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Publisher: Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

Contributors: Curtis Dahlgren, Dwight Fleming, Richard Frates, William P. Goff, Eddie Hyatt, Laura Lee, Gary C. Miller, Richard T. Ritenbaugh, Warren Zehrung

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Commentary:

Hi Everyone,

It is sometimes hard to come up with things to say in a commentary and this week I am at a loss for words, unusual though that may be. So, I will take a break this week and see if I can come up with something next week.

Remember that if you have a prayer request or a time dated article to please mark it urgent in the subject line otherwise they just go unread into a folder waiting for their turn to be printed.

Please pray for our brethren in Kenya, Israel and all around the world. Even though some of us have peace right now, others do not. Pray for Donald Trump and His Family, that they may be safe during these trying times.

Again, we are grateful to all the people who contribute to this newsletter.

Hope you all have a happy Sabbath,
(Written by Laura)

1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

A Telling Juxtaposition

(Copyright 11-27-2024) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)

"The most effectual means of securing the continuance of our civil and religious liberties is always to remember with reverence and gratitude the Source from which they flow."

—John Jay



The fourth Thursday in November, the holiday Americans call Thanksgiving Day, is always followed by an unofficial shopping holiday known as "Black Friday." It also marks the unofficial beginning of the [Christmas](#) shopping season, although we realize with chagrin that, these days, retailers are already advertising in the Christmas theme at [Halloween](#), a month earlier, or even earlier. Like the recent Presidential campaign, candidates for the public's holiday spending are getting out of the gate sooner every year to squeeze out the competition.

The term "Black Friday" sounds ominous, and it should. Originally, the name was coined in Philadelphia due to the massive vehicle and pedestrian traffic headaches that the rush to the malls and stores caused. Here in Charlotte, in addition to traffic conditions being broadcast on the radio every ten minutes, the announcers also notify drivers about how full the four major malls' parking lots are: "For those of you headed to Carolina Place this morning, the lots there are currently 90% full. There are no empty spaces at South Park Mall."

Every year, too, we hear news reports of die-hard shoppers camping out in line for the latest and greatest gizmo that

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every child (or more often, adult, who has plans to put it up for sale at an inflated price on eBay) must have. Hundreds of people show up at Wal-Mart or a big box store, each hoping to get his hands on one of the few dozens of this year's equivalent of the Elmo doll or whiz-bang gaming systems that the store has stocked for the Big Event Sale. Unless the guy who is first in line is a former college linebacker, he stands about a 75% chance of being pushed aside and/or trampled as the store's doors open for business, usually at some ungodly hour in the morning—or maybe even midnight.

In one year's, Black Friday rush to consume, the New York *Daily News* reported that a Wal-Mart employee on Long Island had been trampled and killed by a human stampede. A co-worker stated, "He was bum-rushed by 200 people. They took the doors off the hinges. He was trampled and killed in front of me. They took me down too. . . . I literally had to fight people off my back." While emergency workers tried valiantly to save the 34-year-old man's life, impatient shoppers flowed past them into the store, and only a few stopped or even seemed to notice that a human being's life was draining away. A disgusted onlooker commented on the crowd, "They're savages. It's sad. It's terrible."

To most retailers, the meaning of Black Friday has nothing to do with traffic congestion and insane consumers but everything to do with profits. They hope that this day will see their ledgers' bottom lines turn from red to black since most of them depend on heavy Christmas sales to tip their books into positive territory. This year-end surge in income is the main reason why stores hawk their Christmas goodies earlier each year, for the earlier they make their profits, the more likely they are to have a banner year. They certainly do not want to have to depend on the Christmas Eve rush—or worse, after-Christmas clearance sales—to post a profit for the year.

From a spiritual point of view, the juxtaposition of Thanksgiving and Black Friday is significant. U.S. presidents, beginning with its first, George Washington, have set aside this Thursday as a day of national thanksgiving and prayer to [God](#) for the wonderful bounty and favor that He has graciously bestowed upon America. Citizens are encouraged to take time to count their blessings and consider how much God has blessed them and this nation throughout its history. Each family or group devours a sumptuous feast that represents the best produce of the land. It is also family time, the one national holiday that brings families together without the burden of expected gifts and manufactured merriment.

Yet, the next day is almost entirely given over to consumerism, a day of unbridled, almost carnivorous acquisition. People prepare and gear up for it as if it were a sports competition: getting up early, putting on their best tennis shoes, donning their comfortable clothes, scheduling the day's stops, assigning certain purchases to various family members, synchronizing their cellphones, and checking the loads of their wallets and purses for the monetary firepower that they will need to win the day. Tempers flare over traffic snarls, and like hungry sharks, drivers circle the parking lots in search of empty parking spaces. In the stores, people argue over their places in line and even tussle in the aisles over merchandise.

How soon the gratitude and humility of Thanksgiving disappears! One day we acknowledge the lovingkindness of our Creator, and the next we engage in no-hold-barred materialism! It is a telling indication of the spiritual status of the average American.

However, it should come as no surprise. In reality, today's Thanksgiving has almost completely lost its spiritual overtones; it is in most respects another secular holiday. It is a time of near-gluttony and overindulgence, a day of parades sponsored by retail stores and of football games marred by countless commercials. In essence, Thanksgiving has become merely a day of consumption, a benign precursor to Black Friday's commercial consumption. Very few celebrate Thanksgiving in the grateful spirit of Washington's original decree or Abraham Lincoln's Civil War proclamation 74 years later.

The emphasis on consumption tells us that Americans do not want to *give* thanks but *get* things. The whole culture has become self-indulgent, and this insatiable desire for more blinds the people to their obligations to God and each other. [Jesus](#) confronted this attitude in the Pharisees' ritualism: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence" ([Matthew 23:25](#)). In other words, they made a show of rectitude and charity, but in truth, they were only interested in the advantages such piety outward would give them. Jesus pronounced woe upon them for this, and He would certainly judge America's profligate greed in the same way.

As Christians—and especially in tough economic times like these—we must live counter to the trends of this society. We need to give thanks to God for everything ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)) and focus on living the give way, the way of outgoing

concern, as God does.

See Richard T. Ritenbaugh's other articles at:

[Ritenbaugh, Richard T. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Revoke Devil-Worship Decrees: (Copyright 11-29-2024) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

God Twice Delivered - Life or Death Violent Warning: To Donald Trump and America. A Bullet Through Trump's - Right Ear. And another assassin's failed attempts to kill Trump in Florida are messages from God. President Trump God's message to you and America: **Hear and honor my word.** Reject Devil-Media Puppet Masters of Democratic Party Snakes dictating "good and evil" Genesis 2:17 or "you will surely die" as a free nation. You will be shackled, muzzled, and compelled to worship the Devil by honoring sexual perverts parading sin against God.

God "knows every "Sparrow that falls" and the stars in the universe "by name." Trumps right ear was God's target: God knew the assassin and that the Secret Police, planned neglect of Federal Villains - were doing the Devil's work. In God's all-knowing wisdom and mercy, He frustrated their design.

Republicans: Without Apology and - whenever challenged - Publicly Proclaim "marriage is between a man and a woman." Doing that will honor God's perfect word and educate our depravity educated young. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are God's rebuke to LGBT depraved America. Democrat party leaders vacant of God-Consciousness - Devil-Media is their conscious "Depraved minds" the result Romans 1:28.

Lawmakers and Judges Repent: Publicly reject, and free America from these two - Devil-Worship decrees: Make America free to worship God again.

1. **Five democratic party - Judicial Snakes Effectively Said:** "I worship the Devil" so all must do the same and to justify "Devil-Worship" Falsely Decreed "Same sex marriage "constitutional." **That is mocking marriage and blasphemy against God.** Congress must reject the madness of judges - Rewriting our constitution. **What madness is next:** Bestiality is constitutional. And sexually perverted men and boys, mocking women, pretending to be women is constitutional and must be honored as women?
2. **Double Blasphemy:** Democrats President Bill Clinton, and the Devil's faithful President Biden decreed - JUNE- is America's "PRIDE" of sexual perverts on parade month. Those two decrees impose - **nationwide Devil-Worship:** Diabolically sacrificing the hearts and minds of your children to Satan. Honoring what God decreed evil is - Devil-Worship.

Governors and State Lawmakers: Counter National Devil-Worship decrees with these two Decrees:

1. **Same Sex Marriage is MOCKING MARRIAGE and BLASPHEMY against GOD - and is - Outlawed – in our State. No Lawmaker, Judge, education, or state official is to impose their sexual practices or the sexual lifestyles of others on anyone.**
2. **JUNE is God ordained marriage month. And Matthew 19:4 Honored Sacred Scripture of JUNE.** "The Creator made them male and female and decreed, for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be

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united to his wife.” That should be K-12 Education. Instead, Satanic LGBT indoctrination rules nationwide! Send a boy or girl to school: Frankenstein’s child comes home! Save the children: Ban sex-ed K-12.

Donald Trump, fish out the Devils faithful: Their attacks against truthful words will expose them. Make this statement publicly, and without apology. **God created mankind male and female: Thank God for husbands and wives and this marvelous reality, the two become “one flesh” in sons, and daughters.**

Isaiah 58:1: Church and Synagogue leaders - Instead of inviting sexual perverts parading sin against God to church, call on them to repent. Follow our Saviors example: **Jesus Christ preached “repent** to warn of God’s Judgment and save sinners Luke 13:1-5. “Nondiscrimination law” preaches - **do not repent** - parade sin against God and “discriminate” against those who will not join your parade.

Devil-Media is driving democratic party lawmakers and Judges and some pandering republicans like dumb mules: Whatever evil Devil-Media honors democrats in congress, and judges assume authority to defend in law.

Devil-Media is High-Priest of the - Democratic Party. Their United Religion is: Evil is really good and must be honored - good “discriminates” against evil so good must be condemned. Isaiah 5:20 “Woe to those who call evil good.”

Devil-Worship decrees embolden the Devil’s faithful. They will hate, ridicule, the innocent who resist honor for those parading sin against God. What will democratic party snakes do when President Trump wins the 2024 election. January 2025 inauguration day: Will Devil-Media and democrats inspire a “defend democracy” riot? **Election: Darkness and Dawn will meet in November - Reject Remaining Mind-Slaves of - Tyrants. Banish democratic party - Devil-Worship-Decrees.**

Transgender is a fraud, a Diabolical Phantom of the Mind: At home among elitist and delusional sexual perverts. Dr Frankenstein can’t change a man into a woman. The end result is a mutilated and drugged, sexual pervert pretending to be a woman. Devil-Media, elitist, and university staff, are social-fascist: Forcing honor for sexual pervert frauds who call themselves “transgender.”

The Moses-Cure - will educate frauds pretending the opposite gender and protect them from being drugged and mutilated. Deuteronomy 24:2 “If the guilty man deserves to be beaten the judge shall have him lie down and flogged in his presence.” A good flogging will also cure delusional Dr Frankenstein’s from the madness of thinking they can change gender. Lawmakers ban that medical malpractice in your state!

Does Psychology pander to and facilitate “transgender” madness for profit? Yes. Fox-news: Believing Dr Frankenstein instead of God and calling Bruce Jenner - Caitlyn will drag you to hell.

Forward to President Trump, senator John Thune, congress, DOJ, FBI, and CIA. Devil-Media possessed politicians celebrate madness! - Judgment - John 5:28-29.

See Richard Frate’s other articles at:

[Frates, Richard – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Have a Great Sabbath!

Faith of a Child; No Fear

(Copyright 11-30-2024) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)



"And said, Verily I say to you, Except you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matt. 18:3-4)

CHILD PROTECTION:

"...and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den...." (Isa.11:7,8)

WHY SUCH SAFETY?

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea." (Isa. 11:6,8-9)

KNOWLEDGE OF YAHWEH CASTS OUT FEAR; BRINGS PEACE:

"Great peace have they which love your Law: and nothing shall offend them." (Psa. 119:165).

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear..." (1 Jn. 4:18)

RIGHTEOUS FEAR:

"The fear of Yahweh is to hate evil..." (Prv. 8:13)

"The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge." (Prv. 1:7)

See Gary C. Miller's other articles at:

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On the need for noble mothers (and fathers) (Copyright 12-03-2024) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"Every family has two lives; . . . there is a seething struggle between forces of life and the forces of disintegration . . . Do not aspire to be king of the Belliakers – there's too much competition for that spot." – Elbert Hubbard

RIDING THE COAT TAILS OF THE ILLITERATE (and poor by habit). That's what the left-wing of the Left Wing is all about now – pandering to people who lack self-control but feel so good about themselves. Some have white guilt and some feel almost too good for this deplorable country. Talk about ingrates! But they have lots of self-esteem, despite sex and drug abuse. Being easily offended! Plus, the always "I'M OKAY; YOU'RE A FASCIST" mentality.

A social psychologist named Roy Baumeister says it all started in clinical psychology and got into the schools and families: "It's easy to 'feel good' and it's certainly easier than doing your math homework." President Reagan, in his farewell to the United Nations, said: **"[T]he deliberations of great leaders and great bodies are but overture, . . . the truly majestic music, the music of freedom, of justice, and peace is the music made in forgetting self and seeking in silence the will of Him who made us."**

Public schools are 180 degrees "off." Any mention of "Him who made us" is strictly verboten, and SELF is exalted – without any need of effort or rigor. You can't even say "NO" to a kid in a firm voice, or demand that an assignment be turned in. Even if the kid turns it in, you certainly can't correct it with red ink. Just pass the loser on to the poor teachers in the next grade up! **And they've not only kicked God out of the schools but, in some cities, also the security personnel or police that had to be brought in on account of no discipline (the sight of them might make some kids melt like snowflakes).**

The political Left not only rides the coat tails of the "under privileged" but also of the violent (job security for judges, lawyers, and social workers. Over one weekend, fifty people shot, almost a dozen fatally, in a city with the strictest of gun control laws, Chicago (count on it when the weather warms up so people go out of doors). City Hall doesn't seem to care.

"It's time to get back to the basics of life," someone sang. A quote from the Princeton University Library *Chronicle*, Spring 1961 ("Madison and Witherspoon: Theological Roots of American Political Thought"): **"Man's innate depravity . . . must be checked by counter-acting forces . . . 'Impulse or passion or interest averse to the rights of other citizens or to the aggregate interest of the community,' as Madison said. "The government must be shaped so that one set of interests will keep other sets of interests from dominating. *Checks and balances are required.*"**

Elbert Hubbard said: **"If you have ceased to be moved by religion, no longer dwell on poetry [or prose], are not swayed by music, the love instinct has withered to the ashes of a rose."**

The Bible now banned from public schools predicted a time "without natural affection," people only lovers of self, and simultaneously, a time of great hatred. Sound familiar? Roy Baumeister wrote:

"It was fine to give people, including children, a feeling of self-worth, but if you think you are better than you are, then you are more likely to get negative feedback, and if you are emotionally invested in this, then you could become violent."

Young people, you may find this hard to believe, but homicides used to be very rare! THE GUNS HAVEN'T CHANGED. THE PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED. President Reagan said: **"If future generations say peace came closer, that we brought about new seasons of justice, it will be cause for pride."**

P.S. Elbert Hubbard said, **"Babies are the dice of destiny . . . We can never have a noble race of men until we have a noble race of mothers . . . The modest woman is the one who wears her wares in an artistic and effective manner."**

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The word "prude" originally meant "a fine thing of a woman." It came from "prudefemme," a *virtuous woman*. Enough said?

See Curtis Dahlgren's other articles at:

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Donor Letter – December 3, 2024

(Copyright 12-03-2024) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

Greetings Brethren,

Pictured below are ten of the twelve orphans who are soon to return to school for the 3rd and last term of the year.



Yes, they sure are growing up.

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Grammar school is as follows:

1. Askah Nyaboke
2. Faith Onsongo
3. Enoch Ombongi

High school is as follows:

1. Francis Okechi Menda
2. Isaac Magara (papa)
3. Anita Moruri Okechi
4. Lucy Monyenye Moi
5. Naomi Karoo Jeremiah
6. Moreen Kemuma Okechi
7. Rebecca Nyansiaboka
8. Mildred Bwari Okengo
9. Jackson Benard

We are still in need of their upcoming school fees. And we are still waiting from the Government the cost. (They said it will be disclosed soon.) We anticipate it to be around \$4,000. (Maybe less.)

We have also been informed by the authorities that they want the Boy's house, cafeteria, kitchen, and storeroom painted on the exterior. The orphans are ready, willing and able to tackle that project now, before they return to school, but currently we lack the funds to purchase the materials.

If you can possibly help, please do so. Most of you donors have been helping these orphans and widows for a long time. (And many of you go “above and beyond” all the time.) Your Love is surely “Agape”. Scripture says you will be rewarded well (and soon) by our Lord.

But once again, we need a little boost. Remember, we have been helping about fifty orphans and twelve widows. (And that's a difficult thing to do in a world that now [at these end times in which we are living] calls good bad and bad good.

Some countries here consider one guilty until proven innocent (or most often until bribe is paid). It can be very rough here (As noted in the current update.)

We continue asking for your prayers for protection. Our hope is that Nehemiah doesn't spend any more time incarcerated. He had been arrested at least three times over the years and in teargas twice. The authorities here now hold him accountable for the orphanage and its children.

As many of you know, that position landed Haron in jail more times than I can remember. (And there's no exaggeration here on the numbers.)

Thank you Brethren for your continued support of these orphans and widows. And let us please pray that prayer which our Lord informed us of in (Luke 10:2)

“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into His harvest.”

The need of our impoverished church over there is still great. And yes, laborers still few. That verse applies to the work we are involved in, and the times in which we now live.

We are living at a time when man may have the “church” divided into hundreds of separate groups. But in God's eyes, there are only two groups out there. Yes, two, the wise and the foolish, the sheep and the goats.

Please let others know that we are still helping orphans and widows that are suffering, and still in need of our help. **If others in the various “churches” of God only knew of the suffering, they would help.**

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The work we are involved in is a good work, and producing good fruit. (And it's well documented over many years, on our "Update" page.) So please help if you can. We are not cons. (1 John3:17)

Thank You.
Bill Goff

<https://khofh.com/support-us/>

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Phone: 843-447-0140 (Call "anytime" night or day.)

See William P. Goff's other articles at:
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Texas, The Bible & The U. S. Constitution

(Copyright 12-06-2024) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



The inclusion of Bible stories in Texas Public School curriculum is being challenged with the claim that it violates the U. S. Constitution. This, however, is a fallacious claim, based on a contorted interpretation of the First Amendment wrenched from its historical setting.

The truth is that the Bible in public schools is in complete harmony with the thinking of America's founding generation. This is obvious from the following examples from America's early history.

The first English Bible printed in America in 1782 included an endorsement from Congress. The producer of this Bible, Robert Aitken, called it, "a neat Edition of the Scriptures for the use in schools." Congress enthusiastically responded to his request for an endorsement and offered the following recommendation, which was included in this first English Bible

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printed in America.

Resolved: That the United States in Congress assembled, highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interest of religion as well as an instance of the progress of the arts in this country, and being satisfied from the above report, of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper.

This was neither surprising nor controversial for the Bible was the most popular book in America at the time of its founding. America’s founding generation found in the pages of the Bible its moral compass, its guide for ethics, and the intellectual underpinnings for its worldview.

This is why, on September 5, 1774, the First Continental Congress opened with the reading of the entire 35th Psalm followed by an extended time of prayer. John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, of the impact of the Bible reading on the delegates, which included himself, George Washington, Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, and other founding fathers. He wrote,

It was enough to melt a heart of stone. I never saw a greater effect upon an audience. It seems as if heaven had ordained that Psalm to be read that day. I saw tears gush into the eyes of the old, grave pacific Quakers of Philadelphia. I must beg you to read that Psalm (Hyatt, [*1726: The Year that Defined America*](#), 108).

A ten-year study to determine where the founders got their ideas for America’s founding documents discovered that they quoted the Bible far more than any other source (Hyatt, [*1726: The Year that Defined America*](#), 167-68). This is why no one was surprised when George Washington took the first presidential oath of office with his hand on a Bible by which he made clear that he saw this public act as a sacred oath before God.

A December 27, 1982, article in *Newsweek* magazine, entitled “How the Bible Made America,” highlighted this profound impact of the Bible on America’s founding generation. The authors wrote,

For centuries, the Bible has exerted an unrivaled influence on American culture, politics, and social life. Now historians are discovering that the Bible, perhaps even more than the Constitution, is our founding document: the source of the powerful myth of the United States as a special, sacred nation, a people called by God to establish a model of society, a beacon to the world.

The First Amendment, which reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or hindering the free exercise thereof,” was formulated to block Congress from ever establishing a government-run national church. That it was created to keep the Bible out of the public arena, is a new and novel concept rooted in a secularist worldview.

The First Amendment was created to keep government influence out of the church, not the other way around. We must remember the words of John Adams, who as America’s second president, declared, “Our constitution was made only for a religious and moral people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other” (Hyatt, [*1726: The Year that Defined America*](#), 168).

See Eddie Hyatt’s other articles at:

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Mel's Best Movie

(Copyright 12-06-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Orville, California)

Mel Gibson has starred in notable films, such as, *Mad Max*, *Lethal Weapon*, *Ransom*, and *The Patriot* among many other movies. One of his most popular movies is probably *Braveheart* where Mel portrayed William Wallace of Scottish history. I have linked a movie clip below of an inspiring scene from *Braveheart*.

Of all of his movies that I have watched, I consider *The Man Without A Face* his best movie. Why? In this movie, Mel plays the part of a misjudged man who had become an outcast of society. Because of his scars, the whole town considered him a freak. Naturally, he had withdrawn from any kind of social life to live out his life in his own lonely corner of the world.

His desire to be alone was interrupted by a young lad who sought his tutoring skills. This young boy (Chuck) had his mom and two sisters but never really knew his dad. He would at times get lost in his dreams even during the day. Chuck felt the need to go to a military school but had failed the entrance exam since his academic acumen was not yet at a sufficient level. His mom agreed to let him try the test again since he wanted to spend summer vacation studying for it.

Despite Chuck's own study efforts, he knew that he needed outside help. The least likely source of academic help at their vacation home was from the Freak (Gibson). Because of the negative gossip about the Freak, Chuck didn't think his mom would approve of him seeking help from a social outcast. Yet Chuck managed to get the Freak to tutor him believing it to be his only hope of passing the entrance exam. The only problem was that Chuck kept it a secret from his mom which later on proved to lead to a gross misunderstanding and evil suspicion of the Freak.

The Freak (Justin McLeod played by Gibson) skillfully helped Chuck gain confidence in his academic studies. At the same time a bond of friendship developed between them which Chuck greatly needed after he learned the truth about his father which devastated him. This may all sound interesting to you, but you may wonder what does this have to do with the Bible and our spiritual growth?

Revelation 5:10 says that we shall be "kings and **priests**." What is the purpose or function of a priest?

"Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer **gifts** and **sacrifices** for sins [imperfection]. He is able to deal **gently** with those who are **ignorant** and are going **astray**, since he himself is subject to weakness" (Hebrews 5:1-2).

In other words, a priest is to help bring a seeker of God from a state of **imperfection** to a state of **perfection**. The Hebrew writer later says, "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to **perfection** [or, maturity]" (Hebrews 6:1).

And this is what we see happening in *The Man Without A Face*. The Freak (Gibson) is a kind of priest who takes his pupil (Chuck) from a state of imperfection to a state of perfection or maturity. As any parent or teacher knows, it takes much sacrifice to do this.

Braveheart is a good example of a king or leader who inspires people to do what may look impossible to accomplish their mission in life. Both Kings and Priests will be needed in changing the world at Christ's return to establish His kingdom upon the earth. Things won't happen by magic. It will take wise efforts to overcome the many imperfections that are now prevalent in the world. May the movie, *The Man Without A Face*, be an inspiration of the duties and role of a priest in changing lives for the better.

Braveheart movie clip: <https://youtu.be/h2vW-rr9ibE?si=DSPc4Hmi6nTQ-oDL>

The Man Without A Face:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0FgDL5Ik6o&pp=ygUWdGhllG1hbiB3aXRob3V0IGEGzmfjzQ%3D%3D>

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Portal to the Everlasting Temple (Last Great Day 2023) (Copyright 2023) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

Introduction:

On the Last Great Day of the Feast in 2023 my sermon was titled, "Portal To the Everlasting Temple." In it I answered the question, "What is the **Last Great Day** all about?" Let's put it all together.

As soon as man was created, God instituted the seven-day week with the seventh-day being the Sabbath Day of rest. God's 7,000-year master Plan began at the creation of Adam and Eve. That first Sabbath day, and the symbolism it pictures of the creation week, is also a spiritual picture of Jesus Christ's 1,000-year millennial reign on earth (Hebrews 4:9, Revelation 20:4). The world does not yet realize it, but the seven-day week, known by every civilization, is a microcosm of the 7,000-year Divine Plan. God has established a 7,000-year Plan to bring humanity into His everlasting eternal Family.

We've drawn the parallel of the 7,000-year Plan of God, with the seven-day creation week. We've also equated the seven annual festivals with the Plan of God. But what is the **Eighth Day** Feast of the Lord all about?

Leviticus 23:36 "...On the **eighth day** shall be an Holy Convocation unto you."

That is not much information upon which to establish the meaning of a Feast Day. But God has given us 'a little here and a little there' so that we are able to find more of the Biblical meaning of the Last Great Day. What will happen at the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophetic Last Great Day? The meaning of the day is found in the fact that the Eighth Day follows after the completion of the Great White Throne Judgment at the very end of the Millennium. The Last Great Day falls beyond the scope and span of the 7,000-year Plan of God. And, though it follows the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles consecutively, it is a separate and distinct Feast Day. It pictures the occasion when the Saints will be exalted to God's eternal Glory (1Corinthians 15:43, John 17:5, Hebrews 2:10).

What does Paul mean when he says in 1Corinthians 15:24 "Then comes the **END**, when [Jesus] Christ shall have delivered up the Kingdom **TO** God, even the Father?" This transference of Christ's reign and rule to the Father shows us **the meaning** of the Last Great Day.

God's Plan on Earth has a precise beginning and end. The Last Great Day marks the transition from this present temporary earth to the eternal New Heavens and New Earth.

When the Great White Throne Judgment renders its verdicts for all who have ever lived, and the Supreme Court of heaven comes to a close, there will be a changeover of administration from Jesus Christ to God the Father. The work of Jesus on earth will have brought the Plan of God to fruition. It will be completed at that time and ready to be delivered to God the Father.

It was a 7,000-year Plan on earth – and after that it will be finished! The 7,000-year Plan on earth will conclude and there will be no further need for this planet. The elements will melt and the earth will be purified by a "Lake of Fire."

After the Great White Throne Judgment of Jesus Christ, there is one more most important final step that will be fulfilled. At that point we will await the utterance by Christ, "It is done," (Revelation 21:6). Yes, Christ's work in the Millennium will be done, but what about the New Heavens and New Earth? What does the Bible reveal?

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The **Last Great Day** will be about to begin, and there is a spiritual, timeless, everlasting eternity beyond that point! Jesus Christ, the Portal, will have taken this earth and its people from the depths of darkness – into God's glorious light wherein dwells the New Heavens and the New Earth (Revelation 21:1). Isaiah prophesies of a time that will endure forever:

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His Kingdom Empire and **peace there shall be no end**, upon the throne of David, and upon His Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

At the end of the Millennium, and after the Great White Throne Judgment, Jesus will have brought the Plan of God to fruition. It was a 7,000-year Plan of God on earth – and then it will be complete. The Kingdom ruled by Jesus on this earth will be finished, and then the last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21 and 22 reveal **what happens next**. The Saints will be ready to be delivered to God the Father. It will have been a long process, but finally it will be accomplished.

Jesus Christ will have taken this earth and its people from the depths of **darkness** – into God's glorious **light** wherein dwells the New Heavens and the New Earth (Revelation 21:1).

The Children of God
Working together around the world
Bringing the message of hope to a world in turmoil

Jesus Christ said that the Good News of His Father's coming Kingdom over all the earth was to be published among all nations. The original apostles did not fully complete that mission. "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matthew 24:14)

We begin the Holy Day service with the Offertory: The Feast of Tabernacles has ended, and we've come to the very best part of the feast—the Eighth Day—the **Last Great Day**.

Let's take a quick and brief survey of Revelation 21 and 22 to get a small picture of where God the Father's Everlasting Temple is – because this day - —the **Last Great Day** – pictures our being there in the Eternal Holy City, New Jerusalem with God the Father and Jesus Christ forever more.

These verses will be a cursory survey of the New Heaven and the New Earth. John writes:

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were **passed away**; and there was no more sea.

Brethren, you fully understand that this earth on which we live **will no longer exist** when we come to the fulfillment of this last Holy Day – the Last Great Day.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:5 And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make **all things new**.

Revelation 21:6 And He said unto me, It is done (speaking of all the work of redemption that Jesus Christ has achieved). I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is **athirst** of the fountain of the **water of life** freely.

The **water of life**—is God's Holy Spirit without measure. (John 7:37-39) That is the promise of Eternal Life (Revelation 22:17).

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that **Great City, the Holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God,

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Revelation 21:11 Having the **Glory of God**:

Twelve

The number twelve is a symbolic description of the Holy City – with the Everlasting Temple’s perfectness, completion, power authority...

So, we see the **Great City, the Holy Jerusalem**, portrayed as having – in a perfect **spiritual sense**:

Twelve gates; twelve angels; the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel; twelve foundations; the names of the twelve apostles; was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits; measuring twelve thousand furlongs square.

It is a picture of **perfection** and **completeness** – nothing lacking.

One thing I want you to notice is that there is **no** magnificent structure like the Temple Solomon built in Jerusalem. John says:

Revelation 21:22 And I saw **no temple** therein: for **the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it**.

God the Father and Jesus Christ will be the Temple of New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:23 And the City had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Jesus Christ is the light thereof.

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of **water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding out of **the throne of God** [the Father] **and of the Lamb**.

The **water of life** is God’s life-giving Spirit emanating forth from God’s eternal throne. This is where God the Father and Jesus Christ will be the source of Light.

Revelation 22:3 ...The **throne of God** [the Father] and of the Lamb

[Jesus Christ] shall be in it;

Revelation 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the **Lord God giveth them light**: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

This sermon today is about God the Father – up close and personal.

Jesus taught us to pray to our Father – and to begin to build our relationship with Him.

But Jesus also said of the Father, “You have never heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape.” Before the fulfillment of the Last Great Day, God the Father has remained somewhat distant from us.

That is because **our sins** have **separated** us from Him – and as long as we are in sinful flesh, God the Father’s **Holy Presence** is **beyond our reach**.

Until there is a fundamental transformation from **human nature** to **divine nature**, mankind’s very presence would defile God’s Holy Kingdom (2Peter 1:4).

Our reconciliation with God the Father will not be complete until we are able to enter His presence when the Last Great Day is fully come. That will be a most glorious Day.

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Today – the **Last Great Day** – is the story of how and when that disconnect – that dichotomy – that **separation between God and man**, will finally be remedied and rectified – so that we might have a one-on-one, face-to-face, everlasting personal relationship with our Father.

That will happen when the Glorious Last Great Day comes to fruition.

All the Feast Days are about How Jesus brings us to this point. Jesus is the Way. Jesus is the **Door**.

Jesus said, “Whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never **thirst** (John 4:14, Revelation 21:6).

These are pictures of the **Last Great Day**.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life: he that comes to me shall **never hunger**; and he that believeth on me shall **never thirst** (John 6:35).

The **word** I wish to key in on today is the word **Door**, or **Portal** as in my title:

Jesus Christ is the Portal to the Everlasting Temple

Our Greek word for today is *thura*: [Greek *thura*, [pronounced thoo'-rah] and it means a “door”, a **portal** or an entrance, a large and imposing **doorway**].

Ancient cities had a great high and impenetrable wall around them for safety and protection.

The **only entrance** to the city was through the **City Gate** or **Portal**.

The **Last Great Day** is about the insurmountable – unreachable **Everlasting Temple of God**, and Jesus tells us that He is the **only** way into it – He is the Door – the Gate – the Way – the Entrance – the **Portal** into the Everlasting Temple of God. Jesus said:

I Am the Door

Brethren, an important note for your consideration – Jesus spoke these words on of the **Last Great Day**.

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door** of the sheep.

Jesus is the Portal to the Everlasting Temple

Speaking of the Holy City – New Jerusalem, Jesus said,

John 10:9 I am the door: I am the Portal: by **me** if any man enter in, he shall be saved.

Remember when Jesus was explaining the **insurmountably vast** expanse between the **land of the living**, and those in the **eternal spiritual realm**. He explained that it was an uncrossable chasm.

Luke 16:26 [Jesus quoted Abraham saying to the unrighteous rich man], between us and you there is a **great gulf fixed**: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

That describes the way it is between this present world in which we live today and the New Heavens and a New Earth of the Last Great Day.

Jesus is the **only Portal** by which we will be able to cross over the great **chasm** which separates this world from the **eternal spiritual realm of the Everlasting Temple of God**.

Isaiah 65:17 Behold, I create New Heavens and a New Earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor even come into mind.

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We’ve had some wonderful sermons during the Fall Holy Days, but we have not covered the entire biblical story by any means.

Only Jesus **is** our Redeemer – our Savior – our Deliverer – and our **Only Portal** to the Everlasting Temple.

As we take up the Holy Day Offering we will have the Offertory music: Four minutes of a beautiful outpouring of redemption:

O, Divine Redeemer by Anthony León

Lyrics:

O, Divine Redeemer! O, Divine Redeemer!

I pray Thee grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not my sins!

Forgive me, O, Divine Redeemer!

I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not, O Lord, my sins!

Night gathers round my soul, fearful, I cry to Thee, Come to mine aid, O Lord!

Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me!

Hear my cry! hear my cry! Save me, Lord, in Thy mercy, hear my cry, hear my cry!

Come and save me, O Lord!

O, Divine Redeemer! O, Divine Redeemer!

I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not, O Lord, my sins!

Save, in the day of retribution, from Death shield Thou me, O my God!

O, Divine Redeemer, have mercy!

Help me, my Savior!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=979qQbtPaiU> Beginning at 2:10 Min.

Portal to the Everlasting Temple

The Coming Glory

With all its gold, tapestry, stone and polished bronze columns, **Solomon’s** Temple was magnificent to behold. But it had been destroyed in the captivity – its gold carried away.

As the Feast of Tabernacles was concluding, some 2,500 years ago, God’s word came to the Prophet Haggai to encourage the people to “Be strong and work, because God is with us **to build Him a Temple** in which to reside.”

But the people were being complacent to **rebuild** the destroyed temple.

Keep in mind that the Temple they were building was a **type** – it only pointed to **God’s Everlasting Temple**.

God inspired the Prophet Haggai to **look forward** to God’s Everlasting Temple filled with Glory — a picture of the **Last great Day**.

Haggai 2:1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, [that was yesterday – ending at sunset – going into the **Last Great Day**], came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying...

Haggai 2:3 Who is left among you [old-timers] that saw this house in her first glory – her former glory?

Haggai was harkening back to Solomon’s Temple - which was magnificent to behold.

Haggai 2:7, And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and **I will fill** this house **with glory**, says the LORD of hosts. The **glory** of this **latter house** [the Everlasting Temple] shall be greater than of the former.

What is the “*desire of all nations?*” They do not know it yet, but their desire is to **be reconciled** to God the Father in His Everlasting Temple.

Revelation 21:2 And I **John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

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Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple in [the **Holy City, New Jerusalem**]: for the **Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it.**

That is why the latter Everlasting Temple will ever more be more Glorious – because it is the **Glory of God Himself!**

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Glory is an adjective of God meaning – brightness, brilliance, greatness, honor, splendor, power, praise, worship...

Haggai 2:9 The **glory of this latter house** [the Temple of Revelation

21] shall be greater than of the former [Solomon’s Temple], said the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, says the LORD of hosts.

“In this place will I give peace.” Our imaginations cannot comprehend how **gloriously peaceful**, safe and abundant life will be in the Everlasting Temple.

In the New Heavens and the New Earth, both God the Father and Jesus Christ will **shine forth** at the greatest level of intensity and brilliant spiritual light that defines their eternal glory – their countenance shining brighter than the sun in full strength. (Revelation 1:16)

Jesus spoke of that brilliant spiritual light in His last prayer to His Father the night before He died on earth:

John 17:5 O Father, **glorify thou me** with thine own self with the **glory** which I had with you before the world existed.

Paul describes the Holy City, New Jerusalem this way:

Hebrew 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the **City of the Living God**, the **Heavenly Jerusalem**, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Hebrew 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Let’s take a look at the **entire biblical panorama of the Plan of God**. Let’s go back to the very beginning. God the Father and Jesus Christ loved one another before the foundation of the world (John 17:24).

They were brilliant Glorious God Beings – but they were **all alone**. They did not see it as an intrusion into their perfect relationship to invite us – you and I – and eventually, all mankind to be a part of their God Family. Their Plan, shown by the Feasts of the LORD, is an expansion of their perfect love toward us.

For them, opening the God-Family to us is an act of sharing and giving of their Spiritual substance and very essence. Their wish is to share their Glorious Eternal God Life with an extensive Family.

God the Father and Jesus Christ began their Plan with the idea of reproducing more Elohim in their own image and character (Genesis 1:26-27).

Ultimately, God the Father and Jesus Christ would develop man to the point wherein man would share in their **God-Glory**, and Eternal Life. With this loving concept, the **Plan of God** was formed.

God created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Man sinned! That act alone could have disqualified mankind forever—because the penalty for **sin is death**.

But God had determined to **redeem** man from the time of creation—that was His Plan. That Plan would entail sending

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Jesus to the earth to die for the sins of mankind.

God in His love and understanding had already developed a **process** wherein mankind could be **redeemed**, bought back, saved, or delivered from the consequences of sin:

And that **redemption** was for God’s name’s sake – so that the Plan of God was not nullified—but proceeded on schedule.

The long planned **redemption** of man, and the initiation of the New Covenant, commenced when Jesus paid the purchase price of redemption/salvation with His life.

Buying back mankind from sin and ultimate death became necessary when Adam and Eve sinned and took upon themselves and their children, human nature.

Redemption comes to the Church of God brethren first.

The Scriptures show us that redemption is something that began with Christ’s sacrifice.

For the Church brethren, redemption begins when we **accept** Christ’s sacrifice (Romans 3:23-25; Ephesians 1:7, 14; Colossians 1:14; Luke 21:28; Romans 8:23; Corinthians 1:30).

1Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

It is when Jesus Christ comes again that He will **complete the redemption** of His Saints.

The Church brethren are still awaiting the **total fulfillment** of something that the Exodus Passover unambiguously teaches—redemption.

Our final redemption occurs when we have totally taken on the incorruptible **divine nature** of our Creator.

At that point, the Passover will finally be completely fulfilled for the Church.

Luke 22:16 [Jesus said] For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.

Redemption of the Church brethren began to take place after the death of Jesus. Only the life of Jesus Christ could possibly pay the great **redemptive price** necessitated by sin. Paul wrote, speaking of Jesus:

Titus 2:14 Who gave Himself for us, that He might **redeem us** from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a special people, zealous of good works.

God’s Plan of Salvation is to redeem mankind not just from the death penalty, but from his **sinful nature**.

God must redeem us from this flesh—this body of death, as Paul calls it in Romans 7:24—so we can fully manifest the image and likeness of our Creator and inherit His Kingdom.

Redemption in its fullest sense is applied to, and first takes place for the Saints of the **first and better resurrection** when their human nature is changed to **divine nature** (2Peter 1:4) at the first resurrection.

This **process** is generally expressed in the Sabbath Day, and Holy Days—the Feasts of the LORD.

God established His Plan long before He began to implement it for mankind.

God created the seven-day week culminating with the Sabbath Day – a spiritual day that pointed to the millennial **rest**—and ultimately to the entire Plan of God (Genesis 2:2, Hebrews 4:9).

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The apostle Paul concluded that there remains therefore a keeping of the **Sabbath rest** for the people of God (Hebrews 4:9).

Paul was of course alluding to the 7,000-year Plan of God — culminating with the 1,000 year millennium — that will begin soon on this earth.

What happens **at the very end** of the Millennium and the Last Great Day is the **subject of today’s Feast** – the Last Great Day.

But let’s not get too far ahead of the story.

In addition to His 7,000-year schedule, God has a blueprint upon which He has portrayed His entire Plan of Salvation for mankind.

This blueprint was presented to ancient Israel in a form based around the annual harvest festivals that Israel was obligated to observe.

Each of the Holy Days in Leviticus 23 has a specific time when it will satisfy its prophetic meaning.

Jesus, Himself observed those Feasts of the Lord, demonstrating their deep significance in pointing to **the spiritual harvest** of men (Matthew 25:34).

God showed His Plan to the Prophets of old – even this **Last Great Day**.

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy **Holy City** [New Jerusalem], to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to **bring in everlasting righteousness**, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

“Finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins” is a reference to this present evil world being blotted out.

Put in our vernacular, the Feasts of the LORD, are the Feasts **about** the LORD, or the convocations that **point to Jesus**, His **words**, His works, and His actions in bringing many sons to Glory.

Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles – and this Last Great Day – **all point to Jesus** and His work in bringing **all mankind** to Eternal Salvation.

When the Millennium has come to its finale, mankind will come to the concluding phase of what God has in store for mortal man.

The Last Great Day will be the culmination of the seven-thousand years allocated for the living to learn that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men (Daniel 4:17; Ezekiel 16:60-62).

The lesson of mankind’s six-thousand years of rejecting God’s direction and rule is one of **hopelessness**.

This is the terrible lesson that all dead men **will have** learned, “**Life is a hopeless mess.**”

Mankind will conclude, “There is no hope of happiness, fulfillment or a bright future.”

And that is because all men will have died of war, accident, cancer, murder, or a painful old age – it’s absolutely **hopeless**.

Ezekiel 37:11-13 Then He said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel: behold, they say, “Our bones are dried, **and our hope is lost:**” [it’s absolutely **hopeless**.] we are cut off for our parts.

It will seem that “Hope” is entirely lost. But God will pour out His Spirit on them, and **all mankind** will learn there is **hope!**

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Soon to come, seven thousand years after the creation of Adam and Eve — Jesus will open the **Book of Life** to all — giving the opportunity to each one to be written in it – if they will! (Revelation 22:17).

Jesus will then **turn over** — **deliver up** — His Kingdom rule to God the Father.

This transference of His reign and rule to the Father shows us **the meaning** of the Last Great Day.

Last Great Day.

The Last Great Day **pictures** the glorious period when the **Plan of God** will finally come to fruition.

Everything that has transpired in the biblical perspective, from the foundation of the world, up to the very point at which Jesus will deliver up the Kingdom to God the Father, represents **the work of Jesus Christ** in bringing mankind’s epic journey on earth to its concluding fulfillment and ultimate purpose.

The very last act of Jesus on this physical earth will be His judgment, seated on the **Great White Throne**, and the disposition and settlement of all involved.

Daniel 12:2 Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to **everlasting life**, and some to shame and everlasting **contempt** (John 5:29).

Some will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, and some will proceed through the **Portal of the Everlasting Temple**. Here is how it will work. God will give everyone ample time for conversion (Isaiah 65:20-25):

God will pour out His Spirit on all who have ever lived. He says:

Ezekiel 37:14 When I have opened your graves, and shall put **My Spirit** in you, and you shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall you know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, says the LORD.

Joel 2:28-29 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out **my Spirit** upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my **Spirit**.

Revelation 20:11 I saw a Great White Throne, and He [Jesus Christ] that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life: and **the dead were judged** out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 ... the dead were judged every man according to their works.

After this point, there will be no more resurrections from the dead.

Revelation 20:14 Death and the grave were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The answer for the incorrigibly wicked and ungodly men who were not found written in the Book of Life, is that they shall go away into **everlasting punishment** and be cast into the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41, 46, Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8).

The judgment of Jesus Christ will also include the condemnation and ultimate consequence for Satan and the demons, the unbelieving, the abominable, the murderers, the whoremongers, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars (Jude 1:6, Revelation 20:10).

This will be the closing of a major chapter in the Plan of God – such that the **earth** as we know it will **cease to exist!** The heavens shall pass away (2Peter 3:10). The universe will collapse – roll up like a scroll is the way Isaiah and John

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describe it (Isaiah 34:4, Revelation 6:14).

When the Judgment of the Great White Throne is completed—then the heaven and earth will flee away forever and ever, and **Jesus’ reign** on earth will be **finished** (Revelation 20:11).

Then, everything will become brand new (Revelation 21:5).

Paul Describes the Kingdom Delivered Up to God the Father

1Corinthians 15:24 Then comes **the end**, when Christ shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 1Corinthians 15:25 For [Jesus Christ] must reign, until He has put all enemies under His feet. 1Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Isaiah described – the Last Great Day – Today – this way!

Isaiah 65:17 Behold, I create New Heavens and a New Earth: and the former **shall not be remembered**, nor even come into mind.

Peter picked up on Isaiah’s Last Great Day **theme** before John wrote about it in the Book of Revelation.

2Peter 3:13 We, according to His promise, look for **New Heavens and a New Earth**, wherein dwells righteousness! [true goodness]

At that point in time, the earth, the oceans and the stars as we know them shall no longer exist!

What will happen to the billions of people who once lived here when the earth and heaven blaze away?

The old heavens being on fire **shall be dissolved**—giving way to New Heavens and an all New Earth (2Peter 3:12-13).

In His explanation of the Great White Throne Judgment, Jesus answered the question of what then takes place for those who were righteous, led by God’s Holy Spirit, and worshiped God:

The glorious, resurrected Saints shall go into life eternal, **redeemed** from the power of sin and the curse of death. (Matthew 25:46).

Mission Accomplished by Jesus Christ

At this point, the **Great White Throne judgment will be finished** and complete. The Supreme Court of heaven will be adjourned. Jesus will bring the Plan of God on earth to fruition. It will be accomplished and delivered to God the Father. It will have been a 7,000-year Plan on earth, now fulfilled – yielding to the endless peaceful future eternity (Isaiah 9:7).

Jesus Christ will have taken this earth and its people from the depths of **darkness** – into His glorious **light** wherein dwells the New Heavens and the New Earth (Revelation 21:1). It was a long process, but finally, it will be accomplished in all its Glory!

The Last Great Day will usher in the **grand transition** between the old **physical** world and the **spiritual New Heavens and New Earth**.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: **enter thou into the joy of thy lord**.

Matthew 25:32 And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats: Matthew 25:33 And [Jesus] shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

We come to a wonderful **Last Great Day** Scripture that all mankind (*unknowingly*) desires to hear:

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, **Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit**

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the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (John 5:25-29)

Jesus Himself will bring those on His right hand **to spiritual completion**, and **perfection** – ready for their next step – the most intimate **eternal fellowship with God the Father** as the **Last Great Day** begins.

It will be what God Himself, has always desired:

God desires to dwell with His people. “I Will Be Their God, and They Shall Be My People”

It is a common refrain found throughout the Scriptures. (John 14:23, Jeremiah 32:38, Exodus 6:7).

Speaking of His salvational and redemptive work on earth, Jesus will say, “**It is done.**” (Revelation 21:6)

The embryonic phase of the Plan of God for mankind will be complete when man’s creation into the very character and image of God comes to the full at his glorious birth into the very Family of God on the Last Great Day (Genesis 1:26-27, John 3:6-7, Hebrews 2:10).

The New Heaven and the New Earth will see New Jerusalem descending from heaven. God the Father and Jesus Christ will be the Temple therein (Revelation 21:2).

Old Jerusalem will be no more. New Jerusalem will consist of the glorious, resurrected Saints – the city on the hill.

Abraham looked for a City filled with spirit led brethren.

Hebrews 11:10 For [Abraham] was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Brethren, ask yourself, “Who will be in that Holy City?”

It is none other than all the resurrected Saints.

There are no brick buildings, concrete streets, lamp posts, and sewer systems coming down out of heaven – **only** the resurrected Saints.

The **river of Living Water** will flow out of the throne of God the Father and of the Lamb, Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:1). [representing Eternal Life]

The throne of God will reside in the New Heaven and the New Earth (Revelation 22:3).

There lies **an eternity beyond**, in which God the Father shall reign over His Children in Mount Zion from henceforth, even forever (Micah 4:7; Isaiah 9:7).

2Corinthians 6:16 ...God has said, I will **dwell in them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and **He will dwell** with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.

No sun, no moon, no night, means a spiritual timeless everlasting eternity. We only enter the eternal Kingdom by way of, “Jesus the **door.**” Jesus spoke something remarkable on the Last Great Day!

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the **door of the sheep.** [Greek *thura*, [thoo'-rah] a “door”, a **portal** or entrance].

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John 10:9-10 I am **the Portal**: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

When the Last Great Day arrives, Jesus will have completed His redemptive task of bringing many sons and daughters **unto glory** to dwell endlessly with God the Father (Hebrews 2:10).

At that point, God the Father will have completed His Plan by and through Jesus Christ – in the “Fullness of Times.”

Paul was writing about the **Last Great Day** when he wrote:

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all **spiritual blessings in heavenly places** in Christ:

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather **together in one** [All the resurrected Saints], all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:

Jesus will then **relinquish** His mandated authority from God the Father because His work on earth will have come to fruition and completion.

When all things have been achieved in man, in heaven and on earth, Jesus will **return everything** to His Father, so that God may be ‘all in all’ – meaning fulfilled and completed in preparation for **presentation** of the Saints to the Father (1Corinthians 15:28).

Jesus’ administration and rule over the earth and all that is therein is a necessary requisite for the door/**portal** to be opened for God the Father to become the ultimate ‘all in all’ with all righteousness fulfilled and complete.

1Corinthians 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that **God may be all in all**.

Then shall all the perfected and redeemed Saints appear in **glory** in God the Father’s Holy Presence.

Hebrews 2:10 For it became Him [Jesus Christ], for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in **bringing many sons unto glory**.

The Everlasting Kingdom

In the New Heavens and the New Earth, when the magnificent **glory** of the Saints is finally made manifest, their splendid brilliance will **shine forth** as the brightness of the stars forever and ever (Daniel 12:3).

Can you imagine that!

What will be next for the Saints in the Everlasting Temple? “Sit around the clouds of heaven all day - strumming their harps,” as the world believes?

What will be next for the Saints after the New Heavens and the New Earth is established and populated with God the Father, Jesus Christ, and all the resurrected Saints?

We will be busier than ever performing the Work of God. God will reveal to His Saints **a much greater – New Plan of God** – because the love of God will never cease to increase and spread in unimaginable ways.

Under God’s direction the Saints will eternally create, beautify and spread God’s Kingdom and rule over an entire **New Universe!**

Perhaps we are given a small clue to next phase of what God has in store for His Family:

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His Kingdom Empire and peace **there shall be no end**, upon the throne of David,

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and upon His Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth **even forever**. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

What an incredible future we have!

See Warren Zehrung’s other articles at:

Zehrung, Warren – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<http://childrenofgod.net/>

Iron Sharpening Iron
In regard to: A Bride Prepared
Article by Warren Zehrung
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Laura writes:

This is an excellent article and very long. I did, however, find a couple of things I would disagree with.

Warren’s article:

Let us analyze the meaning of this verse. The heart of the matter is that they were: “**not discerning the Lord’s Body**.” The Lord’s Body is the Church – the saints – the elect children of God – the Bride – the brethren – members of the Lord’s Body (1 Corinthians 12:12). Keep in mind that Paul is discussing the **lack of discernment** – the division taking place (1 Corinthians 11:18). Those participants did not regard everyone there equally – as all members of Christ’s Body. **This division was going on at the Passover service in question.** “**Discernment,**” means understanding and perceiving that all the brethren, regardless of organization, comprise the one Body of Christ. “**Discernment,**” means realizing that God places the members in the Body *as He chooses* – and none are to be excluded from our fellowship.

Laura writes:

I don’t disagree with all of what he says here, only the part highlighted in yellow. What is being talked about in 1 Corinthians is what happens when these people who are supposedly brethren in the church come together:

1Co 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, **this is not to eat the Lord’s supper.**

If you read this whole section of scripture from 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, this is talking about how these people are acting towards one another in a church group setting such as a potluck perhaps. Paul is reprimanding them for their behavior.

Then in 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 Paul brings in the Passover as an example of how people in the church should treat one another. If you remember, the Passover meal was always eaten in a family setting and not in a whole church at one time setting. Each Passover lamb killed was only meant to feed one family or one family and a few friends or another small family.

What is really being discussed here is the behavior of the people when they come together as a church group as in perhaps a potluck.

Paul ends by saying: **1Co 11:33** Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

These scriptures are talking about an ordinary meal and Paul is trying to show them with a Passover example how they

should treat each other.

Warren's article:

It is crucial that we make good use of the short time that remains. God has mercifully given us this present time to go on to perfection. **Will we use the time wisely?** The continually divided nature of many groups of brethren suggests otherwise. Those who are wise will **qualify for the place of safety** and escape the time of Jacob's trouble. *"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."* (Jeremiah 30:7)

Laura writes:

There is no "place of safety" mentioned in the Bible. God will protect **some of His people** no matter where they are. And yes they do have to qualify for that protection.

Iron Sharpening Iron In regard to: Small Business Owners "terrorists"

Article by Laura Lee
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Not too many people even knew about this law but thanks to God and a helper judge this law is apparently not going to happen. Read: Deep State loses in court: Orwellian law stopped

https://www.wnd.com/2024/12/deep-state-loses-in-court-orwellian-law-stopped/?utm_source=wnd-news-alerts.beehiiv.com&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=watch-tucker-carlson-in-moscow-u-s-is-now-in-a-hot-war-with-russia&_bhlid=af181a60fd0daf4f3be1de3a98643151ec0c323d

Okay it was put on hold for a time but now it is back in force:

[Farmers, ranchers back on the hook in Corporate Transparency Act](#)

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Holy Days 2025

Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025

Pentecost – June 2, 2025

Trumpets – September 23, 2025

Atonement – October 2, 2025

Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025

Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

Notes

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