Gospel Herald

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*THE FLOOD
By David DeLong*

*The Flood is a lesson for all.
It shows the extent of man's fall,
Since it covered the whole earth,
We know what to God was of worth,
For only one man and his clan
Was found righteous in God's holy plan.
But violence and corruption
Spewed forth like volcanic eruption
From all of the rest of mankind.
Th Lord relented, then, in His mind,
He was sorry with His Creation.
To kill them He felt no elation.
But it was all that He could do,
Their wickedness came into view,
For forty days and forty nights
Water poured from the ground and the heights
Of the heavens from up above
God saved with His merciful love
Noah, and his clan in the ark.
For they lived up to God's holy mark.*