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A Newsletter for the People of God
December 21, 2024 --- Issue No. 203

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

Contributors: Curtis Dahlgren, Dwight Fleming, Eddie Hyatt, Gary C. Miller, Wayne Schatzle, James Steinle, Warren Zehrung

Websites:

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Commentary:

Hi Everyone,

Here is a picture of Little Tweet in her little bed I bought for her. She was in here when I walked into my office one day. I haven't seen her in there since but it is kind of cute.



Musket is doing well. She is eating half a can of cat food twice a day now. So, time will tell if she gains her weight back.

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Little Tweet is the goofiest parakeet I have ever seen. Little Tweet is protected by living in her cage in my office. However, Lexi one of my 20 lb. Ragdoll cats comes to visit Little Tweet once or twice a day and it is so funny. Little Tweet will get right in Lexi's face through the cage bars of course. Little Tweet is not even afraid of Lexi and continually shows off for her by flapping her wings and climbing all over the cage.

I had bought a bird bath for Little Tweet quite a while ago and she didn't seem interested in it at all so I took it out. Well, today as she was showing off for Lexi she climbed in her water dish and tried to take a bath but she didn't fit because the water dish is too small. Now that I know she wants to take a bath, I put the bird bath back in the cage.

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

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

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

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

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

The 2024 Un-Election

(Copyright 11-12-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

The 2024 Presidential Election is now over and Donald Trump is the clear winner. Yet the race to the White House may not be over. If all goes as planned, Donald Trump on January 20th, 2025, is slated to become the 47th President of the United States.

Trump became the 45th President at his inauguration in January 2017. If he had managed to stay in the White House for a second term, he would have remained the 45th President. Joe Biden upon entering the White House in January of 2021 then became the 46th President.

Until Donald Trump is sworn in on January 20th of next year, it is still possible for Kamala Harris to become the 47th President which would then make Trump the 48th. Of course, this sounds a little far-fetched. But there are those who are calling for Biden to resign to allow Harris to become the first female president of the U.S.A. In other words, she would become president by an "un-election." This is how she became the Democrat nominee.

There are some hints in the Bible that this is a possibility. Perhaps only a weak possibility but so were the chances of her becoming the Democrat Presidential Nominee until it happened. The first hint comes from the analogy that Lance Wallnau gave back in 2016 when he likened Trump to a modern-day Cyrus. Cyrus is mentioned in Isaiah 45. Since Trump was slated to be the 45th President in 2016, Lance saw a historical and prophetic connection.

Jonathan Cahn has depicted Trump as fitting the King Jehu template. King Jehu defeated Jezebel as Trump defeated Hillary Clinton. And now Trump has defeated another type of Jezebel or even a type of Babylon. The 17th chapter of Revelation has a woman dressed in purple and is called Babylon the Great. See the video below showing Kamala at her inauguration in 2021.

Extending Lance Wallnau's analogy of connecting Trump 45 to Isaiah 45, then Biden 46 may connect to Isaiah 46. Isaiah

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47 then talks about Babylon. Babylon is addressed by God as a female. Could Isaiah 47 be hinting at the possibility of a female U.S. president? Will Kamala become the 47th President? Time will tell.

Others have come at this possibility from other angles. Perry Stone sees the possibility by using Hebrew letters and numbers. See his video below which came out several months ago. Also, Pastor Steve Cioccolanti sees the possibility of Trump 48 based on other indications.

After four years of Joe Biden being in the White House, another four years of Kamala Harris being in the White House would completely destroy our nation. If she should become the 47th President, then, hopefully, it will be only for a few weeks. Even that could prove to be disastrous.

Check out these short videos:

Kamala in purple: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b807dnTNPo8>

Kamala 47: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGDu_jHtuLI

Perry Stone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-e46hPt0e8&t=973s>

See Dwight Fleming’s other articles at:

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Never Quit

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The Lesson We Can All Learn from Donald Trump

Whether or not you like Donald Trump or whether you voted for the man, you cannot help but admire his resilience, perseverance and “never quit” attitude. He has persevered through two impeachments, numerous lawsuits and indictments, his home being raided, continual smear attacks by the media, two assassination attempts, and so much more. However, he never quit and is now returning to the White House.

Indeed, getting knocked down is no disgrace, but refusing to get up and try again is. Consider the string of defeats suffered by one of the greatest individuals of all times; yet he refused to quit and became one of the giants of human

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history.

- In 1832 he lost his job.
- In 1832 he ran for the state legislature and lost.
- In 1833 he failed in a business venture.
- In 1835 his fiancé died.
- In 1836 he suffered a nervous breakdown.
- In 1838 he ran for speaker of the state legislature and lost.
- In 1843 he ran for Congress and lost.
- In 1849 he applied for the post of land officer but was rejected.
- In 1854 he ran for the Senate and lost.
- In 1856 he ran for vice-president and lost.

HOWEVER, IN 1860 ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HE REFUSED TO QUIT!

Hebrews 6:12 tells us that it is *through faith and patience* that we inherit the promises of God. The word *patience* in this verse is a translation of the Greek word *makrothumia* and it means to “persevere” or to “continue in the face of trouble and adversity.” To put it simply and succinctly, it means you “don’t quit.”

Promise, Praise & Perseverance

During a tremendous battle of faith in 1989, God gave me three words which He said were keys to answered prayer. The three words are promise, praise, and perseverance. As pointed out above, *perseverance* is the same as the biblical word *patience*. It means that you don’t quit. It means that if you get knocked down, you get up and keep going.

Hebrews 6:13-15 presents Abraham as an example of one who refused to quit and obtained the promise of God. In Genesis 13:16; 15:5, God promised Abram that his descendants would be as numerous as the sand on the seashore and as the stars of heaven. However, the years passed without any fulfillment of this promise and finally Sarai and Abram were childless and too old to bear children. What does one do when faced with such adversity? You keep your eye on the promise, and you don’t quit.

It was about 14 years from the time God gave the promise to Abram to the time the promise was fulfilled in the birth of Isaac. At one time the faith of both Abram and Sarai wavered. They decided to help and hurry the fulfillment of the promise and Abram took Sarah’s maid, Hagar, and bore a son, Ishmael, through her.

God, however, revealed to them that this was not His way for the promise to be fulfilled. Abram and Sarai recovered and determined that they would trust God to fulfill that which He had promised. As a result, God changed their names: Sarai to Sarah which means “Mother of Nations;” and Abram to Abraham which means “Father of Nations.”

Of Sarah, Hebrews 11:11 says that, at the age of 99, she received strength to conceive because *she judged Him faithful who had promised*. Of Abraham, Hebrews 6:15 says, *And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise*. They were knocked down, but they got up, kept going and obtained the promise.

Delay Does Not Mean Denial

Christians often mistakenly think that if the answer to their prayer has not manifested within a few days or weeks, that God has denied their request. NOT SO! Delay does not mean denial. Delay often means that we need to persevere in the face of adversity until we obtain the answer we desire. In other words, it means that we DON’T QUIT. Through faith and not quitting we obtain the promise.

Someone has said that the giant oak is a little nut that held its ground. From a little nut to a sapling to a giant tree, it held its ground through heat, cold, wind, rain and storm. You may feel like a little nut today but hold your ground. Keep your eyes on Jesus and never quit. You will be amazed at the mighty things God will do in you and through you.

See Eddie Hyatt's other articles at:

Hyatt, Eddie – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Did God Resurrect Donald Trump's Political Career?

(Copyright 11-12-2024) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



The mainstream media and political pundits were stunned by Donald Trump's overwhelming victory on November 4. They are still recovering and attempting to fathom how it could have happened. They were so sure his political career was over.

After all, he had lost the 2020 election and had left the White House with two impeachments hanging over his head. His home had been raided by FBI agents looking for classified documents the Biden administration claimed he had stolen. Numerous federal and state lawsuits had been filed against him and the entire mainstream media was arrayed against him. His political career, indeed, seemed to have died.

But now, with the 2024 election well behind us, they are still wringing their hands and wondering how he could have won in such an astonishing manner. I am confident I have the answer, which I share below.

God Promises a Resurrection

In an article posted on [Charisma News](#) dated November 8, 2020, I shared how God had given me a word that His resurrection life would be manifest through Donald Trump. This occurred during a time of prayer on Saturday, November 7, just three days after the 2020 presidential election.

I had asked the Lord for an encouraging word for those I would be addressing in a Sunday morning live stream the following day. I knew that many were troubled and confused at the media reports that Joe Biden would be the next president of the United States. After all, so many "prophets" had declared that Trump would serve two consecutive terms.

The request for an encouraging word was hardly out of my mouth when there dropped into my heart and mind a word God had given me at a devastating time in my own life 46 years ago. I immediately knew it was the message God wanted me to share with the people concerning Trump's devastating loss.

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A Life-Changing Word from God

God reminded me of a powerful, life-changing word He gave when Sue and I were starting out in life and ministry together. This word came at a time when we had lost everything.

We lost our place to live. We lost the place where we were having meetings for the congregation and ministry we were planting in eastern Canada. Everything was gone. The God-given vision and mandate had died.

In the midst of this devastation, Sue and I sat on a park bench with two friends lifting our hearts in prayer. I remember their 5-year-old daughter, Cara, sitting with us and praying in tongues.

Suddenly, out of my innermost being, those rivers of living water that Jesus spoke about in John 7:37-39 began to flow, and I began praying in tongues. I realize that we charismatics have learned to pray in tongues on cue—at the drop of a hat. Such prayers, however, are too often from the neck up and powerless.

This was prayer that I could feel flowing out of my spirit. And all the time I was praying, I was hearing the words, **“Don’t be afraid of death because I Am the Resurrection.”** I recognized these as the words that Jesus spoke to Martha just before he raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead (John 11:25).

I knew that the Lord was telling me not to fear the death of the vision and mandate He had given. I knew He was telling me that it would be brought back to life, not by my scheming and planning, but by His resurrection life and power.

A resurrection did occur in our lives and ministry. A yielding to God, a determination not to quit, a step of obedience, and resurrection power flowed forth. The ministry that came forth was not the same as before; for it came forth in His resurrection power and in ways we could never have planned or strategized.

This was the experience that came so powerfully to my mind when I asked God for an encouraging word for the people concerning Donald Trump and his election loss in 2020.

Resurrection and the 2020-2024 Elections

Fast forward to 2024 and Donald Trump has astounded and confused the political and media pundits with his overwhelming, astonishing victory. Despite everything his enemies threw at him, he carried every one of the so-called “swing states” and made incredible gains in every demographic of American society.

I know this did not happen by mere political acumen and human strategy. This happened because God resurrected Trump’s political career. Because of this fact, we can expect his second term to far outshine his first term, for it has come forth in the resurrection life and power of our Lord.

Trump’s election also places a responsibility on the church for we must recognize this as a window of opportunity that has opened, and we make the most of it. I have been impressed with the words of Jesus in John 9:4, *I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*

God Has Resurrection Life and Power of You

One thing I learned through that experience is that the resurrection is more than just a future event. Resurrection has been personified in the Person of Jesus Christ and He has come to live in us and through us with His resurrection life and power.

Paul had an experience that he relates in II Corinthians chapter one where he and his companions went through an excruciating experience in which he thought death would be their lot. He said, however, that out of that experience he learned that, ***We should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.***

So, even apart from the 2024 election, I am convinced that in the days ahead we will see His resurrection life and power break forth on different fronts. Victory will come forth out of defeat. Life will emerge out of death. Success will arise out of failure. His words still ring true, **“Don’t be afraid of death because I Am the Resurrection.”**

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I'M READING THE Hank Aaron story, another of my one dollar purchases from a local library. When Hank was a boy in Mobile, kids threw bottle caps for baseballs, and they hit them with broom sticks. No *wonder* that town produced so many Hall of Famers. I learned a lot about one of my boyhood "idols." I'm looking back on happier days in Wisconsin. Eau Claire was Hank's first stop in pro baseball outside of some time in the Negro league. One of his boyhood pals wrote:

"The way I can still see Henry is, we'd be having a game on Saturday and he was late most of the time because his mother would have him doing chores. After a couple of innings, you'd see him running across that corn field. You'd see his head bobbing up and down over that corn, and whoever was batting would just lay that bat down, because Henry was going to pinch hit." [a word picture right out of "Field of Dreams"]

Wes Covington was a teammate of his in Eau Claire and got beamed by a pitcher one day (not a rare thing for the Afro-Am players in those days). Wes says: "I was the first black person who ever went into the hospital there. They assigned different nurses to me every day so they could all get the experience of being in my presence. The nurses would open my mail and water the flowers for me – all but this one nurse who must have been about sixty who filled the water pitcher every day. I'd see this arm coming around the door and picking up the pitcher, then coming around again and putting it back on the tray. One day I was out of bed when she came, and I looked at her. She just froze. She stared at me and poured the water nervously and left. She had never seen a black person.

"Well one day I was close enough to the door and handed her the pitcher. She bowed her head a little. Finally, she said something one day. After that, we had a little conversation, and by the time I left the hospital, she was sitting at the side of the bed talking to me like an old friend."

In the book, Hank says, "In a game against Ron Kline of the Pirates one year, we tied a record when I hit a home run and then Matthews hit one on the next pitch and Covington hit one on the pitch after that." [I saw them do that in Milwaukee. It's good not to let the first pitch go by just because it's the first pitch.]

[I recommend not letting a good first pitch go by just because it's the first pitch.]

The book made me realize that in the early 50s black players suffered almost as much discrimination as Jackie Robinson did in the 40s. They paved the way for Martin Luther King, Jr. and the next step in societal evolution. From the book:

"It wasn't just the fans, either. We had a few Southern boys on our ball club, and they'd say things . . . And believe me, there were some mean pitchers in that league. In Macon they had an old ballpark so big you could land a 727, and there was a tin fence that was too deep for a home run, so they had a snow fence inside it . . . When Henry was up there the second time, the pitcher said, "I got four for your head, – " One went behind Hank. The next pitch was right at his head, and Henry just stepped back a little and tomahawked that thing . . . About two seconds later you could hear the ball banging against that old tin fence way out there." – Joe Andrews, teammate at Jacksonville

They were playing in Augusta in 1953 when fans started throwing stones at Horace Garner in right field, along with taunts like "We're going to kill you next time." Aaron wrote:

"Horace always said he didn't mind the rednecks throwing rocks at him, but when they started hitting him, that was different . . . But we got our revenge that night. I was 5-for-5, and between us, Horace, Felix, and I were on base 13 times in 14 times at bat. That was the only recourse we had. And laughing. . . We'd exchange our stories and just laugh all night at how stupid people could be."

Hank was a natural line drive hitter. Sometimes the shortstop would leap for the ball and it would sail over the fence. He is especially happy about what he did in 1959, hitting for 400 total bases in 153 games. Ted Williams, Mickey Mantle, Ernie Banks, and Willy Mays never did that. Stan Musial did it in 1848 and Jim Rice did it in 1978, in 164 games, I think.

But after the 1959 season, Hank was in a home run derby in L.A. and won \$30,000, "almost two years worth of salaries." After six years in the majors, he started actually thinking "home run" more. And we all know how that ended. He probably could have hit 800 homers if he had tried sooner, but his *all-around* hitting helped the Braves

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win two pennants and a World Series. He's still disappointed that they didn't win *four* pennants and at least two World Series in the fifties. He says:

"Over the years, it was often said that playing in Milwaukee hurt my career – that I could have been a much bigger star and made more money on the Coasts. That may be so, but I think I would have been a lost child in New York. On the other hand, Milwaukee was perfect for me. Baseball has never seen fans like Milwaukee's in the 1950s and never will again. I was told that in the first game there in 1953, Warren Spahn was pitching to the second batter of the first inning, and all of a sudden people started standing and applauding all over the ballpark . . . They were the happiest fans in America, and they stayed that way all through the fifties . . . We'd go into a store to buy a suit, and they wouldn't let us pay for it .. Pafko got a Cadillac. Spahn got a tractor. Bruton got a down payment on a new house [he hit the home run that won that first game].

"Milwaukee was the smallest city in the major leagues, but it had plenty of help from the smaller towns around it. The Braves belonged to all of Wisconsin, as well as parts of Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, and North and South Dakota [and even Illinois]. . . On weekends, the train would pull up full of fans from Minnesota and drop them off in the rail yard right outside the ballpark . . . On Sundays there might be 200 school buses parked outside the stadium. I used to take the street car to the park and walk right along with the fans as they came streaming down the hills and over the bridges from Story Parkway."

The smallest city in baseball broke its attendance record (two million). NOW THOSE WERE SOME DAYS WORTH LOOKING BACK ON.

P.S. Hillary Clinton once asked "What was so good about the fifties?" The answer is we were making progress on "civility"! Since 2016 minorities have been making more progress too, but the previous Administration always took sides against the police, even repeating charges that were contradicted by witnesses, such as in Ferguson, Missouri. And "civility" in politics in Washington has back-slidden (or "slud) as Dizzy Dean would put it).

PPS: I was surprised at the hate mail Hank got when he approached number 715. It's funny that the Old South claimed they loved their slaves, but as soon as they were freed, it hated them. Why?

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

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Covid 19

(Copyright 11-15-2024) Sent by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

Dr. Mike Yeadon - purported “vaccines” against this alleged illness, COVID-19 were in my view deliberately designed intentionally to injure, kill and, and reduce fertility.

<https://www.theburningplatform.com/2024/11/10/dr-mike-yeadons-austrian-testimony/> article; not too long. Video can also be watched if wanted (15:14 min).

"Now this is an allegation I've been making for around three and a half years. In that time, if I was wrong, ladies and gentlemen, I think numerous scientists would have rebutted what I've said in writing and in video. And if I was wrong, I would have expected the drug companies whose products I am maligning to have sought and secured a court injunction to stop me repeating these allegations.

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Neither of those things have ever happened."

What has happened instead is that I have been extraordinarily censored and smeared sideways. And I think I offer that to you as strong evidence that I may be "over the target", at least in relation to these injectable products that have definitely injured and killed many people.

So first just a few brief words of introduction in terms of credentials. So, Mike Yeadon, I've been a professional research scientist for over 30 years in the pharmaceutical industry and in biotech. My first degree was in biochemistry and toxicology. It was a joint honours degree. I got a first, then I did a second degree, a PhD. It's a research based piece of work lasting three years and my focus was respiratory pharmacology, the study of impact of drugs on respiration and so on. And that led into my career where I became a senior research scientist responsible for new drugs to treat allergic, respiratory and later dermatology diseases. I was at one point Vice President and the most senior research person within Pfizer Global R&D, and I left in 2011. And for 10 years after that, seven of those I was founder and CEO of a biotech called ZIARCO which was acquired by Novartis in 2017, since when I've been a consultant although I've discontinued those activities in the last four and a half years or so. So, I've not earned a penny from speaking out in the last four and a half years and I don't want to either."

(see the rest of article in link)

PS: psalm 91

See James Steinle's other articles at:

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Scott Ritter Letter

(Copyright 11-16-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Received this letter today from Scott Ritter, former Weapons Inspector. He supports the nomination of Matt Gaetz for U.S. Attorney General.

Scott Ritter details his reasons for supporting Matt Gaetz. His report is very eye-opening to the underhanded and unscrupulous actions taken by certain government agencies against innocent Americans who become political targets.

We need new leaders in Washington, DC, who will "clean house" and rid our nation of the rot that has infected government bureaucracies. Of course, any human government will fall short of the glory of God. Yet, it behooves those of good conscience to strive toward the goal of perfection which God has set before all of us.

Matt Gaetz wrote a book back in 2020 where he powerfully described the political circus that our elections have become. The title: "Firebrand: Dispatches from the Front Lines of the MAGA Revolution."

Here is the link to Scott Ritter's Letter: https://open.substack.com/pub/scottritter/p/why-matt-gaetz-matters?r=2tdmw2&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email

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Are We Alone?

(Copyright 11-16-2024) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

Is the human race an isolated, lone speck of life in an impersonal universe?



WHAT IS MAN?

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou has ordained; What is man, that Thou are mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psa. 8:3-4).

Were we created, then left alone on this island in a vast universe to fend for ourselves; by ourselves?

A LONELY 'DROP IN A BUCKET'?

"...the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance...All nations before Him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing..."?! (Isa. 40:15,17)

ANOTHER SOURCE:

We are in the outback of the Milky Way galaxy with lifeless planetary neighbors. Is there none we can turn to in our struggle against the impersonal forces of nature?

THAT GREAT SOURCE:

Where and Who is that Great Source?

There is good news. That Source is here with us; right here on this speck we are riding through space: "Fear thou not; for I am with you: be not dismayed..." (Isa. 41:10)

HIS NAME IS YAHWEH

His name is Yahweh. This Earth is His home in the universe! Believe it or not! He gave us the Bible, a how-to manual for handling threats that come our way, He does answer personal pleas. We can talk to Him. It's called prayer. But He hears, He answers, IF we hear Him, and obey His commandments.

HE HAS A PLAN FOR MAN:

Is Man in His long-range plans? Yes!

"For the anxious longing of the CREATION [the universe] waits eagerly for the revealing of the Sons of Yahweh (NAS "God")...that the CREATION itself also will be set free ...into the freedom of the Children of Yahweh!" (Rom. 8:19, 21).

POWERFUL DESTINY AHEAD:

A powerful destiny is ahead for mankind as members of the Yahweh family that will Rule the Universe!"

See Gary C. Miller's other articles at:

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

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Chapter 17: Awaken out of Sleep

A Bride Prepared

Awaken out of Sleep

*"Behold, the **Bridegroom comes**; go ye out to meet Him."* (Matthew 25:6) What will happen to those who have not taken a stand or put their own wellbeing in harm's way to save a brother from ruin? Laying down our life as a living sacrifice is a prerequisite to qualifying as the Bride. Those who are not willing to *spiritually* lay their life down as living sacrifices – now – will have the opportunity to lay their life down – *physically* – in the tribulation. If nothing has been enough of a concern for us to **stand up and be counted** – laying it all on the line, as Christ gave us example, we should question whether we are awake or asleep.

There are some brethren – members and ministers alike – who have not found cause to rock the boat in their organizations. So far, everything is okay – they have been able to put up with the doctrinal changes, political intrigue, substitutions for pure religion, and the way just members have been mistreated. Their personal policy is to "play it safe – and keep their nose clean." They are not yet prepared to be the Bride because they are not *considering one another to provoke unto love and to good works* (Hebrews 10:24).

A person, who will not get involved in an uncertain situation to salvage a brother who is sinning, is not prepared to be the Bride of Christ. (Galatians 6:1) An individual like that, "cops out" by saying, "I'll put it in God's hands," which is their justification to avoid fulfilling their Christian duty. Our future is to reign and rule with Christ in the millennium as His helpmate (Revelation 5:10). What kind of helpmate would we be if we always defer every problem back to Christ to take care of? Now is the time for us to prove our willingness to put ourselves in harm's way in order to turn a brother around (James 5:20). It would not do in the millennium to insist on putting everything into Christ's hands. Jesus Christ will not have a wife – a helpmate – who relegates every task back to Him.

Jesus Christ is not going to marry a baby. He is not going to marry a childish bride. The Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, will marry a spiritually mature Bride. There are few, if any, examples of exemplary marriages in the Bible. The Church of God today has been given the opportunity to be the showcase of beautiful marriages founded on spiritual principles. These exceptional marriages of truly converted people will be used in the millennium as illustrations upon which to build a Godly society. The institution of marriage was established by God to symbolize the intimate relationship that exists between Jesus Christ and His Bride. As spiritual reality always far surpasses the mundane physical occurrences, the most perfect love that has ever existed between any man and woman on earth comes far short of the perfect spiritual union that will exist with Jesus Christ. That is the beauty of the wedding supper.

See Warren Zehrung's other articles at:

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

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What is the Reason for the Season? **(Copyright 2005) by Wayne Schatzle (West Chester, Ohio)**

Increasingly each year there is a call to put Christ back in Christmas. With the continual push to remove God from our nation, Christmas almost is a last refuge for Christians. Seemingly they have circled the wagons to defend this most holy day.

Like it or not Christmas has become a world holiday, and not just for Christians, but has become important to all nations of all religions, not just for celebration but is a boon to their economies by manufacturing cheap goods for Christians to buy. It should come to no surprise to everyone that the celebration at the end of December that is so popular, long preceded the birth of Christ. With the advent of the Internet, it is easy to find proof of the pagan roots.

Mithra or sun worship can be traced to the beginning of recorded history. Commonly known as saturnalia and burmalia was a weeklong celebration commencing on December 25th as the sun returned in strength to provide its blessings. This was Mithra's birthday and celebrated with wild parties as it spread easily throughout the world. This holiday proved impossible for the early church to overcome so it was decided to "christianize" it and put a Christian spin on it and say Jesus was born then as well. Most cultures have added their own traditions to the day so you will find bits of ancient Greece, Rome, Persia and even Germany in it. Even the druids that worship nature have the quaint custom of cutting a tree and bringing it into the home and decorating it. Even to this day millions follow that tradition even in the face of God's clear prohibition of it {Jeremiah 10}.

It is a losing battle for sincere Christians to restore this holiday to a pure celebration to our Savior, as there are just too many pagan traditions associated with it. Most try to have some sort of worship in spite of the abominations. A very important thing to remember is Deuteronomy 12:29-32, which is a dire warning for His people not to worship Him with the devices of the nations around them. Aaron's calf is a good case in point. Him making the idol wasn't meant to ignore God but to make a representation of the True God that brought them out of slavery using ways they had learned in Egypt {Exodus 32:4}. That error in judgment cost the lives of many and taught them a lesson not soon forgotten.

Ironically there is an easy answer for Christian purists. As Christmas has been observed as an eight-day festival-oddly enough there is a BIBLICAL eight-day festival in God's law that just happens to fall within the time period of Jesus' actual birth in the fall! It is called the Feast of Tabernacles {Leviticus 23:34}. Many thousands of Christians now celebrate this feast, and many are coming to see the symbolism of Christ's birth and Him dwelling among men. Many now actually sing the familiar songs we hear in December of the wonderful birth of Jesus the Savior {devoid of the meaningless songs}! It seems a bit awkward initially but soon you can see the blessing of pure celebration with Biblical feast days without the baggage of pagan traditions that God so hates.

For those with the courage to make changes in their lives and honor Christ at a biblical feast, do an Internet search of the "Feast of Tabernacles" and find out where you can attend with a group near you this coming fall.

See Wayne Schatzle's other articles at:
[Schatzle, Wayne – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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

Holy Days 2025

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

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025

Pentecost – June 2, 2025

Trumpets – September 23, 2025

Atonement – October 2, 2025

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

Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

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