

Nisan 1

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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: Dwight Fleming, Richard Frates, HOIM Staff, Eddie Hyatt, Laura Lee, James Lloyd, Keith Slough, James Steinle

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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.

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and Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Your newsletter referred to April 8th as Nisan 1st. Actually, the new moon was not seen --- not observed in Jerusalem -- until the following night making April 10th the first day of the month and therefore "New Year's Day." The modern man-made orthodox Hillel Jewish calendar ignores the Biblical injunction to start the new month with the observance -- the seeing -- of the new moon. While Kenneth Herrmann in his book "The Sacred Calendar" explains correctly that this is how it must be done -- the fact is, the Modern Jewish calendar does not follow this Biblical law. Keith Slough

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Great to hear from you, I believe the below item is what you are referring to:

Eclipses, Blood Moons & Comets

03-25-2024 falls on a full moon and also on Purim (which has to do with Esther in the Bible)

04-08-2024 falls on the first day of Nisan (also a comet named Devil’s Comet)

09-18-2024 falls on a full moon

10-02-2024 falls on the Feast of Trumpets

03-13/14, 2025 another one on Feast of Esther and Purim again.

04-13-2029 Comet named Wormwood will come very close to earth.

In explanation, the above was not written about the calendar. This was written ahead of March 25, 2024, using estimated dates that others were promoting at the time for Eclipses, Blood Moons & Comets. Now before I wrote it, I did check the dates with the Hebrew Calendar and when the new moons and full moons were expected. Even today as I checked this again, what I wrote then is accurate now.

The first thing I would like to point out to you is that “The modern man-made orthodox Hillel Jewish calendar” is not a man-made calendar but a God given calendar whether you want to believe that or not. Hillel did not make up the calendar, he only made public the calculations for the calendar which were already being used at the time of Christ. Those calendar calculations are based on the Molad or dark moon. The calculations show us when the new moon will show up whether you can see it with your naked eye or not.

The biggest problem with all these made-up calendars and theories is that the new moon only happens once a month and if you have an eclipse or a lot of cloud cover and cannot actually observe the new moon it does not mean the new moon is now on a different day. So, the problem with an observation of the moon calendar is that it actually promotes keeping God’s Holy Days on the wrong dates. When you do that, you are teaching others that it is okay to sin by not keeping the correct days. God is the only one who can tell us when to keep His Holy Days and God is the only one who can give us a calendar. No one else has the right to declare God’s Holy Day Dates, only God can do that.

From the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, California they say the new moon was at 11:21 AM on April 8, 2024. [April 2024 New Moon time - Google Search](#)

In Jerusalem, Israel they say the new moon was at 9:20 PM on April 8, 2024. [April 2024 new moon in jerusalem israel time - Google Search](#)

In Bismarck, North Dakota they say the new moon was at 1:20 PM on April 8, 2024. [april 2024 new moon in bismarck nd - Google Search](#)

The actual time of the new moon in Jerusalem, Israel was on April 8, 2024, at 9:20 PM. Since sunset starts the new day, the actual date of the first day of Nisan in 2024 started on April 8, 2024, at sunset and ended on April 9, 2024, at sunset. The Hebrew Calendar date for Nisan 1 is April 9, 2024, and it would have started at Sunset the day before which would have been April 8, 2024.

You do not give any scripture proof showing your theory of a new moon needing to be observed with the naked eye, so until you can prove that from scripture beyond a shadow of a doubt, then it remains a theory.

The point of a calendar is so that all of God’s people are keeping His Holy Days on the same dates. When you believe you have the right to call the days according to your own understanding then you have usurped the authority of God Himself. Do you honestly believe that God would command us to keep Holy Days and then not leave us a calendar, so we know when to keep them.

Most people who refuse to believe that God left us a calendar and that the Orthodox Jewish people are in charge of it have a great deal of disdain for the Jewish People. Let me remind you that Christ was a Jew and He did not have a problem keeping the Jewish Calendar while He was alive on earth.

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Joh 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

Luk 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

See Keith Slough's other articles at:

Slough, Keith – The "New" Church of God Messenger (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Enoch and Elijah Translated to Where? **(Copyright 05-21-2024) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)**

Some believe Enoch was translated and never died per Genesis 5:24. That he did not die is not true; that Enoch was 'translated' is true. For an example of what happened to Enoch, we will examine what happened to Elijah which I believe cannot be any different in essence. 2 Kings 2:11 is used to supposedly prove that Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind, and so that is where he has been ever since; "And it came to pass, as they (Elijah and Elisha) still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

The evidence that Elijah did not stay in heaven (which heaven?) is found in 2 Chronicles 21:12 where it says, "And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,...(it goes on in verses 13-20)" The writing from Elijah was about 7 years after being taken up into the "heavens".

The seven years is determined by comparing 2 Kings 3:1; 1 Kings 22:42 and 2 Kings 8:16; see also Ezekiel 3:12-15.

But which heaven of the three was he taken up into? The first (earth's atmosphere), the second (outer space) or the third (where the Heavenly Beings reside)? Not the third heaven where the Father's Throne is. "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. (John 3:13) Also 2 Corinthians 12:2, "I knew a man in Messiah above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven." So, if Elijah or Enoch had been up to, or are up currently, in the third heaven, then our Savior's words are not true; which of course they are true.

Hebrews 11 adds more information. Verse 5 says, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." "Translated" is G3346 which literally means 'transported'. In Acts 7:16 we find, "And were carried over (G3346 =transported, i.e. translated) into Sychem, and laid in the sepulcher that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem."

Hebrews 11:13 is concrete proof no one is now in the Heaven where the Father and the Son are now. "These ALL (which includes Enoch & Elijah) DIED in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

What about Colossians 1:13? "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated (G.3179) us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" G.3179 can have the meaning of transferred, or removed (as in 1 Corinthians 13:2 'remove mountains').

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How were we delivered from the power of darkness as Colossians 1:13 says? Upon conversion and following our Leader the Messiah, we are no longer the children of the devil anymore, but have now become the children of our Heavenly Father and brothers and sisters of Yayshua the Anointed One (Galatians 3:26). We no longer have to remain in or be in the power of Satan; we now have the power from on High, Yayshua living in our hearts and minds! We have been translated in that way. Of course we do fall at times, but because of our Heavenly High Priest, we can have our sins forgiven when we turn our hearts back and confess our sins. We receive mercy from on High.

See James Steinle's other articles at:

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

A Revealing Portrait
(Copyright 05-21-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Jeff and Richard discuss their views on King Charles III latest portrait. They kick around some possible symbolic meanings of the dominant color theme of **RED**. As they show, King Charles is very pleased with this portrait.

Notice the butterfly on King Charles' shoulder. Jeff and Richard say that it is a "Monarch" Butterfly. What a Monarch Butterfly represents according to some theorists is "mind control." A butterfly certainly symbolizes "transformation" or "rebirth" for most.

Near the end of their witty discussion, Richard, half-jokingly, actually calls King Charles "The Beast" but then dismisses the notion. He may have been poking fun at those who have proposed that King Charles will be the head of the Beast described in Revelation 13. Daniel eight calls this future person a "little horn" (Daniel 8:8-12).

In verses 23 through 25 of Daniel eight, this future "little horn" or king will exhibit an ego on steroids. Verse 23 says that he will have a "fierce countenance" as translated by the King James Version. When you check the Hebrew, it literally means "strong **face**." And what JUMPS out at you when you see this portrait? The FACE!

In addition, King Charles is not wearing a kingly or royal robe, but a **military uniform** which signifies **strength** or **power**. Check out the portrait for yourself with this link: **[Portrait of King Charles Gives New Meaning to "Bloody Hell" \(hyperallergic.com\)](http://hyperallergic.com)**

And to hear some British humor, check out Jeff Taylor's short video on The Portrait. It also reveals a statute of King Charles as a "fallen angel." Link is below:

King's Revealing Portrait: **<https://youtu.be/5plnYzqG7v4?si=3ki8l1bVJttzxWpx>**

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

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Thank You Everyone!

Bambi and Thumper

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A real-life Bambi and Thumper caught on camera - Good Morning America

Only seconds long, but Wonderful! You may have to copy the link and paste it into your browser.

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/living/video/real-life-bambi-thumper-caught-camera-110305372>

See James Steinle's other articles at:

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Thanks To All!

(Copyright 05-25-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

I want to thank everyone for your helpful prayers for my mom, Betty Fleming.

And thank God for His abundant mercy. When I saw my mom yesterday, she was struggling to breathe despite the oxygen tube. She had not been able to eat or drink for the last few days. She could no longer speak because of the advance stage of the dementia.

But I knew that she knew that I and my sisters were there with her. She gripped my hand for most of the time that I spent with her despite her weakened condition. From time to time, she would get a frightened look on her face. I would tell her that everything was okay and that there was nothing to be afraid of. I'm not certain, but I think that she was fighting death, and the thought would cause her to jolt with a scared look. Since she couldn't talk, there was no way to know for certain what was causing this. It was hard to watch her mental discomfort.

So, I'm grateful to God for releasing her from any physical or mental pain late this afternoon, Friday, May 24th, 2024. She was 91. She lasted much longer than the doctors expected over a year ago.

Rest in peace, dear mama. You will be greatly missed. My sisters and I will carry on your legacy till Christ returns and all your grandchildren and great grandchildren will see the glory of God by your faithful love to us all!

Once again, your prayers and spiritual support did help my mom, particularly after she fell and broke her hip two months ago. May God bless you all for your love and concern for my mom. Truly, this is the love of God!

Most sincerely, B. D. Fleming

Thank you, Laura. You are a jewel! May God bless you and your husband for your service to God's people. Dwight

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

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

Halloween Origins and Customs (Copyright) by HOIM Staff (Azusa, California)

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of *Samhain* which marked the end of harvest and the beginning of winter -- a time of year associated with death. The pagan Celts believed that on that night, the boundary between the worlds of the living and dead blurred, and the ghosts of the dead returned to the earth. It was a night for preternatural communication with the dead, various forms of divination and prophecy, and sexual rituals.

History traces Halloween back to the ancient religion of the Celts in Ireland. The Celtic people were very conscious of the spiritual world and had their own ideas of how they could gain access to it -- such as by helping their over 300 gods to defeat their enemies in battle, or by imitating the gods in showing cleverness and cunning.

Their two main feasts were *Beltane* at the beginning of summer (May 1), and *Samhain* (pronounced Sah-ween) at the end of summer (Nov. 1). They believed *Samhain* was a time when the division between the two worlds became very thin, when hostile supernatural forces were active, and ghosts and spirits were free to wander as they wished.

"During this interval the normal order of the universe is suspended, the barriers between the natural and the supernatural are temporarily removed, the *sidh* lies open and all divine beings and the spirits of the dead move freely among men and interfere sometimes violently, in their affairs" (*Celtic Mythology*, p. 127).

The Celtic priests who carried out the rituals in the open air were called Druids, members of pagan orders in Britain, Ireland, and Gaul, who generally performed their rituals by offering sacrifices, usually of crops and animals, but sometimes of humans, in order to placate the gods; ensuring that the sun would return after the winter; and frightening away evil spirits.

To the Celts, the bonfire represented the sun and was used to aid the Druid in his fight with dark powers. The term bonfire comes from the words "bone fire," literally meaning the bones of sacrificed animals, sometimes human, were piled in a field with timber and set ablaze. All fires -- except those of the Druids -- were extinguished on *Samhain* and householders were levied a fee to relight their holy fire which burned at their altars. During the *Festival of Samhain*, fires would be lit which would burn all through the winter and sacrifices would be offered to the gods on the fires. This practice of burning humans was stopped around 1600, and an effigy was sometimes burned instead.

Blending of Paganism with Christianity

When Christianity spread to parts of Europe, instead of trying to abolish these pagan customs, people tried to introduce ideas which reflected a more Christian world-view. Halloween has since become a *confusing mixture* of traditions and practices from pagan cultures and Christian tradition.

By A.D. 43, Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. During their rule of the Celtic lands, Roman festivals were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of *Samhain*. The Romans observed the holiday of *Feralia*, intended to give rest and peace to the departed. Participants made sacrifices in honor of the dead, offered up prayers for them, and made oblations to them. Another festival was a day to honor *Pomona*, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of *Pomona* is the apple and the incorporation of this celebration into *Samhain* probably explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

As the influence of Christianity spread into Celtic lands, in the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV introduced All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs, to replace the pagan festival of the dead. It was observed on May 13. In 834, Gregory III moved All Saint's Day from May 13 to Nov. 1 and for Christians, this became an opportunity for remembering before God all the saints who had died and all the dead in the Christian community. Oct. 31 thus became All Hallows' Eve ('hallow' means 'saint').

Sadly, though, many of the customs survived and were blended in with Christianity. Numerous folk customs connected

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with the pagan observances for the dead have survived to the present.

In 1517, a monk named Martin Luther honored the faithful saints of the past by choosing All Saints Day (November 1) as the day to publicly charge the Church hierarchy with abandoning biblical faith. This became known as "Reformation Day," a fitting celebration of the restoration the same biblical faith held by the saints throughout church history.

Trick-or-Treat?

Some trace the origins of present day "trick-or-treat" to *Samhain*, which was the supreme night of demonic jubilation. Spirits of the dead would rise out of their graves and wander the countryside, trying to return to the homes where they formerly lived. Frightened villagers tried to appease these wandering spirits by offering them gifts of fruit and nuts. They began the tradition of placing plates of the finest food and bits of treats that the household had to offer on their doorsteps, as gifts, to appease the hunger of the ghostly wanderers. If not placated, villagers feared that the spirits would kill their flocks or destroy their property.

The problem was...if the souls of dead loved ones could return that night, so could anything else, human, or not, nice or not-so-nice. The only thing the superstitious people knew to do to protect themselves on such an occasion was to masquerade as one of the demonic hoard, and hopefully blend in unnoticed among them. Wearing masks and other disguises and blackening the face with soot were originally ways of hiding oneself from the spirits of the dead who might be roaming around. This is the origin of Halloween masquerading as devils, imps, ogres, and other demonic creatures.

Others trace "trick-or-treat" to a European custom called "souling". Beggars would go from village to village begging for "soul cakes" made out of square pieces of bread with currants. The more soul cakes the beggars would receive, the more prayers they would promise to say on behalf of the dead relatives of the donors. At the time, it was believed that the dead remained in limbo for a time after death, and that prayer, even by strangers could guarantee a soul's passage to heaven.

In many parts of Britain and Ireland this night used to be known as "Mischief Night," which meant that people were free to go around the village playing pranks and getting up to any kind of mischief without fear of being punished. Many of the different customs were taken to the United States by Irish and Scottish immigrants in the nineteenth century, and they developed into "trick or treat."

Halloween Comes to America

Traditional Halloween symbols (witches, black cats, pumpkins, candles, masks, parties, and pranks) appeared in the U.S. during the late 1800s. In 1848, millions of Irish emigrants poured into America as a result of the potato famine. With this sudden influx of people, the holiday of Druidism found its new home on alien shores. "Proudly Celtic, they called Halloween *Oidche Shamhna* ('Night of Samhain'), as their ancestors had, and kept the traditional observances" (**Common Boundary**, Sep./Oct. 1993, p. 31).

The Jack-o-lantern is the festival light for Halloween and is the ancient symbol of a damned soul. Originally the Irish would carve out turnips or beets as lanterns as representations of the souls of the dead or goblins freed from the dead.

When the Irish emigrated to America, they could not find many turnips to carve into Jack O'Lanterns but they did find an abundance of pumpkins. Pumpkins seemed to be a suitable substitute for the turnips and pumpkins have been an essential part of Halloween celebrations ever since.

Pumpkins were cut with faces *representing demons* and was originally intended to frighten away evil spirits. It was said that if a demon or such were to encounter something as fiendish looking as themselves that they'd run away in terror, thus sparing the houses dwellers from the ravages of dark entities. They would have been carried around the village boundaries or left outside the home to burn through the night.

Bats, owls and other nocturnal animals, also popular symbols of Halloween, were originally feared because people believed that these creatures could communicate with the spirits of the dead.

Black cats have religious origins as well. Black cats were considered to be reincarnated beings with the ability to divine the future. During the Middle Ages it was believed that witches could turn themselves into black cats. Thus, when such

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a cat was seen, it was considered to be a *witch in disguise*.

Witches and witchcraft are dominant themes of the holiday. Witches generally believe themselves to be followers of an ancient religion, which goes back far beyond Christianity, and which is properly called "wicca." Witches are really just one side of a modern revival of paganism -- the following of pre-Christian nature religions, the attempt to return to worshipping ancient Norse, Greek or Celtic gods and goddesses.

To witches, Halloween is a festival of the dead, and represents the "end and the beginning of the witch's year. It marks the beginning of the death and destruction associated with winter. At this time the power of the underworld is unleashed, and spirits are supposedly freed to roam about the earth; it is considered the best time to contact spirits" (**Halloween and Satanism**, P. Phillips and J. H. Robie, 1987, p. 146).

The apostle Paul said Witchcraft is one of the acts of the sinful nature and those who practice it will *not* inherit the kingdom of YEHOVAH God (Galatians 5:16-21; see also Revelation 22:15).

Divination

The various activities traditional to Halloween are mostly associated with the idea of obtaining good fortune and foretelling the future. *Samhain* was a time when it was customary for the pagans to use the occult practice of divination to determine the weather for the coming year, the crop expectations, and even who in the community would marry whom and in what order.

The idea behind ducking, dooking or bobbing for apples seems to have been that snatching a bite from the apple enables the person to grasp good fortune. Unmarried people would attempt to take a bite out of an apple bobbing in a pail of water or suspended on a string. The first person to do so was believed to be the next to marry.

Samhain is a time for getting rid of weakness, as pagans once slaughtered weak animals which were unlikely to survive the winter. A common ritual calls for writing down weaknesses on a piece of paper or parchment, and tossing it into the fire.

There used to be a custom of placing a stone in the hot ashes of the bonfire. If, in the morning a person found that the stone had been removed or had cracked, it was a sign of bad fortune. Nuts have been used for divination: whether they burned quietly or exploded indicated good or bad luck.

Peeling an apple and throwing the peel over one's shoulder was supposed to reveal the initial of one's future spouse.

One way of looking for omens of death was for people to visit churchyards, because the spirits of those who were going to die during the coming year were thought to walk around the churchyard during this night.

Should Christians Adopt Such Practices?

Can we borrow pagan customs and superstitions of ancient peoples and "Christianize" them?

As believers, we are called to "Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22). Who can deny that virtually all of the symbols of Halloween are evil? Witches, monsters, ogres, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, devils and demons all portray evil. Christians are to "...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).

Is Halloween just another innocent holiday that doesn't harm anyone? Is it really just childish fun? *Vandalism* and *wanton disregard for the property of others* is common on Halloween night. Even normally well-behaved children are driven by unseen forces to destructive behavior. Police officials everywhere report a great increase in such activities on Halloween. Worse yet are the horrifying accounts of poisoned candy and fruits booby-trapped with razor blades and needles. Such threats are so real that many hospitals offer free X-rays of Halloween treats in order to prevent children from being harmed. Who but Satan could inspire such monstrous actions?

Should the ecclesia be compromised by accommodating itself to the culture?

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"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

"For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?" (2 Corinthians 6:14, 15).

When America and the world celebrates the *Festival of Samhain* and the powers of darkness by masquerading as evil creatures or decorating our homes, schools, businesses and churches with occult symbols, Satanic power is glorified.

The sort of practices celebrated on Halloween are what defiled the ancient nations (see Leviticus 18:24-30). The Israelites were warned against such practices when they entered the Promised Land, "When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations" (Deuteronomy 18:9).

"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices *divination* or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in *witchcraft*, or casts spells, or who is a *medium* or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God **has not permitted you to do so**" (Deuteronomy 18:10-14).

As an alternative to the celebration of evil and death, Christians should rather do what Christians are supposed to do *every day* and that is shine the light of Yeshua the Messiah. We should emphasize the Christian influences and strive to make Hallow's Eve a celebration of the acts of YEHOVAH God through his people the saints. We should make it a day when acts of charity instead of vandalism and hatred abound. A day that emphasizes the light of the Messiah instead of the darkness of evil. A day when people meditate on the acts of Godly people instead of ghosts and goblins.

While you may have participated "all in fun," be assured, *Halloween is serious business* for Satanists and witches. Those who oppose YEHOVAH God and the Messiah are known to organize on Halloween to observe satanic rituals, to cast spells, to oppose churches and families, to perform sacrilegious acts, and to even offer blood sacrifices to Satan. While some may say, "But we only do this in fun...we don't practice witchcraft," those things that represent Satan and his domain cannot be handled or emulated "for fun." Such participation places you in enemy and forbidden territory and *that is dangerous ground*.

Tom Sanguinet, former high priest in the Celtic tradition of Wicca (witchcraft) said "The modern holiday we call Halloween has its origins in the full moon closest to November 1, the witches' New Year. It was a time when the 'spirits' (demons) were supposed to be at their peak power and revisiting the earth planet." He went on to say, "Halloween is *purely and absolutely evil*, and there is nothing we ever have or will do that would make it acceptable to the Lord Jesus" (***The Dark Side Of Halloween***).

As evil prevails, Americans have embraced an evil day of Satan, with the pranks of "would be" hoodlums, combined with "demon faces" on pumpkins, clothing of "death" being worn, and calling it fun. When Christians participate in Halloween, it sends a message to children that witchcraft, demonism, Satanism, and the occult are something fun, entertaining, and harmless.

Many years ago, C. S. Lewis wrote that one of Satan's *most deceptive tactics* is to convince people that he doesn't exist. Apparently, he has done a good job in his deception. Sadly, many people think of the devil as no more than a symbol of evil: like Santa Claus, he is just a fictional symbol. Many people today also do not think of witches as real people who practice magic, but simply as imaginary figures who represent the supernatural world and everything that is "spooky."

Recognizing this pagan holiday gives the false impression that what is actually *lethal* is innocuous. Some children develop a fascination with the supernatural which leads them later into more sinister occult practices. It's the spiritual equivalent of painting a loaded gun to look like a toy and giving it to child to play with.

It is the kind of celebration that encourages kids like the 16-year-old in Pearl, Mississippi who stabbed his mother to death in her sleep and then opened fire at his high school, killing two students and wounding seven. Authorities found this student -- along with at least six others -- involved in a small, avowedly satanic clique that calls itself "Kroth."

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How some people can defend this kind of activity as just another innocent holiday that doesn't harm anyone is beyond me.

"Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed" (John 3:19-20).

Acceptance of the Supernatural

Central to Satan's goals is the widespread acceptance of the supernatural, including the occult, on the part of North Americans, accompanied by a great revival of spiritism all over the world.

Over the last 30 or so years, the occult has moved into the mainstream of America -- in television, movies, magazines, business, and various aspects of daily life. Movies, books, magazines, and encyclopedias of the supernatural have abounded. Turn on your TV and hear from the ever-present "Psychic Friends" hotline or see lead characters in TV shows meet their "spirit guide." Entire bookstores devoted to the occult have become common. Universities regularly offer courses on witchcraft and magic -- usually the so-called "white" variety. Myriads of mystical Eastern religions, bizarre and often demonic, have invaded North America and found in most cases an amazing responsiveness.

Indeed, Halloween has taken root in America. Americans spend \$21 million on Halloween candies yearly second only to Christmas in total sales. Halloween is the Number 1 season for selling humorous greeting cards. In North America, some 25 million cards are sold annually. (Peter Smith, "By the Numbers," *The Toronto Star*, 2002-OCT-27.) Halloween is the third-largest party occasion next to Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Increasingly the curriculum in many public schools is becoming a primer in occultism.

Impressions, a curriculum used in many school districts instructs teachers and students in how to cast spells. One teacher's manual reads, "Tell the children that a magician has cast a spell on some children. Have them work in pairs to write the magic spell the magician used. Have each pair write another spell to reverse the first spell. Have them chant their spells."

About 16,000 school districts use the *Pumsey the Dragon* curriculum, by Jill Anderson. Many of the relaxation techniques used are identical to those used in hypnosis. Another curriculum called *Duso the Dolphin* employs relaxation techniques and sends hypnotized youngsters off on guided fantasies to a place called Aquatron.

Satanism has become a phenomena that crosses the city limit into the rural areas of our nation. It is reported there are some 6000 witches, and approximately 10 million people are involved in the occult. However, it is very difficult to establish how many actually participate. These individuals are involved in a wide variety of activities from simply casting spells to human sacrifice. The news wires carry story after story about young children being kidnapped, only to be found later as victims of some bizarre ritualistic crime.

As satanic involvement among our youth increases, we begin to see the primary goal of such activity. According to the Bible (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9), Satan's goal is to deceive man by blinding him to the truth of the gospel and to receive worship for himself (Matthew 4:9; Isaiah 14:12-14).

It has become clear that the primary goal is to alter an individual's values and turn him against himself, his beliefs, family, YEHOVAH God and society.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

Young satanists believe the strong will rule with Satan. Once an individual becomes involved, they often make a pact with Satan. They commit themselves to a future date when they will take their own lives by suicide. They believe if they submit themselves to Satan in death, they will come back in another life as a stronger being and rule with him forever. According to recent statistics, fourteen young people a day take their own lives in this manner.

Recently, a California skateboard manufacturer used a package enclosure similar in appearance to a gospel tract to

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encourage purchasers to sell their souls to the devil. The brochure titled, *Let's Make a Deal* has a smiley-faced devil who explains to Flame Boy what happened in heaven after he was banished: "First off, they set up a bunch of dumb rules, and then they imposed a really strict dress code. I'll wager that people must be quite bored up there, but hey, that's what they get for being good." He contrasts this with, "Flame Boy, even a dimwit like you can see that hell is by far the best place to retire. Just look at all the fun to be had." Children are asked to sign and return a contract, by which they give possession of their souls to the devil for eternity.

What's Wrong With Halloween?

It does not have even one single redeeming virtue. It is custom born out of *pagan superstition*. It is a *demon-inspired*, devil-glorifying, occult festival. It is an evening holy unto evil, death, and divination. The Scriptures tell us to "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1Thessalonians 5:22).

Wake up Christian! This is the night of evil and those who love YEHOVAH God and the Messiah should have nothing to do with it.

We are all accountable for our choices and decisions. *Ignorance is no excuse*. The choice is up to you. Have you been involved in this satanic holiday? Do you struggle with giving it up because "it's just fun" and an innocent opportunity for children to dress up and collect candy? Don't take my word for it. Let YEHOVAH God show you what he would have you do. You might begin by praying the following:

"Father in heaven I come to you in the name of Yeshua the Messiah to confess that I'm a sinner. I'm sorry! Please forgive me. I believe with all my heart that the Messiah is Your first-born Son and that You raised him from the dead. I believe that the Messiah died for my sins and that I might be saved. Each and every day Father I turn my will and my life over to Your care, and may Your holy spirit lead and guide me in all the things I think, do and say. I'm Yours and You are mine. Father, please use me that I might help others come to know and love Your first-born Son Yeshua the Messiah. Thank you for hearing my prayer. Amen."

See HOIM Staff's other articles at:

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What Does the Bible Say?

(Copyright 2024) by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Contrary to what many believe, the Law of God has not been done away, so that means that the law of Clean and Unclean meats is still in effect. That Law can be found in Leviticus 11.

Apparently, we are where we are today, because large corporations are unable to make as much money on cattle as they are able to do with plants by adding various things to them and packaging them as food even though they add many things to them which are not edible or digestible. Yes, in early bible times people harvested crops and ate them, but as with anything, what we all need to understand is that when the Garden of Eden was in existence complete with Adam and Eve still in it, everything was perfect. When the fall happened, things changed. Instead of perfection everything started to degrade. So yes, man could live for 900 years but as time went on man's life span continued to drop until now most people do not live past 100 years old. We as people are deteriorating as time continues.

Plants that were once okay for us to eat in moderation are now mostly our sole source of food because the powers that be are sending alarms to terrify people with things like if you eat red meat or fat you will die of all sorts of things. The

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truth is just the opposite. The soil has been depleted by poisonous chemicals they spray on plants which goes into the soil. Then they take the plants and manipulate the DNA and now want to put the Covid-19 shots into certain plants so those who refused the shot are sure to get it now. I even saw one article where they wanted to add the shot to cacao trees. Then there are all these fillers they add into processed food. For example, I recently found out they put sawdust in shredded cheese. It is no wonder that we have a nation of obese, sickly people, many of which are also mentally ill. People can't continue to eat junk food and plants that are not plants that God created and be healthy. The deterioration of plants is evident, and the bible pretty much predicted it would happen.

When the fall happened, God cursed the ground. That means that its nourishment for people would continue through time to deteriorate. Did you ever wonder why they are trying to destroy Cows and Chickens? It is because these animals can provide the building blocks for healthy people where as plants can no longer do that. The powers that be want to make people sick and keep them sick because it provides them with billions of dollars every year in the sale of medication and transplant operations. They don't want to heal the homeless nor do they want to heal anyone. The poor get free medical, and the government pays for it through taxes. Poor people get lots of transplant operations because our taxes pay for it. Rich people get richer from dying and dead people, not from the living people who are healthy.

Gen 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. Gen 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good. Gen 1:13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

Gen 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. Gen 1:30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so. Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

From this you can see that the plants and trees God created were good and they were meant for meat.

Gen 2:4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created – when the LORD God made the earth and heavens. Gen 2:5 Now no shrub of the field had yet grown on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. Gen 2:6 Springs would well up from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. Gen 2:7 The LORD God formed the man from the soil of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Gen 2:8 The LORD God planted an orchard in the east, in Eden; and there he placed the man he had formed. Gen 2:9 The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow from the soil, every tree that was pleasing to look at and good for food. (Now the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil were in the middle of the orchard.) Gen 2:10 Now a river flows from Eden to water the orchard, and from there it divides into four headstreams.

So, man was meant to till the ground and bring forth food. This was what God wanted.

Gen 3:17 But to Adam he said, "Because you obeyed your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' the ground is cursed because of you; in painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Gen 3:18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, but you will eat the grain of the field. Gen 3:19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat food until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return."

After the fall (sin), it became hard to harvest a crop as they had to now deal with weeds and bugs so eventually fertilizer came into the picture. Then of course came manipulation of plant DNA to harvest more and larger crops to feed all the people. Next, they started adding waste products to food and calling it processed food. If we are still eating the "Standard American Diet", what exactly are we eating? Does anyone know. Most don't know because they use big words on packaging and most people don't look those words up. They just eat the food and whatever is mixed into it. If someone starts complaining about one of these ingredients, they just rename it and continue to use it until the next complaint comes in.

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Gen 5:29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This *same* shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

God comes right out and tells us He cursed the ground because of sin, but He gave us a way out in Leviticus 11. Some people believe that a vegan diet is what we should be eating. Most vegans are not healthy people and end up having to give up a vegan diet after about five years due to poor health. People on a mostly meat diet are being healed by the thousands. So which diet do you want to eat?

Visit the Carnivore Diet Page Often as we add new information:

[Carnivore Diet \(The Healing Diet\) – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

See Laura Lee's other articles at:

[Lee, Laura – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Web Site:

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The Sand and the Sea
(Copyright 2023) by James Lloyd (Medford, Oregon)

Regarding the truth of prophetic metaphor, perhaps the most basic example of the phenomenon is the Sand and Sea, In this setting we see the Antichrist beast of Revelation rises up out of the sea – whereas the False Prophet beast rises up out of the ground, or the land:

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns.... And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon” (Revelation 13:1, 12).

Although most prophecy figures have addressed the two beasts (usually in a misguided attempt to link them to some earthly leader), it's rare to find a commentator that notes the decidedly different settings of the earth and the oceans. The student of prophecy is even more unlikely to encounter anyone who makes the connection between the two sets of images in Daniel chapters 2 and 7, which make the same distinction. Unfortunately, the False Prophets of our time continue to assert the century's old error which posits the four beast kingdoms represented in Nebuchadnezzar's statue/dream on dry land, are the same four kingdoms that rise up out of the sea in Daniel's vision.

Most Christians are familiar with Daniel 2's statue with the head of gold, arms of silver, brass belly, and iron legs, as the text tells us these are the kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. The central point is the imagery is clearly constructed on dry land, as the related story of the statue was attended by large masses of Babylonian subjects (see Daniel 3 for details).

The parallel vision in Daniel 7 plainly states the four beasts in the image “came up out of the sea” (Daniel 7:4) – and since the very same identifying attributes of the foursome (a lion, bear, leopard, and unique fourth beast) are assimilated into Revelation's beast that rises “up out of the sea” (Revelation 13:1), it's obvious they are connected. Conversely, the statue prophecy, connects to the second beast of Revelation who comes up from the ground:

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon” (Revelation 13:11).

To reiterate this unusual connection, the land based prophecy featuring the Old Testament kingdoms, imaged as a statue

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on dry land, connects to the False Prophet figure who comes up out of the earth, and the sea based prophecy featuring the New Testament era kingdoms, imaged as a beast coming up out of the sea, connects to the Antichrist figure who comes up out of the sea. Further, the land based kingdoms represented by the statue dream are the first set of kingdoms in Daniel, but they connect to the second beast in Revelation. Meanwhile the sea based kingdoms represented by the beasts are the second set of kingdoms in Daniel, but they connect to the first beast in Revelation – thus the timelines create an invisible cross which occurs between the two testaments.

The LORD consistently utilized this allegorical motif as a way of urging us to follow His Spiritual leadership into the realm of the unseen.

As far back as Israel in Egypt, we see a vivid example of the people the LORD has chosen being confronted with the necessity of journeying through the sea, in order to escape the certain death implicit in the will of Pharaoh, and his earthly Egyptian army, which was pursuing them. Not only do we see the sea as the metaphor representing the realm of the Spirit, we see the only way to survive in the Spiritual realm is to be in favor with the LORD of glory.

In this regard, Pharaoh and the Egyptian chariots (which traverse the land), was actually inside the Red Sea at the same time as the Israelites; but even before the walls of water collapsed on the pursuing Egyptians, the LORD “troubled” those who had entered in to the realm of the Spirit (allegorically within the Red Sea) without His blessing, by miraculously disabling their ability to move their vehicles. In short, He caused the wheels to fall off of the chariots.

“And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, in the morning watch the Lord...troubled the host of the Egyptians and took off their chariot wheels...” (Exodus 14:23-35).

It’s important to remind the reader that because we recognize the allegorical aspects of this amazing account, does not mean we reject the literal historicity of the episode. Indeed, every account in Scripture that is presented as historical, came to pass to help us recognize the truth concerning the eternal kingdom of God. In fact, in a chapter describing the very events of the Exodus just recounted, the Apostle Paul says precisely the same thing. “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

One of the more interesting aspects of the allegorical dimension, wherein the transition from the “sand” and into the “sea” occurs, is the idea of the involuntary nature of the pattern. This addresses the fact that every single one of us will ultimately move from this sphere of existence – the dimension of physical flesh and blood – into the Spiritual realm. Just as Israel had nowhere else to go, except into the “sea” as the Death inhabiting Pharaoh bore down on them, “Death” is stalking every one of us.

“And the Lord said unto Moses...speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forwards: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided” (Exodus 14:15, 21).

Most of us don’t make the connection, but JESUS CHRIST has been calling each of us further and further into His kingdom – even as the analogy of the sea as a figure of the Spiritual realm is also featured in many, many other metaphoric laden examples.

The reader will remember Jesus dispatched the disciples to cross over a waterway, and indicated He would meet them on the other side.

“And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side” (Matthew 14:22).

Just like His original disciples, Christ has promised to receive each of us when we reach the other side, where we hope to hear the words “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

See James Lloyd's other articles at:

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

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Cloaked in Religion MUSLIM "Terrorism Evangelism" War (Copyright 2024) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Muslim nations are responsible for the deaths of women and children in Gaza: Why doesn't **Egypt open the border and give refuge to the women and children?** Answer, Palestinian men would lose their source of protection and criticism of Israel.

"Two State Solution" where Jews are banished from a STATE and only those who hate Jews are welcome - Never: Unless Palestinian Muslims free themselves from - **Muslim Leaders Bloody Terrorism, War.** And - **REJECT** - the atrocity of these false bloody Muslim doctrines: Salvation and virgins in "Paradise" by the blood of your neighbor and offend my prophet - I kill you and go to Paradise.

Not only Israel is terrorized: Muslims bloody Zombies have murdered people for having a picture of Muhamed and all in the location. These terror doctrines should be **outlawed in America and Europe.** If you make a - peace agreement - with - Palestinians who teach - your blood, or your children's blood can be a ticket to "Paradise" you are a FOOL. Democratic Party Snakes: Pander for votes from criminals and "Palestinian Muslim Terrorist."

Child Sacrifice Before Hamas: Palestinians strapped explosives around their own children to kill the children of Jews. When the sound of the explosion was heard in Gaza and west bank Palestinians danced in the street. Bloody Palestinian Muslims murdered and tortured men, women, and children, paraded the atrocities to the world and political snakes want to **reward** them with a "Palestinian State" boldly madness.

Deception Unlimited: If Muslim leaders - really believed - their bloody doctrines they would risk their own lives, murder, and torture, Jews, and non-Muslims, so they can go to "Paradise" and get many virgins. Muslim leaders, Imam, Mullah, and Ayatollah, Repent. **Stop deceiving and turning Muslims into bloody Inhumanity Zombis so you can use them to inspire fear and dominate others.** America and Europe: Outlaw - Muslim Terrorist Doctrines! Shut down Mosque where "Terrorism-Evangelism" is taught.

When Jews can live safely in Gaza among Palestinians as peaceful Muslims, live safely among Jews in Israel. Liberated - Palestinian Muslim men and boys realize they are being used by Hamas and Palestinian leaders. And tell Muslim Leaders: You bloody your own hands: Risk your lives to torture and kill Jews and non-Muslims yourselves so you can be rewarded with, Phantom-Virgins in "Paradise." Until then: **Israel empty Gaza: Drive Palestinians to the Egyptian border. Muslim nations show - REAL - concern and welcome your Muslim brothers.**

Then welcome back to Gaza Palestinians who - reject - Bloody Muslim doctrine Devil-Worship of "hate your neighbor" Salvation and virgins in Paradise by bloody works. And ban Muslim leaders who teach Muslims, others must honor your Muhammad or kill them; you will be rewarded in "Paradise." Then "Love God and your neighbor as yourself" is possible. When those conditions are a reality: Two states, and **one where Jews are barred** - would be **divisive** and needless. Truth spoken without-apology and "Love God and your neighbor as yourself," will free the Muslim masses.

God have mercy on Muslims: Muslim leaders have outlawed God's greatest law "**Love God and "Love your neighbor as yourself."** And replaced it with "Hate and Dominate your neighbor "Terrorism evangelism." **Terrorism Shackles all Muslims to the Mosque:** None dare speak out against Muslim atrocities, torture and murder of helpless women and

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children fearful Muslim Bloody Zombies seeking virgins in Paradise may be used against them. Palestinians Repent: Closing your eyes to torture and repeated rapes of young girls before killing them will condemn you to hell.

Muslim Leaders: What is your plan? After killing all the Jews will killing all the Christians, and all non-Muslims appease you? Then a world full of Muslims killing Muslims, practicing human-sacrifice until the Bloodiest Muslim Zombies Can Dominate? Jesus Christ said: John 8:44 “The Devil “was a - murderer - from the beginning.” “When he lies, he speaks his native language.”

America and Europe and Jews - Repent: Honoring LGBT sexual perverts, parading sin against God is also Devil-Worship and just as evil as “Terrorism Evangelism” Leviticus 20:13. And approving or believing Dr Frankenstein can mutilate or drug someone to change gender is absurd and mocking God.

MUSLIMS Repent: If you do - not - “Love your neighbor as yourself” this will be your “Paradise.” Judgment Day: “Angels will separate the wicked from the righteous and throw the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” Matthew 13:49-50. Muslim brothers and sisters: “Those who can make you believe absurdities (Paradise and virgins through bloody works) “can make you commit atrocities” Voltaire.

See Richard Frate’s other articles at:

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

The October 31 Post that Went Viral and Changed the World

(Copyright 2021) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



October 31 is a monumental day for Christians and the entire world, and it has nothing to do with Halloween. On October 31, 1517, a Roman Catholic priest nailed 95 theses to the Wittenberg, Germany church door and ignited the Protestant Reformation. He chose October 31 because it was the Eve of All Saints Day, a very important church holiday for Martin Luther.

In these 95 theses, Luther challenged his church’s practice of selling indulgences that offered forgiveness of sins and freedom from purgatory for a price. His act was parallel to a modern post on Twitter or Facebook, for the church door was a public forum where important announcements were posted.

His post went viral as virtually everyone in town read his post and shared and discussed it with others. More than one individual wrote down the post and took it to local printers where his statement was put in print and spread throughout the region, creating great excitement and controversy.

From there, Luther went on to challenge papal authority and the sacramental system of the Catholic Church with his teachings on justification by faith, the priesthood of all believers, and the ultimate authority of Scripture. Ordered by the

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Roman Church hierarchy to stop teaching these doctrines, Luther decided that he could not sacrifice truth for a superficial unity and promise of safety.

Because of his noncompliance, he was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church and charged with being a heretic, which was a capital crime. He was then ordered to appear before a tribunal of cardinals, bishops, princes, and the Roman Emperor. Held in the city of Worms, it was known as the Diet of Worms.

Standing alone before this imposing body of religious and civil authorities, Luther was ordered to recant his teachings or suffer the consequences, probably death. Should he comply for the sake of personal safety and a superficial unity? Or should he stand for what he knew was truth?

Luther told this court that he was willing to recant (comply) but only if he could be convinced by reason and the Scriptures that he was in error. The Roman hierarchy, however, was not in the habit of “reasoning” with those who challenged their authority, and they demanded that Luther admit his error there on the spot.

In his famous reply, which struck a blow for individual freedom and religious liberty, Luther defended what he had taught. Knowing his life was on the line, he boldly concluded his defense with these words.

I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis. My conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant anything, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. Here I stand! I can do no other! God help me! Amen (Hyatt, *To Comply or Not Comply*, 29)!

Luther's act of noncompliance was monumental and even secular historians understand its significance. After the year 2000, the editors of *Life* magazine listed what they considered to be the 100 most important events of the past millennia. Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Church door was listed at number two after the invention of the printing press in 1440, and ahead of the discovery of America by Columbus in 1492, which was listed at number three.

See Eddie Hyatt's other articles at:

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

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Holy Days 2024

Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes