

HALLOWE'EN – Trick? Or Treat?

(Copyright) by HOIM Staff
(Azusa, California)

PAGE 2

Getting Involved in this Worlds Politics – Right or Wrong?

(Copyright 2018 & 10-08-2024)
by James Steinle
(Swanville, Minnesota)

PAGE 7

A Bride Prepared (Chapter 9)

(Copyright) by Warren Zehrung
(Little Rock, Arkansas)

PAGE 11

Countdown 471

(Copyright 10-02-2024)
by Warren Zehrung
(Little Rock, Arkansas)

PAGE 13

Kill-Baby-Rights Women: The Baby's BODY is Not Your "Own Body"

(Copyright 10-06-2024)
by Richard Frates
(Easley, South Carolina)

PAGE 16

Muslim Political Terrorism – Masked as Religion – DEPORT Muslims:

(Copyright 10-06-2024)
by Richard Frates
(Easley, South Carolina)

PAGE 17

Representative Government is an Israelite Institution

(Copyright 10-06-2024)
by Jeffrey Caldwell
(Arkansas)

PAGE 18

Iron Sharpening Iron In regard to: Countdown 471

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

PAGE 19

Who Are the Nicolaitans?

(Copyright 10-06-2024) by Rod Reynolds
(Wentzville, Missouri)

PAGE 20

Stunning Parallels

(Copyright 10-08-2024) by James Steinle
(Swanville, Minnesota)

PAGE 21

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

To Unsubscribe from this newsletter:

Use the unsubscribe link on the end of your weekly newsletter.

To Subscribe to this newsletter, Go to:

Use the Form on our Website.

To Submit Items for Print, Send to:

the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com

church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com

Mail to Darwin & Laura Lee, 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, ND 58501

The "New" Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

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: Jeffrey Caldwell, Richard Frates, HOIM Staff, Laura Lee, Rod Reynolds, James Steinle, Warren Zehrung

Websites:

<https://darwin-laura.com/> Links

<https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org> Current Newsletters

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.

HALLOWE'EN – Trick? Or Treat?

(Copyright) by HOIM Staff (Azusa, California)

Millions of people observe Hallowe'en as a time to have fun, kick up their heels, go to costume parties, dress up as ghosts, mass murderers, goblins, ghouls, witches, warlocks, demons, and send their children "trick or treating." But WHY? What is behind this major holiday, whose commercial importance grows year by year? Is it all so innocent as millions assume? What does the Word of the Living God say about it?

According to the comic strip "Cathy," in the Sunday, October 29, 1995, *Pasadena Star-News*, in the past ten years Hallowe'en has tripled in size, and one out of every three adult men and women will dress up in full Hallowe'en costumes this year. Hallowe'en parties now rank third, right behind New Year's Eve and the Superbowl, and Hallowe'en is second only to Christmas for home decorations. "Cathy" asks, "What's going on here? Can a generation raised on therapy find no better way to cope with stress than to put on a Batman suit?" She goes on, "Are we so repressed that we need to create a \$400 million holiday to act out our fantasies?"

Good questions! Where did Hallowe'en come from, anyway? Why do so many people enjoy it, and dressing up in bizarre, ghoulish, and grotesque costumes? Is it all just innocent fun and games, and nothing to worry about? Or is there an occult, sinister, dark side to Hallowe'en that few people today suspect, or know anything about?

In the November issue of a religious magazine called *The Plain Truth* (I call it the "Plain Trash"), there is an article on Hallowe'en in a section called "Questions." The question they attempt to answer is: "How should a Christian view

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

Halloween?" Notice how they tippy-toe around this question in their answer. First of all, they admit: "Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, falls on Oct.31. It immediately precedes All Saints' Day on Nov.1. All Saints' Day celebrates the memory of Christian martyrs who suffered and died for the sake of the gospel [sounds like they are endorsing its observance, doesn't it?] . . . the Roman Catholic Church did not order the UNIVERSAL OBSERVANCE of All Saints' Day on Nov.1 until the ninth century.

"In ancient Britain and Ireland, Oct.31 marked the eve of the new year and the pagan Celtic festival of Sambain (sic, it should be "Samhain") . . .

"At Sambain (sic), the souls of the dead were thought to come back and visit their homes. Bonfires were lit to scare evil spirits. Sinister figures -- witches, ghosts, goblins, and demons -- supposedly roamed about" (p. 10).

It almost sounds as if they are admitting that the origin of Hallowe'en is distinctly PAGAN. But they also seem to be admitting that it is a "Christian holiday," now, and assert, "The pagan practices gradually swayed the celebration of All Hallows Eve." Is it all right, therefore, for Christians to observe it? Or should all people steer far clear of this pagan celebration? The article concludes, in a weak-kneed, insipid, compromising stance, giving no advice whatsoever and never answers the original question! Rather, the magazine says:

"Because of the pagan elements that long ago became attached to the evening, **many devout Christians choose to avoid trick or treating and other Halloween customs.** Christian parents often steer their children away from taking part in what they see as a celebration of darkness and mischief" (emphasis mine, throughout).

How quaint. How sweet. The implication, of course, is that the decision is yours to make -- that YEHOVAH God's Word says nothing really about it one way or the other. The article concludes, "A dedicated Christian will not knowingly celebrate evil. With this in mind, many Christians avoid participation in the dark practices associated with the celebration of Halloween" (*ibid.*).

Really? Is that all there is to it? The idea seems to be that you can celebrate it if you wish, so long as you avoid any purely "evil" or "dark practices" connected with it, whatever they may be. The message I receive from this is that you can go ahead, and have fun, but just "remember Christ" and don't do anything that would constitute a "dark practice." I suppose that means, don't murder, rape or kill somebody, dismember, or hurt anybody.

I found the ***Pasadena Star-News*** article far more informative and helpful, in exposing the true origin of this popular holiday. In an article "Unmasking Halloween traditions," Christopher Nyerges writes:

"The roots of Halloween go back to the Celts. To the ancient Celts, there were six significant fire ceremonies during the year. The greatest of these were Beltane, the first of May, and Samhain, the last day of October.

"The feast of Samhain (meaning `summer's end'), marked both their Feast of the Dead and the Celtic New Year. This time of the year, half-way between the autumnal equinox and the winter solstice, was a time of decay and death on the earth.

"Samhain ushered in the darkest and most barren time of the year, a time fraught with ghosts, witches, demons, and fairies.

"Fire rites, during which HUMAN AND ANIMAL SACRIFICES were made, were performed in the belief that they'd protect the crops and flocks from demonic influence" (Saturday, October 28, 1995).

The Celts believed that on the Feast of Samhain, the spirits of their ancestors would rise up from the cold fields and graves and come into the warm homes and cottages of the people, and had to be greeted with decorations and festivities, parties, and acceptance, in order to get "protection" for the household from evil spirits during the coming winter months. Offerings were made to protect the household from malicious spirits or demons. Says Christopher Nyerges:

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

"Thus, in its origin, the Feast of Samhain was a rite designed to protect humans from the `evil' activities of the disincarnate. It was, if you will, a BARGAIN WITH THE DEAD so they'd stay away and cause no trouble during the next year."

The World Book Encyclopedia describes the origin of this holiday in these words:

"The Celtic Festival of Samhain is probably the source of the present-day Halloween celebration. The Celts lived more than 2,000 years ago in what is now Great Britain, Ireland, and northern France. Their new year began on November 1. A festival that began the previous evening honored Samhain, the Celtic lord of death. The celebration marked the beginning of the season of cold, darkness, and decay. It naturally became associated with human death. The Celts believed that Samhain allowed the souls of the dead to return to their earthly homes for this evening.

"On the evening of the festival, the Druids, who were the priests and teachers of the Celts, ordered the people to put out their hearth fires. The Druids built a huge, new year's BONFIRE of oak branches, which they considered sacred. They burned animals, crops, and possibly even human beings as SACRIFICES. Then each family relit its hearth fire from the new year's fire. During the celebration, people sometimes WORE COSTUMES made of animal heads and skins. They told fortunes about the coming year by examining the remains of the animals that had been sacrificed" (article "Halloween," p. 25).

This Celtic holiday entered the Roman Empire after the Romans conquered the Celts in A.D. 43 and ruled Great Britain for about 400 years. During this time two Roman festivals of the autumn were combined with the Celtic Festival of Samhain. One of them, Feralia, was held in late October to honor the dead. The other honored Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruits and trees. Apples probably became connected with Halloween because of this festival.

Says the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, eleventh edition of Hallowe'en:

"Hallowe'en and its formerly attendant ceremonies long antedate Christianity. The two chief characteristics of ancient Hallowe'en were the lighting of bonfires and the belief that of all nights in the year this is the one during which ghosts and witches are most likely to wander abroad. Now on or about the first of November the Druids held their great autumnal festival and lighted fires in honor of the SUN-GOD in thanksgiving for the harvest. Further, it was a Druid belief that on the eve of this festival, Saman, LORD OF DEATH, called together the wicked souls that within the past twelve months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals. Thus it is clear that the main celebrations of Hallowe'en were purely Druidical, and this is further proved by the fact that in parts of Ireland the 31st of October was, and even still is, known as Oidhche Shamhna, `Vigil of Samhan.' On the Druid ceremonies were GRAFTED some of the characteristics of the Roman festival in honor of Pomona held about the end of November, in which nuts and apples, as representing the winter store of fruits, played an important part. Thus, the roasting of nuts and the sport known as `apple-ducking' -- attempting to seize with the teeth an apple floating in a tub of water -- were once the universal occupation of the young folk in medieval England on the 31st of October. The custom of lighting Hallowe'en fires survived until recent years in the highlands of Scotland and Wales. In the dying embers it was usual to place as many small stones as there were persons around, and next morning a search was made. If any of the pebbles were displaced it was regarded as certain that the person represented would die within the next twelve months" ("Hallowe'en", p.857-858).

But what happened? How did this ancient Druid, Celtic festival in honor of the "Lord of the Dead," and celebrated in worship of the "Sun-god," ever creep into the practice of the "Christian Church"?

Hallowe'en Enters "Christianity"

Many ancient pagan practices became incorporated into the practices of the early Church, including virtually every pagan festival known to the Romans and the inhabitants of the Roman Empire. Hallowe'en was no exception. **The World Book Encyclopedia** relates:

"Many of the customs of the Celts survived even after the people became Christians. During the 800's, the church established All Saints' Day on November 1. THE PEOPLE MADE THE OLD PAGAN CUSTOMS PART OF THIS CHRISTIAN HOLY DAY. THE CHURCH BEGAN TO HONOR THE DEAD-ON NOVEMBER 2. This day became known as All Souls' Day."

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

Writes Christopher Nyerges, in *Unmasking Halloween Traditions*:

"In the 700s, the Roman Catholic Church authorities accepted the fact that they had failed in their attempts to eliminate the Samhain observations, which were considered 'PAGAN.' Thus, as has often occurred when New Religion clashed with Old Religion, the names of the holy days were changed. Nov.1 became All Saints' Day, and the day before became the Hallowed Eve, or Holy Eve, which we today call Halloween. THIS WAY, THE OLD RELIGION PRACTICE OF SAMHAIN COULD CONTINUE, BUT NOW IT WAS A CHRISTIAN [sic] HOLY DAY. As a result, the members of the Catholic Church increased, everyone was happy and things went on as usual."

How blatant! How plain! How clever and odious! The Church could not conquer or stamp out the paganism in the hearts and traditions of the people, so it did the opposite -- it embraced, and took to its bosom, the paganism of old, and "baptized" it, and then called these pagan practices "CHRISTIAN"!

But what does YEHOVAH God, and Yeshua the Messiah, our Saviour, say about this sort of thing? Is it all right in YEHOVAH's sight if any of His people worship Him with the practices of ancient pagan religions? Is it acceptable with YEHOVAH God if we follow pagan-derived practices and call them "Christian"?

The Messiah never observed Hallowe'en. None of the apostles observed it. None of the early churches in the first century observed it. It did not even become an official "Catholic" holy (sic) day until the NINTH CENTURY -- over 800 years after the time of the Messiah!

The fact that Hallowe'en is making a huge successful comeback, today, and is observed by MILLIONS around the world, shows that paganism is itself making a tremendous leap forward under the guise of the modern "Christian" religion. Should any true Christian, or believer in the Messiah Yeshua, observe the popular holiday?

What the Word of YEHOVAH God Says

Yeshua the Messiah very plainly said that man should not live by bread only, but by every word of YEHOVAH God (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4). All Scripture is given by YEHOVAH God's inspiration and is profitable for doctrine, correction, reproof, and guidance in our lives (II Timothy 3:16-17). YEHOVAH's Word is truth -- truth to live by (John 17:17).

What then does YEHOVAH God's Word say about adopting and "baptizing" pagan practices and calling them "Christian" and following them?

Is it all right to combine PAGAN religion -- the "old religion"-- with YEHOVAH God's truth? YEHOVAH's Word says: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2).

YEHOVAH God thunders in His Word: "Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God. When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations [pagan nations] from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; take heed to thyself that thou BE NOT SNARED BY FOLLOWING THEM...and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

"THOU SHALT NOT DO SO UNTO THE LORD THY GOD: for EVERY ABOMINATION to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the FIRE to their gods.

"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deuteronomy 12:28-32).

The prophet Jeremiah plainly tells us in straight language there is to be no compromise or misinterpretation: "Thus saith the LORD, learn NOT the way of the heathen...For the customs of the people are VAIN..." (Jeremiah 10:2-3).

The pagan origin of Hallowe'en, no matter how the Roman Catholic Church tries to whitewash it, or colorize it, or "Christianize" it, is plainly obvious for all to see. The real question is: Whom are we going to obey? The true God of heaven and earth, our Creator? Or the "god" of this world, Satan the devil, the real "god" behind the mask of Hallowe'en?

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

The Scriptures tell us forcefully that Satan is "the great dragon," "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which DECEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD" (Revelation 12:9).

He is the master of subtlety and deception. He calls good evil, and evil good. He says, "What's the harm in observing Hallowe'en, and having a little 'innocent' fun?" It is his purpose to delude, deceive, and destroy mankind by leading them into sin, lawlessness, and disobedience to the laws and Word of YEHOVAH God.

When Caesar invaded Britain, he found the Druids leading the Britons in the worship of the sun-god and his consort, the queen of heaven. This was the same age-old "mystery" religious system that originated from ancient Babylon and Egypt. Samhain, the "lord of the dead," was none other than that old idolatrous figure Nimrod. Says Alexander Hislop in ***The Two Babylons***:

"The Druidic system in all its parts was evidently the BABYLONIAN SYSTEM. Dionysius informs us, that the rites of Bacchus were duly celebrated in the British Islands...and Strabo cites Artemidorus to show that, in an island close to Britain, Ceres and Proserpine were venerated with rites similar to the orgies of Samothrace. It will be seen from the account of the Druid Ceridwen and her child, afterwards to be noticed -- that there was a great analogy between her character and that of the great goddess-mother of Babylon. Such was the system; and the name Dryw, or Droï, applied to the priests, is in exact accordance with that system. The name Zero, given in Hebrew or the early Chaldee, to the son of the great goddess queen, in later Chaldee became 'Dero.' The priest of Dero, 'the seed,' was called, as in the case in almost all religions, by the name of his god; and hence the familiar name 'Druid' is thus proved to signify the priest of 'Dero' -- the woman's promised 'seed'" (p. 81, footnote).

Hislop further tells us:

"The worship of Bel and Astarte [Nimrod and Easter] was very early introduced into Britain, along with the Druids, 'the priests of the groves'....From Bel, the 1st of May is still called Beltane in the Almanac; and we have customs still lingering at this day among us, which prove how exactly the worship of Bel or MOLOCH (for both titles belong to the same god) had been observed even in the northern parts of this island...every year, at Beltane (or the 1st of May), a number of men and women assemble at an ancient Druidical circle of stones...They light a fire in the center, each person puts a bit of oat-cake in a shepherd's bonnet. One piece has been previously blackened, and whoever gets that piece has to jump through the fire in the center of the circle and pay a forfeit. This is, in fact, A PART OF THE ANCIENT WORSHIP OF BAAL, and the person on whom the lot fell was previously burnt as a sacrifice. Now, the passing through the fire represents that, and the payment of the forfeit redeems the victim" (p. 103-104).

One of Nimrod's names under which he was worshipped as a god, was "Molech," the god of fire. Molech was the god of barbarity, cruelty, and blood. The name itself is a form of the Hebrew word 'melek' which means "king." Nimrod was the first man after the Flood of Noah's time to become a "king" and to carve out for himself a "kingdom" on the earth (see Genesis 10:8-10). At first, he was worshipped as the "revealer of goodness and truth," but gradually his worship was made to correspond to the darker and more forbidding side of his nature. The horrible rites associated with the worship of this fiend have made the very name a symbol of cruelty and terror, such as is associated with Hallowe'en. Only it was very real, not just pretend.

Says Hislop:

"In almost every land the bloody worship prevailed; 'horrid cruelty' hand in hand with abject superstition, filled not only 'the dark places of the earth,' but also the regions that boasted of their enlightenment. Greece, Rome, Egypt, Phenicia, Assyria, and our own land under the savage Druids, at one period or other in their history, worshipped the same god and in the same way. Human victims were his most acceptable offerings; human groans and wailings were the sweetest music in his ears; human tortures were believed to delight his heart" (p. 151).

Hislop relates that the Druids "offered human sacrifices to their bloody gods." He adds:

"We have evidence that they 'made their children pass through the fire to Molech,' and that makes it highly probable that they also offered them in sacrifice; for from Jeremiah 32:35, compared with Jeremiah 19:5, we find that these two things were parts of one and the same system. The god whom the Druids worshipped was BAAL, as the blazing Baal-fires show, and the last cited passage proves that children were offered in sacrifice to Baal. When 'fruit of the body' was thus offered, it was 'for the sin of the soul.' And it was a principle of the Mosaic law, a principle no doubt derived from the patriarchal faith, that the priest must partake of whatever was offered as a sin-offering (Numbers 18:9, 10). Hence, the

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

priests of Nimrod or Baal were necessarily required to eat of the human sacrifices; and thus it has come to pass that 'Cahna-Bal,' the 'Priest of Baal,' is the established word in our own tongue for a devourer of human flesh" (*Two Babylons*, p. 232).

Thus, our word "cannibal" comes from the word "Cahna-Bal," meaning originally "priest of Baal." Also, Molech, the name for "King" Nimrod, another appellation of Baal, or Bel, was obviously connected with the "bon fires" that were lit by the ancient Celts in their celebration of "Samhain," "lord of the dead." Thus, the origin of the holiday we know as "Hallowe'en" is incredibly ugly, vile, and an abomination in the sight of YEHOVAH God, and Yeshua the Messiah.

YEHOVAH God's Word says of this inhuman and vile pagan religion: "And they built the high places of BAAL, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this ABOMINATION..." (Jeremiah 32:35).

YEHOVAH thunders: "They have built also the high places for BAAL, to burn their sons with fire for BURNT OFFERINGS unto BAAL, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind: Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter" (Jeremiah 19:5).

When we consider the horrible ancestry of this modern celebration of Hallowe'en, and its gruesome and grotesque connection with darkness and evil, how can a true Christian even imagine to have anything whatsoever to do with this hideous, horrible, and macabre eve of pagan glorification of Satan, witchcraft, demons, ghouls, sorcery, and diabolical Satanic deception? What should a true Christian do about such "holidays"? YEHOVAH God's Word clearly commands and instructs us:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with DARKNESS? And what concord hath Christ with BELIAL (Satan the Devil)? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with IDOLS? Wherefore, COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, saith the LORD, and TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the LORD Almighty" (II Corinthians 6:14-18).

Make "no bones" about it. Hallowe'en is an abomination in the sight of YEHOVAH God, and any son or daughter of His should have nothing whatsoever to do with this wicked, evil, and despicable "holiday" which the world around us celebrates with fervor and glee. YEHOVAH forbids that any of His children should get involved in this wicked abomination! As the apostle Peter declared, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conduct; because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15-16).

See HOIM Staff's other articles at:
[HOIM Staff – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: Hope of Israel Ministries
<https://www.hope-of-israel.org/>

Getting Involved in this Worlds Politics – Right or Wrong?
(Copyright 2018 & 10-08-2024) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

WE WERE TAUGHT IT WAS WRONG

In the Churches I was involved with for the past major part of my life, it was pretty much understood and taught that a member should not get involved in the political part of this world's 'evil government'. This was based in a large part on

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

the book of Revelation chapter 18 and verses 4 and 5. These verses read in the King James Version, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” It is talking about a system of government that is very corrupt and will be destroyed in the future.

There is no denying this world’s general systems of government are a den of evil works including our own here in the United States of America and that Ha Satan or the Adversary is the primary influence. We can see that by the constant barrage of news reports of corruption and illegal goings on from the local councils of villages on up to the highest positions of government in the land. Maybe once in a while we might see someone stand up for proper values in politics, but it seems to be very little, especially in the upper echelons of government.

Powerful forces of various businesses, organizations and individuals are directed at those who have been elected to serve and represent others in various offices. Businesses especially seem to have a vested interest to try and promote or change rules, regulations and laws that would be in the supposed best interest of that particular business or group. Politicians, i.e. servants or representatives of the general populous, are constantly being asked to do this or that, often with a monetary reward for a prize if they will. In other words, bribes and corruption are the name of the game. This could be monetary, fabulous vacations or even sexual favors if the politician will vote or help push other politicians to pass favorable laws or regulations that will result in what the business or political group desires. The politicians’ reelection will be assured by the money poured into their coffers by the vested interests. Americans tend to think of corruption only happening in other nations of the world, but it is rampant in our own political world also.

Sadly, it seems most people who get into politics or who desire to serve their communities often end up profiting enormously from their positions and live a rich lifestyle. And of course, their wages or salaries associated with their position of service would nowhere come close in allowing them to live in the luxury that many of them do. In other words, the power they hold means they likely have been corrupted into accepting bribes for their favors they were willing to do for vested interests. And this is often to the detriment of those citizens they are supposedly representing by their office.

HOW IT STARTED AND WHY WE WERE TAUGHT NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS

For the Israelite nations of old, this basically started when the people desired to have a government like the heathen nations around them. Why the people wanted such a government was due to corruption in high places. The reason is found in first Samuel chapter three. The child Samuel was given into the care and teaching of the then High Priest Eli. As a young child Samuel was taught the ways of life and righteousness he was to live. He listened carefully to the words taught by the High Priest Eli. Verse 19 says, “And Samuel grew, and Yehovah [the LORD] was with him and did not let none of his words fall to the ground.”

However, there was a problem with the High Priest Eli. When he should have been watching over and teaching his own children right values, he became lackadaisical and careless with his God-given responsibility! Verse thirteen of chapter three explains. It was because of how Eli did not do his job with his children, he and his descendants would lose their position of responsibility, their trust and their lives. Eli’s children, because of the lack of proper parental supervision became corrupt and did what was evil and vile in the eyes of Yehovah. Proverbs 19:18 tells us, “Chasten your son while there is hope, and let not your soul spare for his crying.” Proverbs also tells us, “Correct (chasten, instruct) thy son, and he shall give you rest; yea, he shall give you delight unto your soul.” Our Savior said much the same thing as recorded in Matthew 10:36, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

Eli however honored his priest sons Hophni and Phinehas more than he feared his Creator. This family grew fat, probably both physically and financially, by taking or demanding more than was properly due them (1 Samuel 2:29). Later, it cost all three of them their lives.

ANOTHER DIRECTION? WHAT ABOUT THE GAP?

So, the churches that were in my background and taught that it’s members should not get involved in the political system but just work whatever type of jobs they could, would seem to be correct. I believe the word ‘seem’ might be the operative word here. Is there another case to be made that might point in another direction?

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

Could we say these churches are maybe missing the mark in what they believe their members should be able to properly do in serving or representing others if they so desired? Are they saying their members are so morally and spiritually weak that they would not be able to stand up to the financial or moral pressures that would come upon them in a political office?

What essentially was (and probably still is) being taught reminds me of this word we find in Ezekiel 22:30, “And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” Our Creator was saying then and still is apparently, that there *should be* those that would do what is right and not give in to the influence of Satan and the pressures this world has to offer.

We Believers in the Messiah or the Anointed One, have and are being taught the way of life that leads and guides us to doing what is right in the eyes of our Creator. That is what spiritual leaders are to be teaching and the reason why we study the scriptures. Many of those spiritual teachers that were in my background believe and teach that our time *is not now* to be involved in serving others in the political or service arena. The teaching is that we must wait until the Messiah our Master returns again and we receive our new spiritual body. *Then* we will be able to be leaders and guides of the yet physical mankind left here on earth (Revelation 20:4-6).

That teaching is correct in what *will* happen someday in the future. However, does that mean it would be wrong to serve our fellow citizens in some political capacity if we have that desire or have the opportunity to do so, even though the political system we currently have is a carnal human system? Does that mean we could not act righteously in whatever capacity we would be serving in?

WHAT ABOUT THE PROPHET DANIEL?

Daniel is an interesting individual who became involuntarily involved in a foreign political system of his time. Daniel was an Israelite youth and either of the kingly line or one who was a prince who was captured by an enemy nation. Daniel was a well educated youth and skillful in wisdom and understanding. The king was looking for such individuals to serve in his headquarters or palace. This likely was because of the early training these particular men had had in their own country. The idea was to continue their training in the Babylonian system of governing. These then highly educated men could help the king govern his own people and it also would likely pacify the rest of the Israelite captives.

It happened that the king had a frightful dream which he promptly forgot but he knew the dream had some great meaning. He asked his wise men, those who did enchantments, did conjuring, and practiced magic. None could give the king the answer to what his dream was or what it meant. The king was furious and told the captain of the guard to kill all the wise men which would have included Daniel and his three friends. Daniel was smart and wise enough that he asked his friends to pray to their God for the answer to the king’s questions. The prayers were answered, and Daniel was able to tell the king what the dream was and what it meant.

The result was that Daniel and his friends were placed in high places of responsibility in the king’s government and Daniel himself was made ruler over the whole province of Babylon! Daniel served the king and other kings that ruled later in a wise and righteous way. In other words, Daniel became a politician in a heathen or gentile nation! And Daniel did not allow the gentile nation and its ways to corrupt his faith or the laws or Torah that he went by. He was willing to die if he had to in a severe test, but he would not budge in his convictions.

So, if a believer felt called to some type of political office, whether in a town, a city or some national position, and their goal was to be wise and to serve properly in whatever responsibility was involved, would it be wrong to be in that office or have that responsibility? It appears many church organizations would not approve.

The apostle Peter said that Yehovah is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

YES, THIS WORLD IS EVIL

The world and its political systems are replete with accounts of self-pride, of sexual sins, of lying, of using power unjustly for self-gain. Hypocrisy is rampant and the accepting of bribes. And bribes can come in many ways for politicians. It seems the normal course of action for too many involved in the political system. The apostle Paul in his time recognized this world is evil (Galatians 1:4). Mankind in general has not changed since Paul’s time either. But the faith, hope and patience of the true believer in Messiah is that He will return to earth when the time is right.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

But in the meantime, does that mean a person with our Father’s Holy Spirit in them cannot resist those forces of evil and do what is right and just? Daniel walked in faith and did what was right in the eyes of his God even though he was a part of the corrupt government system of his day. Cannot our resolve be like Daniels’? We have to know what our Father’s values are and make sure they are in us also. If we did serve in a political office does that mean we would never make a mistake? Certainly, it could happen, however it should be just a mistake or a misjudgment, it should not be a deliberate sin.

From the book of Proverbs chapter 6 we find our Creator hates certain things that carnal mankind is prone to do. He hates the proud look or attitude. He hates a lying tongue. He hates the shedding of innocent blood. He hates a heart that comes up with ways to do things that are not just and right and feet that swiftly tries to get evil accomplished. He hates witnesses that lie under oath. He hates the discord among brethren or brothers that results from such evil activities.

However, if we have the love of the Messiah or the Anointed One in us and we are aware of the way of life we are to live including loving our neighbor as ourselves, then even if such a person is in some political position that would and should still be the course of action we would follow in making decisions. With the power of our Father’s Spirit and His Word living in us, we should be able to recognize and reject any carnal way that the system might tempt us with. Our Father will help us through any test or trial that might come our way if we are humble, have a contrite spirit and we respect His word (Isaiah 66:2).

A politician or public servant needs to make right and just decisions and not be swayed by those who have power that might try to wrongly influence him or her. On the other hand, they are also not to be swayed from making a proper decision just because someone is poor and is not dressed in fine clothes (John 7:24).

There is an interesting few verses in the book of Proverbs that comes to mind in relationship to helping an innocent individual in desperate need. It is in chapter 24:10-12. “If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. 11 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; 12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?” (KJV)

Question. There are many ways in which innocents could be slain or killed. Are not innocents also in danger of death from evil or corrupt politicians; sometimes even literally? And if we might be held responsible by our Creator for what appears the obvious meaning in a life or death situation, how about if we have the opportunity politically to try to stop some evil law or regulation by a carnal politician? Might we be shirking our responsibility to love our neighbor as our self?

CERTAINLY THERE COULD BE PROBLEMS FOR A BELIEVER TO OVERCOME SERVING IN POLITICAL OFFICE

One of the possible problems that could come up is what to do about keeping the Sabbath. It might take some ingenuity and wisdom from our Father in working that out. Apparently, Daniel and his friends found some way to overcome their problems.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES THAT TALK ABOUT ESCAPING THE POLLUTIONS OF THE WORLD?

This is probably one of the more likely questions a believer might ask. The apostle Peter did say, “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Yeshua Messiah [Jesus Christ], they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. (2 Peter 2:20)

The question though is entangled in what? The world and its political systems? I do not believe that is what Peter was driving at nor what Revelation 18:4 was invoking when it said to “come out of her my people.”

Here is what Peter was talking about in 2 Peter 2. He talked about sinful attitudes of lust, corruption, being deceitful, loving rewards for doing what was wrong; eyes full of adultery and despising government. It was the pollution of sin he was talking about; not the serving of others in a position of responsibility in some political governmental office.

The apostles did not say anything about brethren working in government positions in their day as that would have been the exception. There was the jailer who converted upon seeing what happened to the apostles that were miraculously let loose by an angel. It does not say what happened to him but he might certainly have kept his service job. There was

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

Cornelius, the centurion who worked for Rome. Upon Peter baptizing Cornelius and his family there is no mention that he changed from that government service position. And for us currently in the United States, our system of government by the people and for the people was never in effect back then. The citizens put their/our choice of servants into the positions of responsibility or political office. I believe that could even be a believer and that it would not be wrong in the eyes of our Heavenly Father.

CONCLUSION

Probably not many believers would desire to attain to political office including myself, but churches that teach their members that doing so means that they are getting involved with the world, are in my opinion misunderstanding the scriptural teachings and doing their members a disservice. Also, the citizens of a town, city or nation are deprived of someone who has been trained in righteousness who will make their effort in trying to properly do what is right. Yes, we know this current world is destined for being taken down because of sin, but in the meantime, there may be believers who could stand in the gap. I also believe we have been given the power and biblical authority to at least try to make better changes in voting for a person who appears to have at least some of the same values that we have. If we show we care enough to want to make a difference in this world by fervent prayer and voting, then just maybe the Father will make sure to put in leadership a person He wants that will be a blessing to us all.

If you are thinking on voting and have not done so before, there may only be a short time left to register in your local county before it may be too late.

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 Bride Prepared (Chapter 9) **(Copyright) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)**

[Chapter 9: Jesus Warns the Church](#)

A Bride Prepared

Jesus Warns the Church

Over and over in the Scriptures, Jesus warns His Bride to be prepared. Do we recognize that the warnings *are for us* – and not for somebody else? Jesus gives us the parable of the person who came to the marriage supper not having the proper wedding garment. The proper wedding garment is symbolic of the preparedness and righteousness of the saints. The person who shows up **unprepared** is cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 22:2-14). Christ shows that some people will think that they are righteous – when they are not. That is a **warning for us** today, as much as Jesus’ message to the Laodiceans is a forewarning to those of us in these last days to zealously repent (Revelation 3:19).

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for His Son.” (Matthew 22:2) When Jesus, speaking of His own marriage to His Bride ends the parable with the warning in verse 14, **“Many are called, but few are chosen”** – that should shock us out of our complacency, spur us into action, and wake us up. Jesus issues these warnings to us because He knows that our generation possesses an inherent weakness – a proclivity to excuse ourselves. It seems that most of the brethren would rather think of themselves as **faultless Philadelphians**, rather than heed what the Spirit says to all the churches – especially the Laodiceans.

Without a doubt, many brethren in the last day will go into the tribulation because of their half-hearted approach to their faith. Though they have been the recipients of bountiful peace, copious fellowship, and a wealth of doctrinal truth, they do not yet possess the full spirit of unity and brotherly love that Jesus requires of His Bride (Revelation 3:17). *“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* (Ephesians 4:3)

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

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

During the Tribulation when Satan goes to make war with the remnant, there will be an additional number of brethren who will stand-up, be counted, lay down their lives, and come out of the Tribulation. *“These are they who came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”* (Revelation 7:14, 12:17) They will also be the Bride of Christ in the first resurrection because they really lived their interactive faith – loving God and interrelating on a spiritual plane with the brethren.

Who among the brethren will have the fortitude to openly stand against the policies of the Beast Power? It will be the hardest thing they have ever been called upon to do. Those who have believed themselves to be “pillars in the Church,” who have been used to enjoying the advantages and privileges of the elite, will have the most difficult challenge.

How many will respond negatively – caving in – as so many brethren and ministers did in going right along with the false teachings of the apostasy? At the end, Jesus said that the very elect would be deceived, if possible. *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”* (Matthew 24:24) Are we so brash as to suppose that it could not possibly happen to us?

The Pretentious Church of God

The Bride-to-be should be taking the responsibility to prepare herself, seriously – and not just for show. After all, we answer to Jesus Christ – and no one else. When it comes to doctrine and Biblical understanding, we have been given more than any people in history. It would be easy to get puffed up and superior-minded when thinking, “We have so much more than others.” But that is not an appropriate response for the great blessings we have been afforded. Jesus said, *“Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.”* (Luke 12:48) Think about how much God is going to hold us accountable because we have the whole Word of God; we know and understand the plan of God; we have the freedom and means to celebrate the Holy Days; we have the privilege to be able to keep the weekly Sabbath and the annual Passover; and we are fed continually with good literature and sermons expounding on the Scriptures.

The Church of God is puffed up and has not humbled itself and become unified – not even to fulfill the last request of Jesus – *Father that they may be one.* (John 17) We will give an answer to Christ if we fail to do everything possible to achieve unity with all true Christians. *“These things, brethren, I have, for your sakes... written, that no one of you be puffed up one against another.”* (1 Corinthians 4:6) Paul wrote that verse because there existed an arrogance among the membership that said, “Our group is best, and we cannot be bothered to help a brother from another faction into the Kingdom of God.”

Eight times the Scriptures tell us that God is no **respector of persons**. *“There is no respect of persons with God.”* (Romans 2:11) Neither can we be respecters of persons. This is another dangerous trait of the Church of God that the Bride must avoid. It manifests itself in those who have the viewpoint that God has selected only them to be the “very elect.” After all, they reason that they made the right decision at the right time to go with the right group. And, since they are so certain of their exclusive tie to God, they make it a priority to convince others to join with them – and they reject or loathe those who will not join them.

Those people who think that God loves them alone because of some unique understanding they possess do not see their own weakness and pride. Let us pray to understand the mercy and the mind of Christ.

The Bride Judges Rightly

We are warned not to be judgmental with insensitive feelings toward the inept, neither those who lack influence, nor those who are less educated than others. We are also not to have **respect of persons** by giving preferential treatment to those who are rich, articulate, politically savvy, and more socially adept, while dishonoring the less well-to-do. The latter are the potential Bride of Christ in the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:27).

“My brethren do not have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in work clothes, and

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

*you give **preferential treatment** to him that wears the fine clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then **divisive in yourselves**, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor.” (James 2:1-6)*

As clear as this Scriptural teaching is, people still justify their separation from other brethren – and it is plain and simple – division in the Church. “*Is Christ divided?*” (1 Corinthians 1:13) Absolutely not! He is not divided – that is the point – and yet, there are holdouts today that would prevent brethren from reaching across artificial church lines to other brethren. Make no mistake about it – Jesus Christ is not going to return to a scattered bunch of churches. Jesus Christ will have only **one Bride** – made up of all the brethren who are being led by God’s Holy Spirit.

This one single point of God’s instructions – *do not give preferential treatment* – is widely ignored and could disqualify us from being the Bride of Christ. James shows that we are not to put a dividing line between the brethren. “*If ye fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have **respect to persons**, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law **as transgressors**. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*” (James 2:8-10)

We must admit that this church party spirit we see all around us is wrong. Party spirit is the divisive factions within the church that do not respect the fact that God is calling together a **broad spectrum** of humanity to be His sons and daughters. What are we to do about the problem? The answer is that we must be instrumental in healing the breach. Take a stand! Recognize your brothers and sisters who are in other groups all around the world – who have a right relationship with God – and build an association with them.

Reestablish a fellowship with all your brethren. Jesus Christ will be pleased. The Bible reveals that there are many false ministers that the brethren are to be careful of – they are not rooted and founded in Jesus Christ. Have the courage to do what God requires of us. Our task is not to find the single corporate organization that Christ is fully pleased with – because it does not exist on earth at this time. Every true Christian’s mission is to be firmly rooted in Jesus Christ.

See Warren Zehrung’s other articles at:

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

Reprinted with permission from: Sabbath Church of God

<http://childrenofgod.net/>

Countdown 471

(Copyright 10-02-2024) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

Greetings Brethren, and a Happy Feast of Trumpets to all.

At sunset this evening I gave the shofar a blast to mark the beginning of the Holy Day. In ancient Israel, a ram’s horn (*shophar* in Hebrew) was blown annually on the first day of the seventh month – the new moon – the Feast of Trumpets. This Feast commemorates the blowing of the trumpets that will precede Christ’s soon coming return.

This Generation

It was only **two days** before Jesus’ final Passover and death on the cross, when the disciples asked Jesus about all the structures on the Temple Mount (Matthew 26:2). Jesus explained to them that everything they were looking at was going to be destroyed – to the extent that there would not be left one stone upon another that was not thrown down (Matthew 24:2).

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

Jesus then crossed over the Kidron brook to the Garden of Gethsemane on the western face of the Mount of Olives with several of His disciples:

Matthew 24:3 As [Jesus] sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, **when** shall these things be? and **what** shall be **the sign** of thy coming, and of the end of the age?

After Jesus revealed some of the signs of the end of the age to His disciples, He said:

Matthew 24:34 Truly, I say unto you, **This generation** shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Jesus was revealing a prophecy of future events to His disciples. As of yet, the disciples had no idea that He was giving them a preview of the Seven Seals of Revelation—the last of which is the Seven **Trumpets**.

That phrase, “**This generation**,” is speaking of the people who would hear the Gospel of the Kingdom being preached in all the earth—that’s good. But that generation will also experience catastrophes like: wars, floods, disease epidemics, horrible natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis, tribulation, and the abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place. All of these precursors will herald the coming of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, when the Kingdom of God will be near at hand.

Brethren, there is one thing we can be sure of: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of all mankind, is returning—this second time, to establish His Father’s Kingdom over all this earth!

In today’s sermon we will be looking specifically at **which** generation Jesus was speaking about and what they will go through. If these verses are speaking of **our** generation, which they are, what can we expect? We have only a short time left. The fifth seal that Jesus reveals is religious persecution and **tribulation** (Revelation 6:9).

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

This sermon is an **urgent warning** to us, the Church of God. We often think of ourselves as a **privileged** generation in that some of us will be in a place of protection from Satan when trouble comes, and we will **not have to die** to enter the Kingdom of God.

Let’s ask ourselves this question, “Why would God select us out of all the peoples who have ever lived, and offer us the Kingdom, **without having to die** like billions and billions of others have?” What could make us so special?

1Thessalonians 4:17 Then **we who are alive** and remain [to the last day] shall be caught up together with [all those saints throughout history who have died], in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wow! Aren’t we the lucky ones, brethren? We are living the good life now. We go to all the church potlucks. We see our friends on the Sabbath and at the Feasts. We don’t have to worry about the Tribulation because we will be spared the troubles of it. We all ‘know’ that we are not like the Laodiceans who make God so sick to His stomach that He has to regurgitate. We are living the most charmed life ever! ... or not?

We would be wise to ask ourselves this question, “Who will have **to die**—be slain for the word of God—in order to be in the first and better resurrection (Matthew 24:9, Revelation 7:13-14, 6:9-11)?” Then, on the other hand, why will some of the brethren **never have to die**? There must be something so very special about those saints that God would make an exception to the rule, “It is appointed unto men once to die” (Hebrew 9:27).

Who is Going – Who is Staying Behind

The Bible tells us that at the end, people will be eating and drinking and marrying—having a great time! But eventually, things will come to a head when God allows the Beast to make war with the saints and overcome them:

Revelation 13:15 ... as many as would not worship the image of the Beast should be killed.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

Those saints who are being protected will not have to face this most severe trial. The Bible is clear that a portion of the Church **will be** protected and nourished in a Place of Safety, and the remainder, **will not be** protected (Revelation 12:14-17).

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why is there a Place of Safety?” “What is its purpose?” “What will qualify some for the Place of Safety?” What is it that God is looking for?

Witnesses

Somehow, in God’s great providence, He will **protect a little flock** from the horrors of the Tribulation. “Why did they make it to the Place of Safety, and not me,” some will ask? The small group of physically protected saints will, from their place of refuge, be a light and beacon of hope to their Christian brethren who **have not** yet overcome Satan. Those brethren in the Place of Safety will be witnesses that God has a very high standard, from which He will not deviate. The rest of the brethren will finally learn that true Christianity is no “gravy train” when they ask themselves, “Why not me?”

Those who will be protected will have already proven their faithfulness to God; He knows where they stand; He sees their track record with Him; and He will not require them to experience the horrors that the rest of humanity will suffer. Why? They will not have to die in the Tribulation because they have already laid down their lives often in service to their brethren.

Overcomers

Overcoming has to do with putting God and His Way first in our lives and overcoming Satan. Jesus enumerated three distinct points which are necessary to overcome Satan. They are absolutely required of all who will enter the Kingdom of God (Revelation 12:11, Revelation 3:21). The overcomers laid down their lives daily—sacrificing themselves—following Christ’s example (Romans 12:1). That third point is the deciding factor as to who goes to the Place of Safety, and who will have to wash their robes in the Tribulation [martyrdom]: Each one must overcome Satan by loving the brethren enough to lay down his life daily for them.

Revelation 3:21 To him that **overcomes** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

We, of the Church of God are being judged now. Our Savior tells us: As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be **zealous** therefore, and repent (Revelation 3:19).

The Children of God.net

Working together around the world

Bringing the message of hope to a world in turmoil

SabbathCoG.org

Listen to Live Services at 2:00 PM Central Time on the Holy Days by calling the Free Conference Call dial-in number, (667) 770-1685 and entering the Participant access code: 696903# The playback number is (667) 770-1688. The playback Reference Number for Trumpets sermon is 414#.

We wish everyone a spiritually profitable Feast of Trumpets.

Your brother in Christ,

Warren M. Zehrung

See Warren Zehrung’s other articles at:

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

Reprinted with permission from: Sabbath Church of God

<http://childrenofgod.net/>

Kill-Baby-Rights Women: The Baby's BODY is Not Your "Own Body" (Copyright 10-06-2024) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Abortion Depravity: Life or death for Babies is a women's right! Democratic party Serpent: VP Kamala Harris falsely claims a women's "right over her own body" includes killing the baby that is Not her "own body." Arrogant and blind to truth America: The Baby's body is as unique as yours and there will never be another you!

Your body was yours in your mother's womb and still is! A women's right over her own body" is **irrelevant to the "baby's body" struggling for life in her womb!** Frankenstein Democratic party snakes own the bloody - **kill your baby and vote for me, business.** Baby's Sacrificed delights happily seduced and evil democratic party female voters. **Father veiled in darkness: The right to know or defend his baby mocked.**

The Devil's Work: Mold women into his own evil image and like Adam men follow. Evil "Kill Baby Rights" women: Need "Open Rebuke" to Inspire Repentance. Twenty "Kill Baby Rights" Evil Concepts:

1. Women Vote Democrat, defenders of "Kill Baby Rights" close your eyes and blind yourself to Truth, give Bloody Frankenstein, License to kill your baby.
2. Daughters of the State: **As Eve believed Satan instead of God, women believe Devil-Media, instead of God. Kill their Babies with this evil, my, my, totally me motive: Baby you're in my way, my prosperity, my fun and my life to live - Excludes You.**
3. Women and girls "repent" free yourselves from the Devil's faithful Democratic party Serpents: Delighted to devour your baby in exchange for your - VOTE.
4. Women: Abortion "kill baby rights" is Not Free. Giving your baby over to death will cost you - Your Life - Luke 13:1-5 "Unless you repent you will parish."
5. WOMEN: The evil "kill baby right" motive for your Vote is Recorded in Heaven. Matthew 12:37 "By your votes (words) you will be justified or condemned."
6. **Devil-Media Speaks: My Daughters, vote democratic party. "Kill Baby Right" Granted. Wash your hands in Blood and be Innocent in Devil-Media Eyes.**
7. Women: Vote Democrat the Unholy Sacrament of the Democratic Party is Killing Babies. Repent or Judgment Day will be Forever Abortion for you - John 5:28-29.
8. Women and Girls: Vote "kill baby rights" become Mothers or Murderers is your free "choice."
9. Women: **Devil-Media and Democratic party snakes own you: By your vote you sold your soul for the right to kill.**
10. Women: Kill your baby: Be as **Bloody as Jezebel** - who was cursed and devoured by dogs; except Jezebel would never kill her own - 2: Kings 9:10.
11. Women: **Vote Democrat: Sacrifice your Baby: A Guilty Conscious is your reward, or a Seared Conscious that Can no Longer Distinguish Between "good and evil."**
12. Women hear your, Demon Possessed Democratic Party Daddy's message: Daughters vote for me. Baby Sacrifice is my Delight.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

13. Women Voters: REPENT - CHOOSE LIFE - Protect the Innocent - Democratic Party Snakes have marked for Slaughter - Love God and your neighbor “as yourself” includes your baby - Matthew 22:37-39.
14. Women: Democratic-Party-Snakes Entice you to be - Sexually Promiscuous, and Stone-Hearted with - Bloody “Kill your Baby Rights.”
15. Women: Does the statement “Abortions Wins Elections” expose the evil hearts of most Women? God examines the hearts of all.
16. Women: “Kill your baby rights” is freedom from responsibility and becoming wives or mothers. Unfaithful thoughtless - Sexual Relationship welcome, the Devil.
17. Women: ***Kill your baby rights really is: Promiscuous Rights for - Evil Women. Repent and wash away the bloody stain of Innocent Blood in your hearts!***
18. Women: The abortion motive for your vote is written on your spirit in Full View of God. Repentance removes guilt from heart, mind, and spirit.
19. Women: God gives Life at Birth – Devil-Media, Democrats and Evil women demand death of the innocent Instead of Birth.
20. Women: “Love your neighbor as yourself” includes your baby. Love in the eyes of God is Critical. Boasting “Kill baby right” a women’s “choice” will drag you to hell.

Devil-Media drives Lawmakers, Judges and Gullible Women - like dumb mules! Whatever evils Devil-Media calls good, possessed Lawmakers and Judges defend in Law! Repent: The Son of God - Crucified paid our debt of sin and is light that shines beyond the grave. Praise God.

See Richard Frate’s other articles at:

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

Muslim Political Terrorism –
Masked as Religion – DEPORT Muslims:
(Copyright 10-06-2024) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Who Support - Muslim bloody “doctrine” shedding the blood of Jews and Christian, men, women, and children, who will not honor - Muhammad, is a ticket to “Paradise.” Paradise and virgins promised to young Muslim men turns them into - October 7th - Bloody Zombies who relish the screams of terrorized women and children. All Mosque leaders who teach that – or demonstrate in support of the bloody Zombie-Madness of - October 7, 2023, should be fined and then “DEPORTED.”

Leviticus 19:17 “Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.” Arrest as Terrorist then Deport Palestinian Muslim Savage Men: involved in demonstrations in support of repeated rapes of women and young girls, and for shouting “kill the Jews as they do in Mad-Muslim demonstrations. Any Palestinian - unconcerned regarding the torture of the helpless, repeated rapes and captives buried alive in the dungeons of Gaza who survived - October 7th Atrocities is a - ***bloody savage.***

Israel and America, making a peace agreement with savages who teach their children your blood and your children’s

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

blood is a ticket to Paradise is FOLLY. **Deport Palestinian men to Gaza:** They can fight against Israel and defend other Savages like themselves. If Palestinians in America are really concerned about the suffering of the women and children in Gaza, they should **protest against Egypt** for Not opening the border and taking women and children as refugees.

Instead, Palestinians in America are delighted that Palestinian men in Gaza are using women, children, captives as shields and as opportunity to accuse Israel.

The blood of women and children: is on the hands of leaders in Egypt. Egypt open the border and allow women and children safety. Then Palestinian men would be free to fight Israel confident their women and children are safe. **The reality is without women, children, and innocent captives as protection shields Palestinian men would feel naked.**

Praise the wicked democratic party snakes are unconcerned Palestinians all learn to hate Jews, those who support Jews as long as they vote democrat. Democrats compel many blacks to - **play victim** - and hate “White America” to harvest black votes.

Leviticus 19:17 “Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.” **God have mercy on Muslims:** God’s Greatest Law “Love God and your neighbor as yourself” is against Muslim law.

Muslim’s greatest law is “Honor my Muhammad or I will kill you and your children and secure “Paradise and virgins.” May God have mercy and bring Muslim’s to repent. Muslims: The blood of those you kill to please your Mad Mosque leaders and gain “Paradise” will drag you to hell instead.

Muslims: “Salvation is of the Jews, John 4:22.” The blood of the Son of God, Christ Jesus Crucified saves from sin and death. Eternal life and freedom from sin is the reward: Not Phantom Virgins in your Delusional Paradise! **Evil Muslim leaders deceive young men and boys promising them virgins in Paradise and use them to terrorize and dominate nations.**

Muslims are all – Shackled like slaves to the Mosque: Non dare Not demonstrate in support of - Bloody October 7th - fearful Mad-Muslim Bloody Zombies may be used against them. Israel, destroy every Mosque in Gaza and the West Bank: If Mosque leaders do not agree to stop teaching “kill a Jew or non-Muslim and go to “Paradise” madness. America should demand the same.

If a Muslim expressed distress to their Mosque leaders, because of the way Muslims tortured and repeatedly raped women and young girls on - October 7th - would the Mosque leaders mark them and their family for attacks? **YES. FEAR - SHACKLES - MUSLIMS TO THE MOSQUE!** Repentance and believing God: is against Muslim law. God is the “God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - this is my name forever” Exodus 3:15.

Salvation begins with repentance. God paid our debt of sin in the body and blood of his Son: Christ Jesus Crucified is light that shines beyond the grave. Forward to the FBI, DOJ, and DNC –

See Richard Frate’s other articles at:

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

Representative Government is an Israelite Institution
(Copyright 10-06-2024) by Jeffrey Caldwell (Arkansas)

In His last sermon (Deuteronomy 1:1) Moses says to the nation of Israel, likely a few million at that time: "Choose some well-respected men from each tribe who are known for their wisdom and I will appoint them as your leaders. Then you responded, 'Your plan is a good one'. So I took the wise and respected men you had selected from your tribes and

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

appointed them to serve as judges and officials over you. Some were responsible for a thousand people, some for a hundred, some for fifty, and some for ten.

"At that time I instructed the judges, "You must hear the cases of your fellow Israelites and the foreigners living among you. Be perfectly fair in your decisions and impartial in your judgments. Hear the cases of those who are poor as well as those who are rich. Don't be afraid of anyone's anger, for the decision you make is God's decision. Bring me any cases that are too difficult for you, and I will handle them." (Deuteronomy 1:9-17 NLT).

Then, several hundred years later, when David became king, for the first 7 years he ruled only over Judah (1 Samuel 2:4) and other elements that were closely allied with the tribe of Judah; but not over most of the tribes of Israel. After that first 7 years of ruling over Judah, all the tribes (their elders) went to him (2 Samuel 5:1) and "King David made a covenant before the LORD with all the elders of Israel. And they anointed him king of Israel" (2 Samuel 5:3). So, you see, it was an agreement with the representatives of the tribes of Israel that made David king over all of them.

Chapter 12 of First Kings describes the revolt of Israel which left David's grandson Rehoboam king only over Judah and closely allied elements; the ten tribes broke away. Rehoboam was a fool who would not listen to the will of the people and was very oppressive.

"When all Israel realized that the king had refused to listen to them, they responded, "Down with the dynasty of David! We have no interest in the son of Jesse. Back to your homes, O Israel! Look out for your own house, O David!"

So the people of Israel returned home." (1 Kings 12:15-16).

When all Israel is one, it is called "the united monarchy" -- which existed under Saul, David, Solomon and for a little while under Rehoboam. After the division of the kingdom there are two separate and sometimes even warring monarchies, "the Kingdom of Judah and the Kingdom of Israel"--"the divided monarchy".

Very quickly, under her king, "the House of Israel" fell into false religion; and she had many dynasties, being conquered and removed from her territory in about 721 B.C. whereas Judah was conquered and exiled about 586 B.C. Judah was steady with the Davidic dynasty, some kings good, some bad, with Manasseh and his son Amon being very bad, and ironically, Josiah, Manasseh's grandson, the best.

There is considerable reason to believe that the prominent representative governments in prosperous nations where the Judeo-Christian scriptures are revered are today's "lost tribes of Israel". For kings after Christ's return the nations of Israel will have Christ's apostles for their kings (Luke 22:30) and David will be king over all Israelite nations (Ezekiel 34:23-24). Then there will be "showers of blessing" (Ezekiel 34:26 NLT)!

See Jeffrey Caldwell's other articles at:
[Caldwell, Jeffrey – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Iron Sharpening Iron
In regard to: Countdown 471
Article by Warren Zehrung
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

As I read this, I got the feeling that Warren was saying all the saints that are protected would be in one place as in a place of safety. I know that Worldwide Church of God used to teach a place of safety where the church would go to a certain place and be protected through the tribulation. However, that is not what scripture teaches us.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 26, 2024 --- Issue No. 195

Since I cannot get into Warren's mind to know whether he believes there is a place of safety where those who are protected will be all in one place or if he means certain saints will be protected no matter where they are.

No matter what he believes, he is right that some people in the church will be protected, and some won't be protected. However, according to scripture, there is no place of safety where they will be in one place and protected.

Mat 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **Mat 24:31** And he shall send his angels with a **great sound of a trumpet**, and they shall **gather together his elect from the four winds**, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mar 13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. **Mar 13:27** And then shall he send his angels, **and shall gather together his elect from the four winds**, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

In Mathew 24:31, the trumpet mentioned is the seventh trumpet and when the seventh trumpet sounds the elect of God will be resurrected. In both sets of scripture above it clearly shows that those who are alive at Christs return are gathered from the four winds (four quarters of the earth). So the elect who are still alive at the time of the resurrection are not together in one place but scattered all over the earth and heaven (lower heavens).

So in conclusion, there is no place of safety as it was taught in the Worldwide Church of God. God is Great and Awesome and we should never limit His power. God is able to protect His elect no matter where they are.

Who Are the Nicolaitans?

(Copyright 10-06-2024) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Jesus said he hates the "the deeds of the Nicolaitans" ([Revelation 2:6](#)). He also said to the church in Pergamos, "you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate" ([Revelation 2:15](#)).

Who are the Nicolaitans? What are their deeds that Jesus Christ hates? What is their doctrine, that Jesus Christ also hates? How might these questions affect us? The answers to these questions should be of vital interest to us, as we are specifically warned about them, and they are spiritual cancers which not only exist outside the Church, but which according to Jesus Christ at times insidiously infects the Church of God itself.

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](#).

Sermon Link: [Who Are the Nicolaitans? | COGMessenger](#)

See Rod Reynolds other articles at:
[Reynolds, Rod – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](#)

Reprinted with permission from: Messenger Church of God
<https://www.cogmessenger.org/>

Stunning Parallels

(Copyright 10-08-2024) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

STUNNING PARALLELS BETWEEN OT KINGS OF ISRAEL AND DONALD TRUMP - AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR AMERICA - BY JONATHAN CAHN: MUST WATCH!!

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+stunniing+American+Mystery%3A+Trump+%26+the+coming++election+ 42:07 min.

The Stunning American Mystery: Trump & The Coming Election | Jonathan Cahn Prophetic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4KFIs5RcCw> 15:28 min.

Jonathan Cahn Speaks on Kamala Harris, Donald Trump, and The Election 2024

See James Stinele's article "Getting Involved in this Worlds Politics – Right or Wrong?" which was written in 2018, six years ago.

See James Steinle's other articles at:

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

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

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

Notes