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Contributors: Laura Lee, James Lloyd, Gary C. Miller, Chuck Missler, Zac Poonen, David Sielaff, James Steinle

Websites:

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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.

Food Processing Plants

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MUST SEE: Map Shows All Food Processing Plants That Have Burned Down, Blown Up or Been Destroyed Under Biden

https://100percentfedup.com/must-see-map-shows-all-food-processing-plants/ (Besides the map there is also a list of places destroyed.)

This is not happening just by 'accident'. America had God's Blessings and protection at one time; but not now; His hand has been withdrawn. Famine is happening for many right now.

"And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD." (KJV)

See James Steinle's other articles at:

Steinle, James - Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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The Roman Trials

(Copyright 2024) by Chuck Missler (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho)

When the morning came, it was necessary to take Jesus over to Pilate so the stamp of Rome's approval could seal their illegal verdict against Jesus. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea, under Emperor Tiberius from AD 26 to 36. He was not a favorite with the Jews, ruling in a reckless and arbitrary fashion, but it was his job to make sure the people in the province of Judea remained at peace. That was how his report card was marked with Rome. If he kept things calm in Judea, he did well. If there was an uproar or rebellion, he was in danger of Rome's disciplinary action. According to one tradition, he was brought to Rome for trial under Emperor Caligula, and in AD 39 was ordered to commit suicide. However, an Ethiopian tradition claims Pilate and his wife became Christians, and he has been canonized as a saint in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. I really wouldn't be surprised to see Pilate in Heaven.

Historian Flavius Josephus describes Pilate in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, offering additional information from outside the Bible on the procurator. An inscription with Pontius Pilate's name in Latin was uncovered in Caesarea Maritima in 1961. The writing inscribed into a block of limestone was part of a dedication to Caesar Tiberius from "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea." That block is now housed in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Under King Herod the Great, the Jews still had the right to judge themselves and carry out capital punishments according to the Torah. When Herod died, Caesar Augustus appointed Herod's son Archelaus as "ethnarch" rather than king, and Archelaus ruled until AD 6. Herod and Archelaus were Idumeans, and the Romans didn't understand that the Jews and the Idumeans (the Edomites, the children of Esau) were not the same thing and, in fact, had centuries of enmity behind them. The Jews repeatedly complained about Archelaus, but this didn't end up helping their cause. In AD 6, Archelaus was dethroned and banished, and a Roman governor, Coponius, was assigned to the province of Judea. He was given the "power of life and death," which horrified the Jews because they no longer had the authority to execute criminals. They believed the scepter had departed from Judah, and the Word of God in Genesis 49:10 had been broken. They didn't understand that Shiloh had indeed come in fulfillment of this verse, and the Messiah was a little boy growing up in Nazareth.

Of course, the Jews generally ignored Rome and stoned people when they wanted — like Stephen in Acts 7. However, Jesus had become a popular public figure, and Rome's blessing was deemed necessary in this case. Therefore, as morning dawned, the Jewish leadership led Jesus down to Pontius Pilate to get his official stamp of approval on their decision to execute the carpenter from Nazareth.

Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover. **John 18:28**

Notice how messed up the Jewish leaders' priorities are. The Jews won't enter the Gentile building for ceremonial reasons, but they will engage in all manner of illegal judicial practices in order to murder an innocent man. This is exactly what Jesus had said about them, that they had completely twisted priorities. They consistently performed acts of cruelty while making a show of holiness:

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. **Matthew 23:14**

They cared about superficial, surface holiness, while neglecting the most important things.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. *Matthew 23:23*

This was a serious problem in their hearts, and they obviously hated Jesus. They won't go into Pilate's Hall of judgment for ceremonial reasons, but they'll put to death the very Son of God on trumped up charges.

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Pilate is shrewd. He recognizes that the Jewish leadership is seeking to put Jesus to death out of envy and ego, and he repeatedly declares Jesus innocent. Seven times during this day, Jesus is judged innocent by everybody from Pilate to the centurion at the cross.² It's obvious that Jesus is not the malefactor the chief priests claim Him to be, but Pilate's primary concern is keeping law and order in Judea. The Jewish leadership has placed him in a very bad position because they stir up a crowd of Jesus' detractors and threaten to create an uprising — which would bring Rome down on them all. He honestly and even adamantly wants to let Jesus go, and he uses every artifact known to bureaucracy to have Jesus released. We know the chief priests don't care about justice, though. They simply want Jesus dead.

Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

John 18:29-31

How impudent of them! Pilate asks them to present their accusation, and they say, "Just take our word for it." That's not how the legal process works. It sounds like they were expecting Pilate to push through their claim without even examining it.

Luke gives us the first accusation made about Jesus that early morning. This leads to the first of several different meetings Pilate had with Jesus, both within and without the hall of judgment.

And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

Luke 23:2

Of course, these are false accusations. Jesus has perverted nothing. He never forbade giving tribute to Caesar. And while He is indeed the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus didn't go around promoting Himself as such. In fact, in Matthew 16:20 Jesus told the disciples to keep quiet about the fact that He was the Messiah, and He began to warn them that He was going to suffer and be put to death. These charges by the Jews are out of line, and Pilate sees through them.

Pilate decides to do his job and examine the man brought before him. He's intrigued by the accusations that Jesus claims to be the Messiah. He pulls Jesus aside into the hall of judgment to talk to him, and it's clear that Jesus is not planning an insurrection.

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

John 18:33-35

This is obviously the core question, whether Jesus is seeking to be the King. It's interesting that Pilate repeatedly refers to Jesus as the King of the Jews after this point, even writing it on the title above His cross later that day. Jesus clarifies to Pilate that there is no issue here. He is not planning to lead a rebellion against Rome. Pilate is the one calling him a king, but Jesus says His purpose for coming into the world was to bear witness to the truth.

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

John 18:35-38

Here we have one of the most famous rhetorical questions of all time. "What is truth?"

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Something about Jesus must have impressed Pilate because he goes out to the crowd and tells them he finds no fault in Him. At this point, Pilate should have simply cut Jesus loose and let him go.

Luke 23:6-11 tells us that Herod is in town at this time. Instead of releasing Jesus himself, Pilate thinks he'll get out of this mess by pawning it off on Herod, because Jesus is a Galilean and Herod is the tetrarch of Galilee. This doesn't work, though, because Herod just makes fun of Jesus and sends Him back.

Herod Antipater, or Antipas, was the son of Herod the Great and a Samaritan woman, so he was never really accepted by the Jews. Galilee of the Gentiles seems a fit dominion for that kind of a prince. Depending on whose dating method we check, Herod ruled in Galilee from either 4 BC or AD 1 to AD 39. It was this Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded, as described in Mark 6:17-29. It was a different Herod, the nephew of Antipas, King Herod Agrippa, who had James killed with a sword and Peter locked in prison in Acts 12:1-5.

Herod Antipas had heard about Jesus for a long time. He originally thought that Jesus was John the Baptist returned from the dead.³ Now, Pilate has sent him Jesus, and he's excited because he's heard about the wonderful things Jesus can do. He wants to see Jesus perform some wonder.

And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

Luke 23:8-9

He's looking for entertainment here, and Jesus does not humor him. Jesus won't even give Herod the time of day. Isn't that remarkable? Here we have a prisoner, ready to be condemned, with a crowd of enemies outside calling for His crucifixion, and He doesn't bother to say a thing to Herod. Jesus has not been whipped at this point, but He has clearly retreated deep inside Himself, focusing on His own thoughts and not on His external circumstances. Herod gives up on Jesus and sends Him back to the unfortunate Pilate.

And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. I will therefore chastise him and release him.

Luke 23:13-16

Pilate spends the rest of the morning trying different maneuvers to set Jesus free without causing a riot. First, he picks out a violent robber Barabbas, thinking the Jews would much rather have Jesus walking around free than Barabbas. That doesn't work.

Barabbas

The person of Barabbas is more significant than many people realize. His first name was also Jesus, according to a few manuscripts. It was a common name in those days, being the equivalent of the Hebrew name Joshua. Third century theologian Origen expressed puzzlement in his commentary of Matthew 27:16-17, bothered by the fact that Barabbas had the same name as the Lord, commenting that "Jesus" Barabbas was not found in all Matthew manuscripts. He clearly didn't like it that a criminal had the same name as the Son of God.

However, we can see even in this little detail that Jesus Christ was a true replacement for Jesus Barabbas. The two men traded places. Jesus was the sinless Lamb of God, Barabbas was a murderer and thief.⁴ Barabbas means "son of the father," while Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus was accused of insurrection, but He was innocent. Barabbas was guilty of insurrection, and he walked out uncondemned. We find Barabbas, the sinner, went free, and Jesus, the sinless one, was crucified in his place.

Boy, aren't we in the same shoes as Barabbas? We would be condemned to die if Jesus hadn't agreed to take our place. We are doomed criminals and sinners, and Jesus has borne our sins on Himself so that we can live and go free.

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Behold the Man

Pilate's effort to release Jesus backfired, so Pilate tries to abuse Jesus enough to satisfy His enemies and stir up the sympathy of the crowd. He has Jesus brutally scourged, and the Roman guards mock Jesus and beat on Him. Pilate is trying to encourage the priests to have pity on Jesus, so he can release Him, and that doesn't work.

Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

John 19:5

The Swiss-Italian painter Antonio Ciseri captured the moment that Pilate displayed Jesus to the angry mob, declaring, "Behold the Man!"



Figure 1 - Ecce Homo (Behold the Man!) by Antonio Ciseri, 1871, Galleria dell'Arte Moderna, Palazzo Pitti, Florence.

Of course, as Pilate declares, "Behold!" Jesus appears before the crowd in much worse condition than portrayed in this pleasant painting. Jesus has been publicly degraded — lashed and torn, bruised and bloodied. The soldiers have pummeled Him and jammed thorns into His head. John 19:3 says the soldiers smote Jesus with their hands. These were hardened Roman soldiers, known for hating the Jews. Isaiah 50:6 prophesies, "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting." They beat Him up really quite badly, and they even tore out His beard! As Jesus stands there with His eyes swollen, blood running down His face, there is nothing imposing or majestic about Him. Surely, Pilate is thinking, this will take care of the issue. Nobody is going to rally around Jesus after such a public disfigurement and humiliation. The chief priests should be satisfied.

Pilate lost on this gamble, though. Christ's enemies are bloodthirsty, and they call for Jesus' death.

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When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

John 19:6

Remember, the crowd that the chief priests had assembled early that morning were not Jesus' followers. Jesus had thousands of followers. These are the chief priests, the Pharisees that Jesus had insulted. These are the members of the Sanhedrin. These are those temple guards Judas had assembled, and any other detractors the chief priests could bring against Jesus. This crowd is filled with the very people who want Jesus dead, so there's no winning their pity.

Pilate wants to diffuse a potentially explosive situation. He doesn't know he's caught in the middle of a cosmic event that will impact all of eternity. Jesus behaves strangely in Pilate's eyes, because He doesn't try to stop His own death. He gives no argument, makes no plea on His own behalf, and down below the angry crowd is demanding His death.

The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

John 19:7-10

Matthew 27:19 tells us Pilate's wife warned him that Jesus was a righteous man, and she'd suffered in dreams over Him, and now Pilate hears that Jesus claims to be the Son of God. Pilate is shaken, because he's a Roman, and the Romans believed the gods could produce children.

Pilate did not want to incur divine wrath. He demands that Jesus tell him where He is from. Jesus still declines to talk or make any defense, and Pilate is amazed. He challenges Jesus to say something — to recognize his authority to release Him. The answer Jesus gives is even more terrifying because He basically says, "Don't be fooled. You're not really the one in charge."

Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

John 19:11

Pilate is in a spot. He's got a jurisdictional problem, but he also has possible divine warnings this man is righteous. He's talked to Jesus several times at this point, and he wants nothing to do with executing this just person. His effort to release Jesus as a Passover gift to the Jews did not work. They chose Barabbas instead. He declares his intention to release Jesus, but the crowd is getting loud. He is in danger of a mob gone mad. He decides to symbolically release himself of responsibility over the whole thing. Pilate has water brought to him in a bowl, and he makes a point of ceremonially washing his hands.

When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Matthew 27:24

The people in that crowd accept full responsibility at this point, shouting in the next verse, "His blood be on us, and on our children." Pilate has spent hours trying to find a way out, a way to safely release Jesus without causing a violent uprising. At this point he gives up and allows them to take Jesus off to be crucified. He knowingly allowed a righteous man to be lynched in order to keep peace in his jurisdiction.

It's a tragic reality of history that the medieval church pinned the blame of Christ's death on the Jews. John in his Gospel, speaks negatively of the "Jews" but he is clearly alluding to the Jewish leadership. John himself and his family and friends were all Jewish. Yet, anti-Semitism grew and spread until it infected medieval Christianity. Jesus was murdered by Gentiles, under Gentile authorities. More to the point, Jesus died to pay for the sins of each one of us. If you want to blame somebody for the death of Christ, blame me. It was my fault. My sins put Him on that cross.

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NOTES

- 1 Josephus, War of the Jews, ii.8.1; Antiquities xviii.1.1.
- 2 Matthew 27:4, 19, 24; Luke 23:14-15, 47; John 18:38, 19:4-6
- 3 Mark 6:14-16
- 4 Mark 15:7; John 18:40

See Chuck Missler's other articles at:

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

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Excerpted from Chuck Missler's book The Easter Story: What Really Happened, 2019

The Church Will Face Tribulation

(Copyright 2023) by Zac Poonen (Bangalore, India)

For the first 300 years of Christianity, almost all Christians lived under anti-Christian rulers who often persecuted them and killed many of them. God, in His great wisdom, permitted people to persecute His children, for His glory. Even today, God has permitted some of His finest children to live under governments that persecute them. The church has always flourished best under persecution. But wherever the church experiences ease, comfort, and material prosperity, in most cases it becomes worldly. As long as we are in the world, we will face tribulation, persecution, and trials. So, we need not expect an easy time - either in our workplace or in our personal life - as we approach the end of this age.

"God is a jealous God and He will never allow us to trust in anything created".

Days of financial difficulties will come. So, we must learn to live simply even now. Those who live in luxury will find things to be very difficult in the coming days. We must be wise in saving money for the future, so that we do not have to depend on others. But our trust must not be in our savings, but in the Lord alone. God is a jealous God and He will never allow us to trust in anything created. God will shake the world's financial systems, so that those who trust in created things will be shaken. As Jesus said, we will see brothers betraying brothers and our family-members becoming our enemies (Matt. 10:21).

There will be active persecution of believers in offices and in factories. All this will purify us and make us better Christians. 1 Peter 3:13 says that no-one can harm us if we always seek to do good. So, we must determine, by God's grace, to do good to everyone. We must love those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and pray for the forgiveness of those who persecute us. Then no-one will be able to harm us. Satan and his agents may cheat us, trouble us, harass us, rob us, injure us, imprison us, and even kill our bodies. But they will never be able to harm us spiritually.

We must prepare Christians all over the world to face persecution for their faith in the coming days. There are *four* commands that our Lord has given us for such days:

1. "Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16).

We must *not be foolish* in our witnessing, but wise. Our lives must speak for Christ, where we live and where we work. In our witness for the Lord, we must make it clear that we are speaking about a Person - Jesus Christ - and *not* about the Christian religion being superior to other religions. Jesus will draw people to Himself when He is lifted up (*John 12:32*). We must also be alert to discern non-Christian spies who will pretend to be interested in Christianity, when their real

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motive may be to accuse us of some word we use in order to take us to court for "forcibly trying to convert them". So, we must be wise as well as loving - as Jesus was:

- (a) "Jesus did not entrust Himself to some people, because He knew what was in them" (John 2:23-25). We must discern everyone.
- (b) "Jesus was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews there were seeking to kill Him" (John 7:1). We should avoid unnecessary danger.
- (c) "Pray for those who persecute you" (Matt.5:44). Be good to people. Do not become evil because others are evil.
- 2. "Live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

In times of persecution, the most important requirement is *to be sensitive to the word that God is speaking to our hearts.* We must develop the habit of a listening attitude to God throughout the day. The word we hear from God must then be *believed* and *obeyed*. Otherwise, it has no value. So, we must meditate more on the Word of God (especially the New Testament **Editor's Note:** The Old Testament is just as important as the New Testament. Laura Lee) – for only thus will we be able to discern God's voice. And then we must "**trust and obey**".

3. "Love one another as I have loved you. All men will know you are My disciples, when you love one another" (John 13:34, 35)

Both in our home and in our churches, we must stop all judging of one another, all backbiting against one another, all quarrelling with each other, and all suspicion of one another. Discernment is a Divine quality, but suspicion is a Satanic quality. Now is the time to concentrate on fighting sin and Satan in our lives. Now is the time to actively pursue loving our marriage partners and loving our fellow-believers.

4. "In the world you WILL HAVE tribulation. But be bold. I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

God is on the throne and He will never forsake His own. Satan was defeated 2000 years ago. We are the apple of God's eye, and so He will be a wall of fire around us (Zech.2:5,8). No weapon formed against us will ever prosper (Isa.54:17). So let us "be content with what we have, for God Himself has said, 'I will never leave you, nor will I ever forsake you'. So that we may boldly say, 'The Lord is my Helper. I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?'" (Heb.13:5,6).

Let us also pray, "Come soon, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

See Zac Poonens other articles at:

Poonen, Zac – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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They Hate You And Want You Dead

(Copyright 2023) by David Sielaff (Portland, Oregon)

... But God Protects You

There are beings in God's creation who hate you and want you dead <u>now</u>, if they could have their way. They hate you for one reason only, because you believe in Christ's resurrection from the dead. Why do they want you dead? Because you are a living example of a human being's trust in God to resurrect you from the dead. And you are a direct threat to their power and rule in this present eon.

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Those who want you dead are in two categories: human beings and spirit beings. They communicate with each other and plot against God's children of Adam. They have done so since before the flood, and after. They know (at least the spirits know) that you and all other believers will become far more than children of Adam.

However, they did not have a full understanding of what was to come <u>until</u> the ultimate secret of God, the "Mystery," was given to the apostle Paul. You will become a fully mature child of God. "The Mystery is God's teaching that every human being will have <u>the same</u> <u>relationship</u> to God <u>as Christ has at present</u>, or ever will have" ("The Mystery, A Definition").

The spirit entities hate that fact, once it was revealed to Paul and others (Ephesians 1:9–11). You will become what they cannot become. You shall sit with Christ at the right hand of God the Father and become like Christ is now (1 John 3:1–3). The spirits will never do this. The principalities and powers have ruled the second heaven that we <u>call</u> outer space today, and they participate in assemblies in the third heaven where God's throne is located. They are enraged with hatred. These powerful beings reign "out there." Satan is "the prince of <u>this</u> world" (John 12:31) and not beyond earth. Others rule there:

"... for by revelation the secret IS MADE KNOWN to me

(according as I write before, in brief, by which you who are reading are able to apprehend my understanding in the secret of the Christ, which, in other generations, is not made known to the sons of humanity as it was NOW REVEALED to His holy apostles and prophets) [that secret is]:

in spirit the nations [the Gentiles] are to be

[1]joint enjoyers of an allotment, and

[2]a joint body, and

[3]joint partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus, through the evangel

[Gospel] ..."

• Ephesians 3:3-6, Concordant New Testament

Paul's commission was this:

"... to enlighten all as to what is the administration of the secret, which has been concealed from the eons in God, Who creates all,

that NOW may be made known to

- [1] the sovereignties and
- [2] the authorities among the celestials,

[How does the enlightenment come?] THROUGH THE ECCLESIA[!!!], [such is] the multifarious wisdom of God, in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

Ephesian 3:9-11

The sovereignties and authorities did not see this coming, that lowly bags of rotting, dying flesh (multiple billions of us since Adam) would dispossess and be given **their** dominions, **their** sovereignty, and **their** authority, by the Creator and His first creation Christ Jesus.

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These powerful and mighty beings in the spiritual realms of heaven, rule the physical universe of stars, galaxies, supergalactic clusters — all this is their dominion, given to them by God to rule since the heavens were created. These are some of the most powerful beings in all creation subordinate to the:

"... one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

1 Corinthians 8:6

These beings are at war with us <u>now</u> (in addition to Satan, his angels, demons, etc.):

"... for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the SOVEREIGNTIES, with the AUTHORITIES, with the WORLD-MIGHTS of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the CELESTIALS."

Ephesians 6:12, Concordant Version

Satan, his angels, Moloch, demons, and even the supernatural beings released out of the Euphrates River (Revelation 9:13–20, 16:12–16) are independent from these sovereignties, authorities and world-mights reigning over perhaps multiple trillions of subjects. They may all be coming to earth to oppose Christ and the mass resurrection to glory for all believers of the Mystery as well as all dead Old and New Covenant saints. There was war when Jesus was born (Revelation 12:1–17). There will be war again at His return:

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and HIS ANGELS And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven [where God's throne is].

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, <u>and HIS ANGELS</u> were cast out with him."

Revelation 12:7-9, KJV

These "sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials" did not fight in the war of Revelation chapter 12. However, they are at war with believers now and will continue to be involved until Christ returns. They will give powerful supernatural help to Satan and his armies. Is this why the Antichrist and the False Prophet think they might win? They will lose everything. Yet even then God will reconcile all to Himself through Christ.

See David Sielaff's other articles at:

Sielaff, David – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

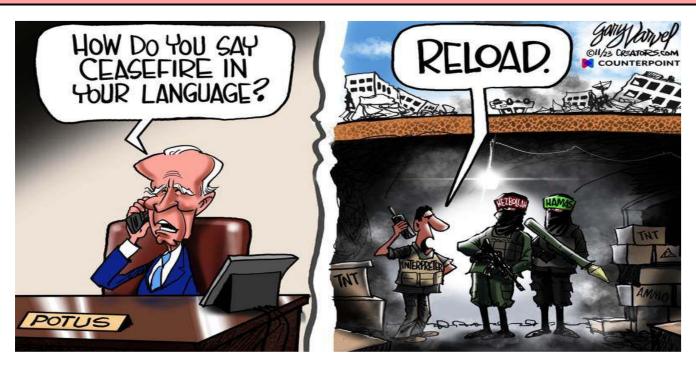
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Have a Great Sabbath!

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Hamas Spells Ceasefire R-E-L-O-A-D

(Copyright) by James Lloyd (Medford, Oregon)



The evil surprise attack on Israel has set long predicted **Bible Prophecy** sequences in motion, but what is occurring is not at all what the world's media projects. The people that should understand these events – the Christians – are just as deceived as the left wing communists who are voicing support for Hamas. As the attached humorous cartoon shows, the tribulational cycle is self evident, as it is all a part of the "Deadly Wound" sequence in the book of **Revelation**. The world is following a "Script" that few understand. However, a tiny Remnant is aware of the Biblical prophecies that forecast each step, but the maverick **Christian** ministry that has predicted most of these movements in our time has been censored by the "Christian" establishment, so most of the believers are unaware of prophecies being fulfilled.

Although they think they do, the bulk of Christians in America do not understand the Holy Bible predicted this time of "Strong Delusion" (*II Thessalonians 2:11*), because the "church" of Jesus Christ is *Supernaturally Recapitulating* the "Falling Away" (*II Thessalonians 2:3*) of ancient **Israel** – and they are being led by the "many false prophets [that] shall rise" (*Matthew 24:11*).

In fact, for its entire existence, the *prophecy* ministry at **Christian Media Network** has issued striking predictions, which have been regularly fulfilled; but they are not publicized in the mainstream "Christian" media, as the Bible teaches the "church" of Jesus Christ will enter the time when it is Lukewarm (*Revelation 3:16*). The Christian establishment has <u>suppressed prophecy information</u> – and this in itself was predicted in the Bible. The fact is, we have successfully predicted, *in writing*, events including political elections, military clashes, monetary events, and even the length of the tragic BP oil spill in **2010** (we called it at 5 months to the very *day*) that polluted the gulf coast. As far back as **1992**, we published a written prediction of the assassination of **Yitzhak Rabin** of Israel – an important prophetic event in an important place, which was fulfilled in **1995**. There are also many more current prophecies concerning America's fate.

See James Lloyd's other articles at:

Lloyd, James – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

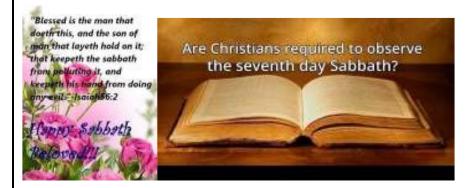
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http://www.christianmedianetwork.com/

Not Just a Religious Issue the Seventh or First Day of the Week? Does it Matter?

(Copyright 2023) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)



OBSERVING A SABBATH IS MORE THAN A RELIGIOUS EXERCISE:

The right day is the issue, because this is a matter of natural law, like the law of gravity....it will not; it cannot go away.

Here is the decree:

"And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the Law to fail." (Lk. 16:17)

WHAT THE LAW SAYS:

"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy...the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim: in it you shall do no work, you, your Son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor Your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates...Yahweh blessed the Sabbath Day and hallowed it.

Don't Forget: It would be easier to destroy heaven and earth than do away with this Sabbath Law.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES NOT TEACH SUNDAY WORSHIP! DELUSIONS:

Two Common Christian 7th-day Sabbath Mistakes:

"And with all Deceivableness of Unrighteousness in them that Perish; Because they received Not the Love of the Truth...Yahweh shall send them Strong Delusion, that they should believe a Lie. That they all might be damned Who believed *not* the Truth." (2 Thess. 2:10-12)

(1). The 7th Day Sabbath Law was done away; nailed to the Cross. Fact: No Laws were nailed to the Cross.

Fact: Two things were nailed to the Cross. The Messiah and a Certificate of Indebtedness for Sins; our debt of Sins committed (Col. 2:14; Greek for "handwriting" [KJV] is "cheirographon": "a note or certificate of indebtedness")

Fact: Yahshua did not nail the Law to the Cross. The Law nailed Him to the Cross, because Sin requires a sacrifice to pay for it. (Heb. 9:22: "...without the shedding of blood there is no remission.")

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(2). The 7th Day Sabbath was changed to Sunday.

Fact: The earliest known Sunday law in history is the decree in 321 A.D. of Constantine: "On the venerable day of the sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest...let all workshops be closed...." (Codex Justinianus, lib.3, tit. 12,3; translated in "History of the Christian Church", Philip Schaff, 1902, Vol. 3, p. 380).

Fact: The phrase, "first day of the week" is mentioned *eight times* in the New Testament. *Not one* gives the slightest hint that Sunday replaced the Seventh Day as a day of worship.

SABBATH QUESTIONS:

A work that received the "apostolic blessing" of Pope Pius X in 1910, records:

"Question: Which is the Sabbath Day?

Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 336), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." ("*The Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*", 2nd ed. p. 50).

NOTE: This was not until three hundred years after the cross.

In "A Doctrinal Catechism", (Stephen Keenan, p.174):

"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has the authority to institute festivals...?"

Answer: "Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with hershe could not have substituted the observance of Sunday...for...Saturday, the seventh day, a *change for which there is no Scriptural authority* [emphasis mine]."

See Gary C. Miller's other articles at:

Miller, Gary C. – Church of God, Bismarck (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

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Iron Sharpening Iron

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

In regard to: They Hate You And Want You Dead

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

First of all, Christ is not a created being:

The following is talking about Christ:

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

From the Adam Clark Commentary in regard to Col. 16 & 17:

For by him were all things created, etc - These two verses contain parts of the same subject. I shall endeavor to distinguish the statements of the apostle, and reason from them in such a way as the premises shall appear to justify, without appealing to any other scripture in proof of the doctrine which I suppose these verses to vindicate.

Four things are here asserted:

- 1. That Jesus Christ is the Creator of the universe; of all things visible and invisible; of all things that had a beginning, whether they exist in time or in eternity.
- 2. That whatsoever was created was created For himself; that he was the sole end of his own work.
- 3. That he was prior to all creation, to all beings, whether in the visible or invisible world.
- 4. That he is the preserver and governor of all things; for by him all things consist.

From David's article he states:

The principalities and powers have ruled the second heaven that we <u>call</u> outer space today, and they participate in assemblies in the third heaven where God's throne is located. (End Quote)

This is an interesting statement, but I will dispute it unless he can show scripture that shows these assemblies are being held in the third heaven near God's Throne.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, Rev 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

There is a reason Satan was thrown from heaven and it is the same reason human beings are not allowed in heaven. That reason is sin. So, these other evil beings would also not be allowed in the third heaven near God's Throne for the same reason, sin.

I have no doubt God can talk to anyone He wants to talk to; I just don't believe He is doing it with evil creatures in the third heaven near His thrown.

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Notes