

Basic Instructions for New Testament Believers

**A Basic Primer of
Facts for Today's
New Testament
Believers**

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

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Scripture quotations

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The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.

The Basics

Why do I feel compelled to present Bible facts to many who are now claiming to be new Christians. You claim to be living in a modern world of open mindedness and with an understanding that the old covenant is to be done away with. I've even heard that many are claiming that the stories in the old covenant are myths. Okay, here is fact number one. Jesus is the Messiah (the Savior of the World, the Anointed One of God, and the Prince of Peace) and the only way for anyone to find the pathway of hope (desire) to go to Heaven! I do not know what is being taught about this. The fact is that there are 312 prophecies pertaining to the Messiah in the full (entire, both Old and New Testament) Word of God. Are you taught any of these prophecies to prove to yourself that Jesus (Yeshua) is the promised Savior? If I gave you only two of these prophecies just to show you the odds of probability, would you accept that Jesus is the true Messiah? Prophecy one: The Christ child must be born from a virgin. That alone should cause the odds for such a fact to occur that the mind of man cannot even imagine how such a thing could happen. Prophecy two: Christ must be born in Bethlehem of Judea. At the beginning of the Christian Era, there would have been few male children to be born in this little village of Bethlehem of Judea. The odds of both of these prophecies happening at the same time is unbelievable. Yet, Jesus fulfilled all 312 prophecies down to the smallest detail at exactly the time the prophets of old said it would happen.

There must be some way that I can help you understand that it is the history and facts found in the Old Testament that provides the basis for the results found in the New Testament. Take, for example, the idea that the Law of Moses through the basic Ten Commandments has been done away with. That is not so! Jesus carried forward, and used or illustrated, all Ten Commandments either verbally or indirectly in His teachings. Let us fully understand the purpose of the original law and what became its curse. God choose the Hebrew people to be His people and to be the nation to lead all other nations into a relationship with God. Within the covenant that God made with His people, He set up a system of sacrifices to atone for committed sins. It was this requirement that became the curse of the Law. Recall what Jesus taught in Matthew 5:17-20, ¹⁷ *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* (ESV)

Consider what I have shown you so far in my presentation. God foresaw the fall from grace that Adam and Eve caused through their disobedience in the Garden of Eden. That act caused the need for atonement of sin. At the same time this act caused the human heart to take on a sinful nature. Through the teachings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (i.e., Israel), along with their points of testing and atonements, mankind understood that the daily sacrifice at the temple was for the atonement of the nation on a daily (every day) basis. Once a year there was to be a solemn, high holy day of atonement for all the sins of the nation of Israel. God foresaw that this would become the curse of the Law because mankind did not and would not submit to becoming an obedient people before a living and loving God. To correct this breach, God sent His Son Jesus into the world in human form to be the pure, sinless sacrifice to pay the price for all of mankind's sins. In order to do this, Jesus had to be born of a virgin. The overshadowing of the Holy Spirit caused Mary to conceive, thus preventing the child from having a sinful heart, instead of a pure heart without the sin nature. Jesus lived His life without committing a sin, even when tempted by Satan himself. The final sacrifice was when Jesus was crucified on the

cross. It is this act of Jesus that paid the price for all of humanity to have an open invitation for salvation. This is also the reason the veil in the temple at Jerusalem was supernaturally torn when Jesus died. It illustrated that there was, at that instant, an open way for all of humanity to go before God and that Jesus was our High Priest. That establishes the basic fact for Jesus being the Messiah and the purpose for mankind to believe in Him as their personal Savior. That also establishes the reason for the curse of the Law and how the breach was healed through the actions of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross.

We also need to clarify some of these other so called open minded statements that are being passed around in society. In that regard, there is the out and out misrepresentation of the rainbow. The rainbow is not some object to be stolen from its original intent and then claimed to be a new symbol within society. God established the rainbow as a promise to all of mankind that He would not destroy all life on the planet again by water. I understand that you do not enjoy reading or recalling anything from the Old Testament, but review the origin of the rainbow with me. We find this in Genesis, chapter 9:8-17, ⁸ *Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹ "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. ¹¹ Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴ It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵ and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ The **rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.**" ¹⁷ And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth." (NKJV) Why do you feel you have the right to mock God and slap Him in the face by using His covenant symbol as a sign of your rebellion against God and His covenant with the earth?*

Why does the LBGTQ segment of society think that God does not understand love and relationships and how sexual emotions are felt and acted upon? God **does** understand love and relationships! He demonstrated His love by sending Jesus to heal the breach between mankind and Himself. He understands relationships because it is His desire for you to have a personal relationship between the Trinity and yourself. Do you not understand the true purpose of mankind? God instructed Adam and Eve to populate the earth. God carried this forward after the world wide deluge and God instructed Noah and his sons to repopulate the earth. The only way that can be achieved is through the God given action between a man and a woman. Two men or two women cannot achieve this no matter what they do to each other. The truth is that God calls the actions between two men or two women to be a sinful and unnatural act. In fact, He goes so far as to call it an abomination. I know, I've already heard it, the lesbians claim that their relationships are not declared to be an abomination by God. That is true, if you only review the scriptures in the Old Testament. However, Paul, as the Apostle to the Gentiles and an agent for God, testifies in Romans that both the gay and the lesbian acts are against God's intended purpose for sex. Read with me Romans 1:24-27, ²⁴ *So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. ²⁶ That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. ²⁷ And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women,*

burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. (NLT)

There is also this nonsense that God does not understand the gender that you are. Really!! I'm afraid that God does indeed understand your gender. He either made you a male or He made you a female. He was not confused when He created you. You are created in the image of God and you should honor and be thankful of that fact. Satan and his demonic horde have not only confused you, they have confused others in your life to help you with your transition from the God assigned gender to something else. It is now being said, "go woke or go broke." You can threaten me with your words and even go so far as to character assassinate my name. However, you cannot take away my birthday or the riches I have stored-up in Heaven. You are a New Covenant believer who needs to review the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31, ¹⁹ *"There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' ²⁷ And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.' "* (ESV)

One more item to review. This nation has had its discussions concerning pro-life and pro-choice. We even went so far that it was taken to the Supreme Court to define the simple terms of what is life and when does it begin. This thought even carried over to become a woman's health issue that for her own personal health the right to an abortion was established as necessary. Really! I would like to have someone explain to me how an abortion is a health issue. If there is something pertaining to an unborn child that is causing a possible death to the mother, then I could possibly see this as a health issue. However, an unplanned pregnancy due to sexual passion of a sinful situation is not a health issue. That is a birth control issue that results in murder of an unborn child. God called that the shedding of innocent blood through the sacrifice of the life of the child. Life begins the moment a man's sperm enters a woman's egg. From that moment on, there is cellular activity that will continue until that individual dies, either by an abortion or through natural death. Review what God says in the book of Leviticus, (20:1-5), ¹ *The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. ³ I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name. ⁴ And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, ⁵ then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech. (ESV)* Through the actions between the Supreme Court and the populous of this nation over the last six month period, this nation has shown their rebellion against God. There is no wonder that we, the people of this country, are in such an ungodly state of affairs.

God's Mercy

There are many people in this country who refuse to accept that God loves them and would forgive them of their sins. There are those who are in prison for murder. There are those who are prostituting themselves and they believe that God could not forgive them for their sins. There are those who have had an abortion and believe that God cannot forgive them for that fact. The multitude of sins that mankind is involved with are too numerous to even identify. It is a shame that many New Testament believers have not taken the time to read and study the Bible to see what it really says.

Let's look at two passages of scripture in order to begin this chapter. First, where is the verse that says God does not desire for anyone to perish (in the lake of fire)? I'm using 2nd Peter 3:9-13 to answer that question, ⁹ ***The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*** ¹⁰ *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

¹¹ *Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (ESV)*

Secondly, where does it say that there is nothing new under the sun? For that answer I'm quoting King Solomon from Ecclesiastes 1:9 specifically, ² ***That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.*** Now, I would also like to provide the entire first chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes, 1:1-18, ¹ *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ² "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." ³ What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? ⁴ One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever. ⁵ The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose. ⁶ The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. ⁷ All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again. ⁸ All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing. ⁹ That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰ Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us. ¹¹ There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after.*

¹² *I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. ¹⁴ I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.*

¹⁵ *What is crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered. ¹⁶ I communed with my heart, saying, "Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. ¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much grief, And he who increases knowledge increases sorrow. (NKJV)*

That's pretty good in my book! The Bible even goes to the position of the King of Israel to illustrate an example of life through which we must all go. I know, I went to a king for an answer but

what about the common man or woman who finds themselves in a situation when they do not know what to do or where to turn? Today's society has the concept that all things can be resolved by confiding with a social counselor or mental health specialist. The better answer is the Bible itself. Talking with a trained specialist costs money that you may, or may not, have. The Bible, in most cases, can be obtained for no cost at all and God's answers will cost you nothing but your time. Prayer helps a person to find answers also.

Let's look at some situations found in the Bible to show you what the Bible says. How about Moses. We should all know who this person was. We know the story about his leading the Hebrew people through the wilderness for forty years. But, do you recall that he was a murderer prior to becoming the anointed leader of the Hebrews from their enslavement in Egypt. Moses had three 40 year portions in his life. For the first 40 years, he was a prince in the palace of Pharaoh and was taught all the ways of the Egyptians, but then he learned he was a Hebrew. With this knowledge, he saw another Hebrew being mistreated by an Egyptian taskmaster and he killed that taskmaster. This story can be found in Exodus 2:11-12, ¹¹ *Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.* ¹² *So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.* (NKJV)

For the second 40 year period, Moses was in the land of Midian as a shepherd until the day he saw the burning bush. The story of the burning bush is in chapter 3 of Exodus and there are two verses I'd like for you to understand. The first verse is verse 10 from Exodus 3, ¹⁰ *Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.* (ESV) This verse is the appointment of Moses as the designated agent to get the Hebrew people out of Egypt. The other verse I'd like for you to see and understand is the verse that gives us the name of God as God Himself gave it to Moses. This can be found in Exodus 3:14-15, ¹⁴ *God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'* " ¹⁵ *God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.* (ESV) God is the Great I AM!

The final 40 year period of Moses' life is when he led (guided) the Israelites through the wilderness. Moses died and Joshua took the leadership of the Hebrews into the promised land. That's one story of a murderer in the Bible. How about another one? Would you believe this other murderer would be King David?

The story of David and Bathsheba is told in chapter 11 of 2nd Samuel. Read what verse 15 says, ¹⁵ *In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die."* (ESV) Now, read verse 27 concerning this situation, ²⁷ *And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.* (ESV) Effectively, and in the eyes of God, David was a murderer. We see this situation concerns a King of Israel. I want to show you a little more in this particular situation. How many of the Ten Commandments did King David violate through this action? Would you believe that King David violated FIVE of the Ten Commandments. Okay, let's look at this to see if that is right or wrong! (1) Exodus 20:13, ¹³ *"You shall not murder."* (NKJV) Effectively, King David had Uriah killed to cover over his affair with Bathsheba (Uriah's wife). (2) Exodus 20:14, ¹⁴ *"You shall not commit adultery."* (NKJV) Isn't that what is stated in verse 4 of 2nd Samuel chapter 11? ⁴ *Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.* (NKJV) (3) Exodus 20:15, ¹⁵ *"You shall not steal."* (NKJV) It may seem that Exodus verses 14 and 15 are the same thing in this situation, but they are not. A person can be a thief without being an adulterer. A person can

commit adultery without stealing anything, but when you deliberately take actions to violate another man's wife and have him killed, you have effectively stolen that man's wife. (4) Exodus 20:16, ¹⁶ *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."* (NKJV) To state this in today's wording, this says you are not to lie about your neighbor or tell your neighbor lies. We need to return to 2nd Samuel chapter 11 to gather facts concerning this situation that we have under investigation. Look at verse 5 where Bathsheba informs David that she is pregnant, ⁵ *And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."* (ESV) With that information, David must either admit he had an affair with Bathsheba, or he had to cover this up in some manner. The details of chapter 11 will illustrate that David wanted Uriah to lay with his wife, so apparently David could say that the child was Uriah's and not his. When this didn't work, David had Uriah killed in battle so that the fact would be covered over. (5) Exodus 20:17, ¹⁷ *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."* (NKJV) We can very easily show the lust that David had for Bathsheba in 2nd Samuel 11: 2-4, ² *It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.* ³ *And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"* ⁴ *So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house.* (ESV) Through this story, we see that God was upset with David (2 Sam 11:27). However, God did not have David and Bathsheba stoned for adultery as required by the Law. In fact, David repented of this series of sins. God had mercy on David and blessed David for the other things David did as King of Israel and the royal heir from whom Christ was to be born.

In my opening remarks, I discussed the pro-life, pro-choice issue that has taken center stage of the left's liberal agenda over the last six month period of 2022. What would you think if I showed you one more murderer who sacrificed their own children? Would that get your attention that there really isn't anything new under the sun? Would you be surprised to see that the individual who quoted the statement, "there is nothing new under the sun," and the person who sacrificed their own children were both Israel's kings? However, these two kings were not the same person. The king who made the quote was King Solomon, King David's son and the king who led the building of the first temple in Jerusalem. King Solomon was granted wisdom as the king over God's chosen people. This is stated in 1st Kings 4:29-30, ²⁹ *And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.* ³⁰ *Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.* (NKJV) God directed that the King of Israel should only have one wife, Deuteronomy 17:17-20, ¹⁷ *And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.*

¹⁸ *"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.* ¹⁹ *And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them,* ²⁰ *that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.* (ESV)

It would seem from this directive that many of the kings of Israel did not follow this instruction. Kings made political alliances with foreign nations and in many of these cases they sealed the deal by marriage with a foreign wife. This happened with King David, King Solomon and King Rehoboam, to name a few. The fact is King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, as shown in 1st Kings 11:3, ³ *He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.* (ESV). Because of the influence many of these foreign women had upon King Solomon, he turned his heart

away from God and built a high place for Chemosh and another for Molech. We see this recorded in 1st Kings 11:7-8, ⁷ *Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem.* ⁸ *And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.* (ESV) Without going to scriptures to show you these two idol gods, I will make the statement that Chemosh was a Moabite sun god and Molech was an Ammonite idol that required the sacrifice of children as part of the worship to this idol. So it was that King Solomon built a high-place for the idol Molech. I need to show you one more fact pertaining to King Solomon. Turn with me to observe the covenant that God established with King Solomon. This is given in 1st Kings 9:4-9, ⁴ *And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules,* ⁵ *then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’* ⁶ *But if you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them,* ⁷ *then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them, and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight, and Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples.* ⁸ *And this house will become a heap of ruins. Everyone passing by it will be astonished and will hiss, and they will say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?’* ⁹ *Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the Lord their God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore the Lord has brought all this disaster on them.’* (ESV) The results of King Solomon’s actions are shown in 1st Kings 11:11-13, ¹¹ *Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.* ¹² *Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.* ¹³ *However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen.”* (ESV)

We now need to see the other king of Israel who actually sacrificed his children to the idol Molech. We have just learned that God was going to tear the kingdom out of King Solomon’s hand through his son King Rehoboam. Therefore, we have the split of the kingdom into Israel to the north and Judah to the south. The fourteenth ruler of Judah was King Manasseh. 1st Chronicles 3:10-13, ¹⁰ *The son of Solomon was Rehoboam, Abijah his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,* ¹¹ *Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son,* ¹² *Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son,* ¹³ *Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son,* (ESV) If you count there are only 13 names listed between Rehoboam and Manasseh. These listed above are kings, and between Ahaziah and Joash should be Athaliah, the only queen to rule over Judah. The first record of the reign of King Manasseh is recorded in 2nd Kings 21:1-9, ¹ *Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Hephzibah.* ² *And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.* ³ *For he rebuilt the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.* ⁴ *And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, “In Jerusalem will I put my name.”* ⁵ *And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord.* ⁶ *And he burned his son as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger.* ⁷ *And the carved image of Asherah that he had made he set in the house of which the Lord said to David and to Solomon his son, “In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever.* ⁸ *And I will not cause the feet of Israel to wander anymore out of the*

land that I gave to their fathers, if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the Law that my servant Moses commanded them.”⁹ But they did not listen, and **Manasseh led them astray to do more evil than the nations had done whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel.** (ESV) The companion verses for King Manasseh is in 2nd Chronicles 33:1-9,¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.² And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.³ For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had broken down, and he erected altars to the Baals, and made Asherahs, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.⁴ And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, “In Jerusalem shall my name be forever.”⁵ And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord.⁶ And **he burned his sons as an offering in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom,** and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger.⁷ And the carved image of the idol that he had made he set in the house of God, of which God said to David and to Solomon his son, “In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever;⁸ and I will no more remove the foot of Israel from the land that I appointed for your fathers, if only they will be careful to do all that I have commanded them, all the law, the statutes, and the rules given through Moses.”⁹ **Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray, to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel.** (ESV)

There are two records of the evil that King Manasseh committed before the Lord. In both records, we find that he sacrificed his sons as an offering to the idol Molech. Pray tell, what is the difference in this recorded act of sacrifice of children and that of an abortion? Both are a sin in the eyes of God and the statement of God in Leviticus 20:1-5 should confirm that fact:¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying,² “Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones.”³ I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name.⁴ And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death,⁵ then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech. (ESV)

This was meant to be a few basic instructions for many New Covenant believers to review and consider the history, trials and tribulations of God’s chosen people and the mercy that God showed to the low and to the high of the people of Israel. With the story of King Manasseh, I must provide one more section of scripture. I’ve shown the evil that this king felt obligated to follow, however, there is another example in the life of this king. For the sake of God’s holy mercy, I show you the repentance of King Manasseh and what God felt toward this king. Recorded in 2nd Chronicles 33:10-17,¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention.¹¹ Therefore the Lord brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon.¹² And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.¹³ He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

¹⁴ Afterward he built an outer wall for the city of David west of Gihon, in the valley, and for the entrance into the Fish Gate, and carried it around Ophel, and raised it to a very great height. He also put commanders of the army in all the fortified cities in Judah.¹⁵ And he took away the foreign gods

and the idol from the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built on the mountain of the house of the Lord and in Jerusalem, and he threw them outside of the city. ¹⁶ He also restored the altar of the Lord and offered on it sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving, and he commanded Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel. ¹⁷ Nevertheless, the people still sacrificed at the high places, but only to the Lord their God. (ESV)

That illustrates three individuals that were murderers (Moses, King David and King Manasseh). What else can we discern from studying the Bible. What about prostitution? Let's start from Matthew and look at the genealogy of Jesus as given in chapter 1, verses 2-16. I'm only going to show **verse 3**, ³ and **Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, (ESV) This seems to be a very simple verse, by itself. However, there is a lot more to this story found in the Old Testament. We find this story in Genesis, chapter 38, verses 6-30. Once again, I am not including all of the verses in this passage. I am including several verses to illustrate my presentation. Look at verses 15-19, ¹⁵ When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. ¹⁶ He turned to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" ¹⁷ He answered, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." And she said, "If you give me a pledge, until you send it" ¹⁸ He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "**Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand.**" So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. ¹⁹ Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood. (ESV) I highlighted three places in this passage. In the first of these, we learn that Judah thought Tamar was a prostitute. Here is Judah, the son of Jacob (Israel), who is to become the line of descent from which the Christ child must come. Continuing, we find the highlight that Judah did not know that this woman was his daughter-in-law. Leviticus 18:15 states the following, ¹⁵ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness. (ESV) The third highlight indicates that Tamar became pregnant. Let us continue by viewing verses 24-26, ²⁴ About three months later Judah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality." And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned." ²⁵ As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant." And she said, "Please identify whose these are, **the signet and the cord and the staff.**" ²⁶ Then Judah identified them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not know her again. (ESV) It becomes interesting to see the final paragraph in this story in Genesis chapter 38. Verses 27-30, ²⁷ When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. ²⁸ And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one came out first." ²⁹ But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore his name was called Perez. ³⁰ Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah. (ESV) Looking back on the text in Matthew, we see that the twins Perez and Zerah are in the line of descent for the Christ child with Perez as the father of Hezron in Matthew 1:3. Now, I must insert a little more information at this juncture. There are twins stated here and Perez is actually the first child physically born, but it was Zerah who had stuck out his hand with the scarlet thread around his wrist. If you would like to see more of this story, download either my book "The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel" or "Jeremiah's Mystery," Either book will lead you through the story of how God heals this breach that is stated in verse 29 above. These two boys become the high and the low that is recorded in Ezekiel's riddle. I'll let you find that one on your own.

Let's go just a little further in the lineage that is recorded in Matthew. Turn to **verse 5**, ⁵ and **Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, (ESV) Have you noticed in **verses 3 and 5** of Matthew the little word **by** (by Tamar, by Rahab

and by Ruth), these are women, the mothers of those named. In the first two cases, the women are labeled as a prostitute. Tamar acted as a prostitute to deceive her father-in-law Judah. Rahab, the mother of Boaz, is the prostitute that helps Joshua and the spies to take Jericho when the Israelites entered the Promised Land. I'll give three verses to clearly identify Rahab. First, Joshua 2:1, ¹ *And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.* (ESV) Second, Hebrews 11:31, ³¹ *By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.* (ESV) Third, James 2:25, ²⁵ *And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?* (ESV) The second woman that is shown in verse 5 of Matthew is Ruth. Ruth was not a prostitute, but she was not a Hebrew either. Ruth, a Moabite by birth, is the daughter-in-law of Naomi, who is the relative of Boaz through her husband.

Have you taken notice that in each of these situations, or shall we say cases, that the persons involved repented and by faith asked God to forgive them. God had mercy for them and forgave them of their sins. He then used them in the story of the birth of Jesus, all except for Moses. Moses was not in the genealogy of Jesus, but a special part of all the rest of these individuals.

Maybe your situation is an addiction and you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. What about a story of a drunk? You are really going to look at me funny on this one. The drunk, that I'm going to show you, was Noah. Yes, Noah, the ark builder. Yes, Noah, who worked on the building of the ark for one hundred years. Yes, Noah, the person that all the animals came to by direction of God to be saved on the ark. Most likely, this is a portion of one of those stories that you call a myth and not true. I call it true for the simple reason that God inspired man to write this story and to place it in His Word. But, let us look at the story that is presented in Chapters 6 through 9 of Genesis. We only need to review one passage of scripture. Look at Genesis 9:20-27, ²⁰ *Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard.* ²¹ ***He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.*** ²² *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside.* ²³ *Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness.* ²⁴ *When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him,* ²⁵ *he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."* ²⁶ *He also said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant."* ²⁷ *May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant."* (ESV) We know that Noah was blessed by God along with his three sons. When the shame was revealed, Noah did not curse Ham, he cursed Ham's son Canaan, simply because he understood that he could not curse what God had blessed. In these verses from Genesis, we can also add the names Shem and Noah to the list of people in the genealogy of Jesus.

There is one other thing that we need to address right here and right now. There seems to be a very strong anti-Semitic feeling against the Jews at the moment. My question is: Why? What is it that causes so much hatred for the Jews and no one else. Look carefully at the three sons of Noah, they are Japheth, Shem and Ham. Shem is the middle son and the forefather of the lineage that leads to Jesus. But, Shem is also the forefather of most of the Middle Eastern nations and to Terah, the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. I can understand that Satan is the prince of the air and the deceiver of the world, but there are many people who hate the Jews and leave out the rest of the Middle East. Why??? Through God's grace, I think I understand that the reason for all of this is that Satan is still trying to take over and claim the throne of God. He forgot to read the final chapter of God's Word. He loses! Plain and simple! For all who want to harbor this ill will against the Jews, you need to look at two things. First, I want to repeat the verse that I quoted from 2nd Peter 3:9, ⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning*

His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (NKJV) Second, Genesis 12:3, ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (ESV)

I’m not, in any way, trying to blow my own horn, but I’ve been doing this for well over 30 years and have over 2000 letter size pages written. Of those 2000 pages, there has only been one little book published in printed form. That book is titled, “The Simple Index” and it is an alphabetical listing of topic headings from three versions of the Bible. In the back of that book, there are helpful little subjects like the life of Christ, curious facts, or favorite readings. I chose not to publish my books in textbook or hard copy print. WHY? Because, for the current generation smart phones and E-Pub formatted documents are the “in” thing to do. Besides, I’m old and don’t want to have to learn more to overtax my poor head. My head has enough to think about now without having to learn more new tricks. All of my books, booklets and charts are available for free download in PDF file format from my website at www.vqpub.org. I am inserting some of the information from The Simple Index for your use in understanding more of God’s Word.

Helpful Readings

A Prayer of Forgiveness	Psalms 51
A Promise for Faithfulness	Proverbs 3:1-6
Assurance of God’s Mercy	Psalms 40:1-5
Banishing Fear of Death	John 11:25
Christ Teaches Forgiveness	Matthew 18:21-35
Confidence in God	Psalms 37
Does God Figure in Our National Life?	Deuteronomy 8
Duties of Children	Ephesians 6:1-2
For a Stirring Record Of What Trust in God Can Do	Hebrews 11
For Inward Peace	John 14
For the Way of Prayer	Ephesians 3
From Death unto Life	John 5:24
God Is Our Refuge and Strength	Psalms 46
God’s Desire for None to Perish	2 Peter 3:9
God’s Eternal Mercy	Psalms 103
Gospel of Christ	Romans 1:16
Hope in Time of Trouble	Psalms 42
If You Are Bored	Job 38-40; Psalms 103-104
If You Are Facing a Crisis	Psalms 46
If You Are Having To Put Up A Stiff Fight	Ephesians
If You Are Satisfied With Being Well-to-Do	Luke 15-16
If You Are Sick or in Pain	Psalms 91
If You Have a Fear of Death	John 11, 17, 20; 2 Corinthians 4,5; Revelation 21
If You Have Been Bereaved	1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 21
If You Have Experienced Severe Losses	Romans 8
Jesus’ Mission	Luke 19:10
Jesus’ New Commandment	John 13:34
Living Successfully With Others	Romans 12

Love Chapter	1 Corinthians 13
Nothing New Under the Sun	Ecclesiastes 1:9
Opening the Door to Jesus	Revelation 3:20
Promise of Eternal Life	John 3:16
Resurrection through Jesus	1 Corinthians 15
Searching the Scriptures	John 5:39
Setting a Good Example	Matthew 5:16
Spiritual Peace	John 14
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:3-11
The Best Investment is Described	Matthew 6
The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2
The Choice of Treasure	Matthew 6:19-34
The Christian's Armor	Ephesians 5:11-17
The Christian's Hope	Romans 8:31-39
The Crown of Life	Revelation 2:10
The Crucifixion	John 19
The Golden Rule	Matthew 7:12
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:30-37
The Great Commandments	Matthew 22:35-40
The Heroes of the Faith	Hebrews 11
The House Built Upon a Rock	Matthew 7:24-27
The Last Judgement	Matthew 25:31-46
The Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6:9-13
The Love of Christ	Ephesians 3:14-21
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32
The Promise of the Gospel	Isaiah 40
The Resurrection	Matthew 28
The Return for Good Deeds	Luke 6:38
The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7
The Shepherd's Psalm	Psalms 23
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:3-17
The Value of the Scriptures	2 Timothy 3
The Way to Salvation	Romans 10:9
To Live Successfully With Your Fellowman	Romans 12
Treatment of Others	Ephesians 4:32
Two Types of Prayer	Luke 18:9-14
What We Shall Reap	Galatians 6:7
When Business Is Poor	Psalms 37
When Everything Seems to be Going From Bad to Worse	2 Timothy 3
When God Seems Far Away	Psalms 139
When Tempted to do Wrong	Psalms 139
When Things Look Blue	Isaiah 40
When You Are Anxious For ear Ones	Psalms 107
When You Are Discouraged	Psalms 23
When You Are Lonely or Fearful	Psalms 27
When You Are Very Weary	Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 8:31-39

When You Have Been Placed In a Position of Great Responsibility

When You Leave Home For Work or Travel

When You Plan Your Budget

Wise and Foolish Virgins

Withstanding Temptation

Joshua 1

Psalms 121

Luke 19

Matthew 25:1-13

Psalms 1

Curious Facts

Airplane

Automobile

Avoid Foolish Questions

Brawling Woman

Bride (Church)

Bridegroom (Jesus)

Brothers of Jesus

Camel through the eye of a needle

Cannibalism

Cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, garlic all in the same verse

Druggist (Apothecary)

Electa (Elect Lady)

Father of 88 Children

Frying Pan

Garments Not to be Exchanged

Hired Razor

Ideal Woman

Iron Bedstead

Iron Pen

Last Time Moses Seen

Longest Chapter in Bible

Longest Verse in Bible

Longest Word in Bible

Looking Glass

Man First Shaves Self

Man Wiping Dishes

Meshach, Shadrach, Abednego

Middle verse in Bible

Pen of Iron With Diamond Point

Penknife

Pick Corn (Not Cut)

Preaching (On Radio)

Radio

Revenge Forbidden

Second Death

Seven Hundred Left Handed Men

Isaiah 31:5

Nahum 2:4

2 Timothy 2:23; Titus 3:9

Proverbs 25:24

Revelation 22:17

Matthew 25:1-14

Mark 6:3

Matthew 19:24

Leviticus 26:29

Numbers 11:5

Exodus 30:35

2 John 1

2 Chronicles 11:21

Leviticus 2:7

Deuteronomy 22:5

Isaiah 7:20

Proverbs 31:10-31

Deuteronomy 3:11

Job 37:18

Matthew 17:3

Psalms 119

Esther 8:9

Isaiah 8:1

Job 37:18

Genesis 41:14

2 Kings 21:13

Daniel 3:26

Psalms 118:8

Jeremiah 17:1

Jeremiah 36:23

Deuteronomy 23:25

Luke 12:3

Job 38:35

Romans 12:17-19

Revelation 20:11-15

Judges 20:16

Seven Women Want the Same Man
Seven Things Hateful to God
Shortest Chapter in Bible
Shortest Verse in Old Testament
Shortest Verse in New Testament
Submarine
Tattooing Forbidden
Telephone
Term Easter Used
Townclerk
Unpardonable Sin

Ventriloquism
Verse Containing All Letters of Alphabet Except J
Wayfaring Men
Weather Forecast
Who Shall Not Go To Heaven
Woman First Paints Face

Isaiah 4:1
Proverbs 6:16-20
Psalms 117
1 Chronicles 1:25
John 11:35
Job 41:14-32
Leviticus 19:28
Job 38:35
Acts 12:4
Acts 19:35
Matthew 12:31; Mark 3:29;
Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-34
Isaiah 29:4
Ezra 7:21
Isaiah 35:8; Jeremiah 14:8
Luke 12:54-57
1 Corinthians 6:9-10
2 Kings 9:30

The Miracles

The First Miracle: Water Made Wine
Many Healings

A Leper
The Centurion's Servant
Peter's Mother-in-Law
The Tempest Stilled
Two Demoniacs
A Palsied Man
The Twelve-Year Afflicted Woman
Raising of Jairus' Daughter
Two Blind Men
A Dumb Demoniac
A Man With a Withered Hand
Five Thousand Fed

Jesus Walks on the Sea
The Syrophenician's Daughter
Four Thousand Fed
The Epileptic Boy
Two Blind Men (Jerico)
A Man With an Unclean Spirit
A Deaf Mute
A Blind Man (Bethesda)
Blind Bartimaeus

John 2:1
Matthew 4:23, 8:16, 15:30;
Mark 1:32; Luke 4:40; etc.
Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40; Luke 5:12
Matthew 8:5; Luke 7:1
Matthew 8:14; Mark 1:29; Luke 4:38
Matthew 8:23; Mark 4:35; Luke 8:22
Matthew 8:28; Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26
Matthew 9:1; Mark 2:1; Luke 5:18
Matthew 9:20; Mark 5:25; Luke 8:43
Matthew 9:23; Mark 5:22; Luke 8:41
Matthew 9:27
Matthew 9:32, 12:22; Luke 14
Matthew 12:10; Mark 3:1; Luke 6:6
Matthew 14:15; Mark 6:35;
Luke 9:12; John 6:1
Matthew 14:22; Mark 6:47; John 6:16
Matthew 15:21; Mark 7:24
Matthew 15:32; Mark 8:1
Matthew 17:14; Mark 9:14; Luke 9:37
Matthew 20:30
Mark 1:23; Luke 4:33
Mark 7:31
Mark 8:22
Matthew 20:30; Mark 10:46; Luke 8:35

Great Amount of Fishes
Raising of Widow's Son
An Infirm Woman
A Dropsical Man
Ten Lepers
Malchus' Ear Healed
A Nobleman's Son
A Cripple (Bethesda)
A Man Born Blind
Raising of Lazarus
A Great Haul of Fishes

Luke 5:4
Luke 7:11
Luke 13:11
Luke 14:1
Luke 17:11
Luke 22:50
John 4:46
John 5:1
John 9:1
John 11:38
John 21:1

The Parables

The Builders
The Sower
The Wheat and the Tares
The Mustard Seed
The Leaven
The Hidden Treasure
The Pearl of Great Price
The Net
The Unmerciful Servant
The Laborers in the Vineyard
The Two Sons
The Wicked Husbandmen
The Marriage Feast
The Fig Tree
The Ten Virgins
The Talents
The Seed Growing Secretly
The Good Samaritan
The Rich Fool
The Fruitless Fig Tree
The Great Supper
On Counting the Cost
The Lost Sheep
The Lost Coin
The Lost Son
The Dishonest Steward
The Rich Man and Lazarus

Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49
Matthew 13:3; Mark 4:1; Luke 8:4
Matthew 13:24-30
Matthew 13:31; Mark 4:30; Luke 13:18
Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20
Matthew 13:44
Matthew 13:45
Matthew 13:47
Matthew 18:23-35
Matthew 20:1-16
Matthew 21:28-32
Matthew 21:33-46; Luke 20:9-18
Matthew 22:1-14
Matthew 24:32
Matthew 25:1-13
Matthew 25:14-30
Mark 4:26-29
Luke 10:25-37
Luke 12:13-21
Luke 13:6-9
Luke 14:16-24
Luke 14:25-33
Luke 15:3-7
Luke 15:8-10
Luke 15:11-32
Luke 16:1-14
Luke 16:19-31

(While listed as a parable this story is not really a parable; instead, the true account of life after death and a view of hell)

The Importunate Widow and Unjust Judge
The Pharisee and Publican
The Pounds

Luke 18:1-8
Luke 18:8-14
Luke 19:11-27

The Way

I have attempted to illustrate for you a few basic facts pertaining to God's rules for those who claim to follow in the footsteps of His Son Jesus. I've shown you illustrations of sins committed by some of the more prominent people identified in the Old Covenant under the Law of Moses. By God's grace, I pray I've also been able to show you a correlation to the sins of today's society and that there is nothing new under the sun. God's mercy is abundant and He is giving warnings and encouraging all who say they believe in His Son to follow Jesus' lead. Jesus is our model that we should be mimicking through the teachings in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. What I feel compelled to do is establish the links between the statements of the Old Testament to the quotes made in the New Testament. My purpose for doing this is to encourage you to read the Old Testament. Believe me, it is there for a reason. I'd also like for you to walk away with an understanding that God has been giving mankind, especially in this nation, warnings of His wrath to come if we do not repent and change our ways of living life.

Consider, for example, the day we now worship in our churches. The Bible says that the Sabbath is a day of rest and is the seventh day of the week. Do you know which day is the seventh day? This is stated in Genesis 2:1-3, ¹ *So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed.* ² *On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work.* ³ *And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.* (NLT) Under the Law we find the following in Leviticus 23:3, ³ *"You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of complete rest, an official day for holy assembly. It is the Lord's Sabbath day, and it must be observed wherever you live.* (NLT) Jesus made the following statements pertaining to the Sabbath. Matthew 12:8, ⁸ *For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.*" (ESV) Mark 2:27-28, ²⁷ *And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.* ²⁸ *So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.*" (ESV) Luke 6:5, ⁵ *And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."* (ESV) That should make it pretty clear that Jesus worshiped His Father every day but the special day was the seventh day, the Sabbath. There seems to be great confusion within the body of Christ on what day is the Sabbath. There are many people who call Monday the first day of the week, therefore their seventh day is Sunday. However, these same people will open up their Bible and read the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and read that the women went to the tomb on the first day of the week and they call it Sunday. **Sorry folks but you can't have it both ways.** Either Sunday is the first day of the week, or Monday is the first day of the week. I care to follow the example set out in the Bible and Sunday is the first day of the week. Secondly, look on any calendar at any point around the globe and the beginning of each week begins on the left side of the calendar and that is Sunday. Therefore, the seventh day of any week is the day we call Saturday and that is the day of the Sabbath .

Let us now review the Ten Commandments which are still to be followed today. It is being said by many New Covenant believers that the Law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments, does not apply under the teachings and statements of Jesus. Maybe it would be best to state each Commandment and identify how Jesus used that Commandment in His teachings. For these examples the scriptures used will all be from the ESV Bible.

Commandment One: Exodus 20:3, *"You shall have no other gods before me."* Deuteronomy 5:7, *"You shall have no other gods before me."* Jesus used, thus taught, this commandment in the following manner; Matthew 4:10, *Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' "*

Commandment Two: Exodus 20:4, “*You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*” Deuteronomy 5:8, “*‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*” Jesus never used this statement directly, according to the Gospels, and the one verse that I can come up with is the same one that He spoke to Satan. Matthew 4:10, *Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ”* Jesus also taught the following in Matthew 22:20-21, ²⁰ *And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?”* ²¹ *They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”*

Commandment Three: Exodus 20:7, “*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.*” Deuteronomy 5:11, “*‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.’*” Once again, we have one of the commandments that Jesus did not speak verbatim, however, Jesus did teach the following: Matthew 5:33-37, ³³ *“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.”* ³⁴ *But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”* Also in Matthew 23:16-22, ¹⁶ *“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁷ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? ¹⁸ And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁹ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰ So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹ And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. ²² And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it. And also in Matthew 26:63-64, ⁶³ *But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”* ⁶⁴ *Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”**

Commandment Four: Exodus 20:8, “*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*” Deuteronomy 5:12, “*‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.’*” In reading the Gospels, one finds that Jesus did many things on the Sabbath, in fact, it was one of the major reasons that the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. Jesus spoke the following in Mark 2:27-28, ²⁷ *And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”* We can also see the manner of the Jewish rulers in the following: Luke 13:14, *But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.”* Today, we see great conflict among mankind over the Sabbath. Is it on Friday, or Saturday or is it Sunday that makes the Sabbath? What if we observed the statement that there are six days to work and one day to honor God? If we followed the instructions as they are given, then we must honor the Sabbath as our Saturday. We should recognize our Saturdays as God’s Sabbath.

Commandment Five: Exodus 20:12, “*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*” Deuteronomy 5:16, “*‘Honor your father and your*

mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” This one command was quoted more by Jesus than any other and can be found verbatim in five different verses. Matthew 15:4, “For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.” Matthew 19:19, “Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 7:10, “For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’” Mark 10:19, “You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother.” Luke 18:20, “You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’”

Commandment Six: Exodus 20:13, “*You shall not murder.*” Deuteronomy 5:17, “*“You shall not murder.”* Jesus spoke the following: Matthew 5:21, “*You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’*” Matthew 19:18, *He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,”* Paul also spoke about this commandment in the following: Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* I must ask another question: Why does mankind have so much confusion over this one commandment? One can find division between people, between denominations and certainly between church and state over this one command. You don’t think so! Okay, explain to me why there is so much said on both sides of the capital punishment issue or over abortion rights. If you take the stand that both are murder and against the commandment, I have to raise another question. Why did God direct the Hebrews to kill, murder if you will, complete groups of people? There is a great problem in the argument! Either God does not follow His own laws and He is a liar, or there is another answer. Let’s reverse the statement and answer the second point first. We find in the following two verses that God cannot lie. Titus 1:2, *in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.* Hebrews 6:18, *so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.* Now, let’s address the other point. There are different translations of the Bible and different words used in both Greek and Hebrew that can mean kill. If you view the NIV, NRSV or the NKJV the word used in this command is murder. If you view the KJV verse for this command, the word used is kill. To further explain the differences look at Strong’s Concordance. In looking under the word kill, there are no less than 14 different words that translate kill (8 in the Hebrew and 6 in the Greek). Understandably, when there are 14 various words translated to kill, it would seem that murder is the more correct translation rather than that used in the King James; however, by so doing this, the verses where God directs the Hebrews to kill places a conflict in the minds of men. We can even see that this was the reason that King Saul was removed from the throne. 1 Samuel 15:16-23, ¹⁶ *Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night.” And he said to him, “Speak.”* ¹⁷ *And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.”* ¹⁸ *And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’* ¹⁹ *Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”* ²⁰ *And Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.”* ²¹ *But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”* ²² *And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings*

and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.”

We should understand that God does cleanse sin from what is His, and that may include the killing of the sinner. That does not violate the law, for it is directed destruction and is not murder. Murder has the implied intent to do harm. Therefore, there is a difference between someone killing in a time of war, or on the other side of the fence, to kill someone to get revenge, the intent being to do harm against another individual because you think you have been wronged and must make amends. Do I hear that God is a loving God and wouldn't do this? God may be a loving God, but even more so, **God is a righteous God**. Out of righteousness one can find love. Out of deception, lead by Satan, one can find the change of thought to lead many astray from being righteous, to being what they perceive to be right. Every one of us should take the time to read and study this one command to see whether our personal thoughts are in accord with the intent of the Bible, or if they are in accord with tradition that may lead us away from what the Bible actually teaches. There is one other thing I'd like for all Bible Believers to see and understand from this discourse on Commandment Six. Go back and look at the words of Paul in Romans 13:9, notice the last statement in that verse: *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* If mankind would only commit to this single thought, we would all be following the only new commandment that Jesus gave to all of humanity. Jesus made the following statement in John 13:34-35, ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* The world, as a whole, would be a much better place if mankind would practice this one rule, instead of being influenced by the prince of the air (Satan).

Commandment Seven: Exodus 20:14, *“You shall not commit adultery.”* Deuteronomy 5:18, *“And you shall not commit adultery.”* We see Jesus speaking this commandment in the following, Matthew 5:27, *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’”* and in Matthew 19:18, *He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,”* Paul continued the teaching in the following verse. Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Eight: Exodus 20:15, *“You shall not steal.”* Deuteronomy 5:19, *“You shall not steal.”* Jesus spoke these words in the following: Matthew 19:18, *He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,”* Paul spoke this in Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Nine: Exodus 20:16, *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”* Deuteronomy 5:20, *“And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”* Jesus spoke this command in Matthew 19:18, *He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,”* Jesus spoke this in Mark 10:19, *You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’”* Also in Luke 18:20, *“You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’”* Paul taught in Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You*

shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Commandment Ten: Exodus 20:17, *“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”* Deuteronomy 5:21, *“ ‘And you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.’* Jesus did not speak this command directly, and furthermore there are many who do not understand what this command means. We don’t use the word covet that often anymore, but if you associate the act of greed, plus personal desire (wanting something that isn’t yours, or being desirous), in this command you should have something on the order of: You shall not desire, want, wish for, lust after, or long for your neighbor’s house; you shall not desire, want, wish for, lust after, or long for your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his car, or his boat or anything that is your neighbor’s. To see this, in a Biblical verse, look at the following: Deuteronomy 7:25, *The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God.* To see how Jesus applied this command, look at the following. In this first verse, we see the overall intent that covetousness or desire may cause. Luke 12:15, *And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”* In the second verse, we can see the desire of lust, even for your neighbor’s wife, illustrated by Jesus. Matthew 5:28, *“But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”* Paul spoke more about this command in the following: Romans 7:7, *What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”* Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

You may ask why I placed both the Exodus version and the Deuteronomy version of the Ten Commandments in this writing. Aren’t they the same thing? Yes! They are the same thing, however, I wanted you to understand that there is another rule that is also applied here with the double insertion of text. Turn over to Deuteronomy 19:15 and read the following: *“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.”* We are not speaking about crimes, but we are speaking about an offense if you go against any of these Ten Commandments of God. Therefore, we need to have two witnesses to establish the truth. We have our two witnesses in the fact that these rules are repeated twice (two times). These are not religious rules that we should follow, these are moral rules that we should govern our life by as they are stated.

Jesus gave all who believe in Him one new commandment and that is recorded in John 13:34-35, ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* (ESV)

There is also the matter of the ordained feast days of God. Jesus observed the feast days that were presented under the Old Covenant. All of these feast days are to be celebrated in all of mankind’s generations. I don’t believe that we have stopped creating additional generations. So why don’t we observe God’s feast days? It seems that we instead celebrate two other days and they are both tied to pagan religious practices.

Can you find anyplace in all the Bible that indicates that Jesus was born on the 25th day of December, or that His crucifixion took place on a Friday with His being raised from the dead on a Sunday? Why do you believe all this manmade nonsense without studying to see what the actual facts really are in both cases? I understand that the church and Christians, as a unified body, are attempting to honor the birth and death of our Lord Jesus. But, they do not seem to understand the manner of the celebration or even when to celebrate the actual event. First, there is the date for Jesus' birth. Jesus was not born on the 25th day of December. The wording of text in the Bible would indicate that Jesus was born in the fall of the year. **If you understand God, He has His special events to occur on His feast days.** The birth of Jesus most likely coincided with Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement, the 10th of Tishrei (which will occur around the beginning of the month we call October). Let us understand that Jesus is God's atonement for mankind's sin and the One who healed the breach between God and mankind. The death of Jesus was on Passover, Pesach on the 14th of Nisan (which will occur around the middle of the month we call April). Jesus was not resurrected on the day that mankind calls Easter! See the following (The Folly of Easter) for clarification.

The church seems to have the desire to carry forward two pagan holidays in what they are celebrating. First, the sun god worshipers celebrated the winter solstices after the shortest day of the year to celebrate the new birth of the sun, so to speak, leading to longer days and a new cycle of the earth's orbit around the sun. That day is normally the 21st or 22nd of December.

In the spring of the year, the pagan holiday celebrated is for the goddess Ashanti, the goddess of fertility. That is why we have baby chicks and baby rabbits tied into the so called day Christ arose. Both of these present day holidays have nothing to do with Jesus the Christ. They are both pagan celebrations glossed over to represent the days for the birth and death of Jesus and we are teaching our children these things.

Beside these facts, have you ever really understood why the date for Easter changes from year to year? Allow me to explain the folly of Easter to you. One more point before we review the facts on Easter, did you ever see even one verse in the Bible that Jesus celebrated His birthday?

The Folly of Easter — March 20th to as late as April 24th

Because of the misunderstanding between the term sabbath and Sabbath, Satan found an opening to change what God said and what Jesus did. When we find sabbath spelled with a lower case *s*, it indicates the weekly sabbath of Saturday. When we find Sabbath spelled with an upper case *S* or termed a sacred assembly or a holy convocation, this is a high holy day. We must also remove this foolishness of Jewish reckoning. Jesus said He had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. Matthew 12:40: *"For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* To fail to accept this as truth, and with full understanding, means we are calling Jesus a liar who did not mean what He said! I'm sorry, but I prefer to accept Jesus' own words, not those of men identifying the number of days and nights He would be in the grave. Besides, there is no possible way Friday to Sunday completes three days and three nights. This totals only about forty hours, or not even a two day period. Along with this fact, there is one other fact to aid in our understanding. The chief priest and the Pharisees went to Pilate to ask that a guard detail be stationed at the tomb for three days. Matthew 27:62-66: ⁶² *The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate* ⁶³ *and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.'* ⁶⁴ *Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."* ⁶⁵ *Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can."* ⁶⁶ *So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.* Recall

the order of the feast. Passover is the 14th of Nisan (mid April), the 1st day of Unleavened Bread is on the 15th and is a high holy day. Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. There is to be no work on the high holy day of the 15th. If Jesus is crucified on Passover the 14th as a Friday, then the high holy day of the 15th is Saturday. The priest could not go to Pilate and perform work at the time to have the tomb sealed because they would violate their own rule of law. Text tells us that the tomb was opened by early the morning of the first day of the week, Sunday. Look and read! The priest and the Pharisees understood what Jesus said about spending three days in the grave. Why don't we understand this today? Read my book, *Jesus, the Life of Christ*, if you desire to see the full truth explained. In the account just presented above, we clearly see the preparation day and how the guard for the tomb was requested of Pilate. Pilate instructs the chief priest to place his temple guard at the tomb. Continue with this thought and review the scripture passage from Matthew 28:4 *And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men*. The women left the tomb to go and tell the disciples. The guards left the tomb to go and tell the chief priest. I know you don't recall that portion of the story. The proof of that statement is in Matthew 28:11-15: ¹¹ *While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.* ¹² *And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers* ¹³ *and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'* ¹⁴ *And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."* ¹⁵ *So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.* Any person who has ever served as a guard in the military will tell you, if you go to sleep while on duty, you are subject to disciplinary action. It is hoped that this grouping of scripture will illustrate for you the truth from preparation day to resurrection day.

Now, allow me to explain how we get this false date to celebrate what is called Easter. The church had divided into several different viewpoints with different dates for feast and festival by the time of Constantine. There was the Catholic viewpoint along with the Greek, Syrian and Russian Orthodox viewpoint. Constantine charged the bishops at Alexandria to determine a fixed date for Easter at the Council of Nicea in 325. This date was a movable date based upon a lunar cycle by Constantine's decree. **Therefore, Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox!** Even this has some variance for the date. The Spring Equinox may be on the 19th, 20th or 21st of March, in the Northern Hemisphere, or in September in the Southern Hemisphere. What I desire for you to understand is that mankind has set a date for a feast to be equivalent to Passover. However, it is not according to the dates ordained by God and quoted in the Bible. If we use the structure given here, we should all see that if the Spring Equinox was on the 19th of March, a full moon was that night and the next day was Sunday, thus the parameters are met. We can see that the earliest Easter could be is the 20th of March. On the other end of this equation, we should see that **if** the full moon was the night before the Spring Equinox and the Spring Equinox was the 21st, we must add 28 days for the lunar cycle to get to the next full moon. If at that point we find the full moon occurring on a Sunday, we must also add another week to get the first Sunday after the full moon. Therefore, the latter date for Easter could be as late as April 24th. Here is my question. Do you find any of this foolishness in the instructions ordained by God? Plainly and absolutely, I do not! My God said **Passover was the 14th of April (Nisan)** and that it is to be such in all of mankind's generations. The full instructions from God is given in the explanation for Passover and Unleavened Bread. Why have we allowed ourselves to listen to men and not to God?

Here's another I believe statement. God's Word is the inspired Word of God. I accept this because of a simple example: Consider the entire Bible. There are 1188 chapters among the 66 books that make up the Bible (Word of God). So, if I look at simple thought, what book of the Bible contains the most chapters? Wouldn't it have to be the book of Psalms? If I used these four numbers and looked

at Psalms, what chapter and verse can I come up with? Well let's see Psalms 1:188? No! Psalms 1 only contains 6 verses. What about Psalms 11:88? No! Psalms 11 only contains 7 verses. What about 118:8? Oh my! There are 29 verses in Psalms 118 and verse 8 reads the following: *It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man.* (NKJV) Isn't that a true fact? Well, what about the shortest and the longest chapters in the Bible? Would you believe that the shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 117, having only 2 verses and the longest chapter is Psalms 119, having 176 verses. Amazing! Oh, by the way, the shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35, *Jesus wept.*

Here's another I believe fact. The book of Jeremiah contains a great amount of information that every Bible Believer should know. It is through the teachings of the prophet Jeremiah that we see the uprooting, the tearing down, the destruction, and the overthrowing of the king's throne in the Kingdom of Judah. What we do not see in Jeremiah is the fulfillment of the last two portions of his commission; namely, the planting and the rebuilding. Here is the commission that God assigned to Jeremiah: ¹ *The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,* ² *to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.* ³ *It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.* ⁴ *Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:*

⁵ *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."* ⁶ *Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."* ⁷ *But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak."* ⁸ *Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.* ⁹ *Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."* ¹⁰ *See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."* Jer 1:1-10 (NKJV) Every Bible Believer needs to have an understanding of the book of Jeremiah. Through your faith in Christ you were adopted into the family of God. Therefore, you have a kinship with both the house of Israel and the house of Judah. The book of Jeremiah illustrates the warnings and finally the judgment that befell the Kingdom of Judah. Bible Believers of today are following the same path that Judah took and we all need to understand that we are headed for the same type judgment, if we do not change our ways and repent of our iniquities. To fully understand this read my book, *"The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel."*

I believe that every Bible Believer should know God's Ordained Feast Days. I believe this because of the statement made that **every man is to observe these feast in all of mankind's generations.** We, as a species, have not stopped producing generations, therefore our requirement is to honor God's feast days. Here are those feast days:

The Passover and Unleavened Bread — Passover April 14th, Feast April 15th (Nisan)

We have to begin our study of God's feast days with more information than normal. There are certain pre-Passover activities that must be understood along with understanding the month with which Passover is identified. The following scripture will give us both answers. The first month does not indicate January, rather this is identifying the beginning month of the sacred year. The name for that month is Abib or Nisan and represents, for the most part, our month of April. Therefore April tenth is when you select your Passover lamb. The fourteenth is when the lamb is slain and the Passover meal is eaten.

Exodus 12:2-11 (NIV), *"This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his*

family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water; but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.”

Leviticus 23:4-8 (NIV), “These are the Lord's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. On the fifteenth day of that month the Lord's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. For seven days present an offering made to the Lord by fire. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.”

Firstfruits — April (Nisan) — the day after the sabbath (always on a Sunday)

Firstfruits is almost a mystery feast. It appears to be a part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and to be performed as a feast during that seven day period. However, there is still a question concerning the date of this festival. First look at Exodus 23:14-17 (NKJV), "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty; and the Feast of Harvest, the **firstfruits** of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field. Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God. Did you see the one feast of Firstfruits hidden in this passage of scripture? After that look at Leviticus 23:4-16 (NKJV), "These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.' "

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord. Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord. We must remember that this feast was set up

while the Israelites were traveling through the wilderness, and it plainly states in verse 14 of Exodus 23 that all the males were to appear before the Lord three times each year. This was long before the crucifixion of Jesus and long before the 2nd Temple era. Therefore, we are seeing a type prior to seeing the prototype. Firstfruits offering at the time of Moses was the first grain you would harvest, in Israel this would be the barley harvest. In scripture, at the time of Moses, we do not have an established time for the feast of firstfruits. To further complicate the matter: We must identify the three feast days that the males of Israel were to appear before the Lord. Look at Deuteronomy 16:16 for the correct understanding. Verse 16 (KJV), *Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty.* This verse clearly identifies the three feasts that a man was to appear before the Lord. They are the Feast of Unleavened Bread; the Feast of Weeks; and the third is the Feast of Tabernacles. The above scripture indicates that Firstfruits is not a feast day when all the males must appear before the Lord. It also indicates that the second feast is the one called Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) in the month of June and is the festival at the time of the wheat harvest. The third feast (Feast of Tabernacles) also includes a harvest time and is the period for the firstfruits of olives (oil) and grapes (wine). Therefore, it seems that God established a harvest incorporated into each “must appear” feast. When is Firstfruits?

Do we have an understanding of when Firstfruits occurs? No! I don't think so. Verses from Leviticus indicate that firstfruits are offered on the day after the Sabbath. Here is where we all get lost! Which Sabbath? Does this mean on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Remember that the first day is a high holy day (a Sabbath). What about the eighth day after the close of these feast days because the seventh day is also a high holy day? What about the normal weekly sabbath? Surely, we can all see that a seven day festival will include at least one normal weekly sabbath. I say at least one weekly sabbath because the period of eight days could include two weekly sabbath days if the main Feast started on a sabbath. I respect Perry Stone and have a copy of his Old Testament Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible. He included a table illustrated on page 143 showing the Hebrew Feast Days. This table indicates that Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. Now, we have something that we can build upon and bring the prototype of firstfruits into this discussion. Under the New Covenant Jesus is the Passover sacrifice and upon His resurrection He is the first of God's firstfruits. Look once again at the passage from Leviticus saying that *you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the firstyear.* Isn't Jesus that lamb? Doesn't He represent the spiritual firstfruit? Then let us take facts and see if we can figure out a little more about this feast called Firstfruits. We know by Jesus' own words that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. I have explained elsewhere that Jesus must die on Wednesday as our current calendar is set up for everything to work as it is recorded in the Bible. With Jesus dying about three in the afternoon on Wednesday and taking into account the full three days and three nights that He must spend in the tomb, He would arise at three in the afternoon **on the first sabbath after Passover**. Therefore, this makes Jesus Lord of the Sabbath and the firstfruit of the resurrection, thus fulfilling the statements made in the Bible pertaining to firstfruits. Recall that Jesus told Mary (at the tomb) not to touch Him because He had not been to His Father's house yet. John 20:17, *17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'*" (ESV) Jesus had to present Himself to His Father as the Firstfruit on the day after the sabbath.

Feast of Firstfruits — To commemorate the coming in of barley. It appears to be the first day after the sabbath after Passover. (Lev 23:9-14) From Leviticus: *9 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap*

its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord. ¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. (NKJV) Because of the agrarian culture at the time of Moses this was an appointed festival; however, present day society is not that agrarian and there seems to be great confusion over how to determine this on any calendar. The mystery reveals that this feast day will depend on what day of the week is designated as Passover. We may revert back to observing this festival during the reign of Christ. Because of the confusion over when this feast is celebrated, I am inserting an additional review of firstfruits.

Feasts and Festivals of Israel

The Feast of Firstfruits

I. Introduction and review:

A. We have been considering the feasts and festivals of God.

1. We saw that they were considered to be two things:

- a. They were appointments with God.
- b. They were rehearsals of some event or action God was going to bring to pass in the future.

2. Some have already occurred and we can examine them with hindsight.

3. Others have not yet occurred and we can only look at them prospectively, that is without the precision of hindsight.

B. We began by looking at the first of the Spring feasts, that is Passover:

1. The Passover requirements:

- a. Preparation for the Passover begins on the tenth of Nisan when each family takes into their home a yearling, unblemished, male lamb (or goat).
- b. It has to be without spot or blemish.
- c. On the 14th day of Nisan, the lamb is killed and his blood painted on the door posts and the lintel of the family's home.

d. There is a Passover meal served to the family which is administered by the father.

e. The lamb is the main course.

f. This feast is a dress rehearsal of the death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The second Spring feast is the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

a. On the day of Passover, there is a search for leaven in the home.

b. All leaven found of the home is burned and for the next seven days no leaven is used in the home.

c. All of the bread that is baked and consumed by the family during this festival is unleavened.

d. Leaven represents sin.

e. This seven day feast represents the new life of the believer after accepting the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.

II. The next feast is the Feast of Firstfruits; Leviticus 23:10-14 (NKJV):

*”Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; **on the day after the Sabbath** the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; **it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.***

A. When it started:

1. The Passover was first celebrated when the last plague befell Egypt.

2. Thereafter Israel left Egypt.

3. The feast of unleavened bread followed the first Passover.

4. But when was the first feast of firstfruits held?

5. After they entered the promised land and not until the first harvest.

B. How the Feast would work:

1. This feast is commenced on the day after the Sabbath following Passover.
2. So **the feast of firstfruits would always be on a Sunday**, that is the first day of the week. As stated in Luke 24:1, *' But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.* (ESV)
3. The first of the **barley crop** would be bound into a sheaf.
4. You would then take this sheaf to the priest.
5. This sheaf was called the sheaf of firstfruits.
6. The priest would then take this sheaf into the place of worship and waive it before the Lord.
7. There were other proscribed offerings to be presented along with the sheaf of firstfruits.

C. Background information:

1. The word 'sheaf' in Hebrew is omer.
 - a. omer {o'-mer} **Meaning:** 1) a dry measure of 1/10 ephah (about 2 liters); 2) sheaf.
 - b. **Exodus 16:36** (NKJV): *Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.*
2. This feast was a harvest festival:
 - a. It was the first harvest festival in the year.
 - b. Just as the Feast of Pentecost (wheat harvest).
 - c. The Feast of Tabernacles (fruit harvest):
 - (1) important fruits
 - (2) olives
 - (3) grapes
3. The harvest of the barley:

a. Barley, unlike wheat does not stand up straight but hangs over.

(1) Barley is a relatively soft grain unlike wheat.

(2) Therefore Barley is winnowed and not threshed.

b. The barley doesn't always sprout up at the same time.

c. The fields are watched and the earliest grain to emerge is marked, usually with a red cord.

d. When these first emerges ripen and mature, enough of them are cut to make an omer (sheaf).

e. This sheaf was then taken to the priests so that they could offer it to God as a wave offering.

f. Thereafter you would make the other offerings prescribed in Leviticus.

g. Once that process was completed, then the barley could be harvested, but it could not be touched before the offering of the firstfruits is accepted.

D. This Feast is about a picture of resurrection and salvation. Consider some of the events that took place on this day:

1. Israel eats the firstfruits of the promised land; Joshua 5:10-12 (NKJV): *Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹² Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.*

a. And the next day, the day after Passover, they ate from the produce of the promised land.

b. The Manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land.

2. Jesus of Nazareth has risen from the dead. Jesus is the firstfruit of the resurrection and had to present Himself to the Father for acceptance as the firstfruit. As the barley could not be touched and harvested until after the sheaf wave offering was accepted. Jesus told this to Mary in different words. John 20:17, ¹⁷ *Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"* (NKJV)

3. Consider 1st Corinthians 15:20-26 (NKJV):

²⁰*But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

²¹*For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all*

die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

E. Jesus is the firstfruits.

1. First born son – Matthew 1:22-25 (NKJV):

²²So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

2. First begotten – Hebrews 1:6 (KJV):

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? ⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

3. First born of every creature – Colossians 1:15 (NKJV):

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

4. First begotten from the dead – Revelation 1:5 (NKJV):

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

5. First born of many brethren – Romans 8:29 (NKJV):

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

6. First fruits of the resurrected ones – 1st Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV):

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

7. Beginning of the creation of God – Revelation 3:14 (NKJV):

”And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

8. Preeminent One – Colossians 1:18 (NKJV):

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

III. Now we know the questions to go with the answers:

A. Consider John 20:11-12 (NKJV):

¹¹But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

1. Did God know that Mary was coming?
2. Did He have those two angels remain there for her to see?
3. What did Mary see?
 - a. The slab on which Jesus' body had been placed.
 - b. An angel sitting at the foot of the slab.
 - c. And an angel sitting at the head of the slab.
4. She saw a living display of the Mercy Seat.

B. Consider also John 20:17 (NKJV):

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

1. John 20:17 (KJV):

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

2. Haptomai {hap'-tom-ahee}, Greek reference 680 in Strong's Concordance — **Meaning:** to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to, or to touch.

3. Flavius Josephus wrote that the Jews would not touch their barley crop, that is to harvest it, until their firstfruits had been accepted.

4. Jesus now tells Mary that she should not touch Him until He goes first to the Father for acceptance and approval of His "sheaf" and wave offering.

5. Thereafter Jesus was fine with others touching Him, see John 20:27 (NKJV): *Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."*

C. Why can't the Jews see these things? Here is an even larger question: Why can't Christians see these things? Why have Christians continued for over 2000 years to call Jesus a liar? Oh, yes you have! By not accepting Jesus at His word that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish you are calling Jesus a liar!

1. They have been blinded to some extent. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, ³ *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,* ⁴ *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.* (NKJV)

2. Consider Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV):

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

3. That will happen at the second coming of Jesus, at the end of the Great Tribulation.

D. The giving of the firstfruits to God, demonstrated the faith of the covenant people in their God.

1. Do we exercise this same kind of faith today? I don't think so! As Bible Believers following the example of our LORD and Savior Jesus, why don't we exhibit this kind of faith today?

Second Passover — May 14 (Iyar)

Moses was approached and asked: How can a person who has buried a dead body eat the Passover meal when they are unclean. Moses said he would inquire of the Lord. Numbers 9:9-12 (NIV), *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites: When any of you or your descendants are unclean because of a dead body or are away on a journey, they may still celebrate the Lord’s Passover. They are to celebrate it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations.”*

Feast of Weeks, also known as Pentecost — June 5 (Sivan)

Leviticus 23:15-22 (NIV), *“From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the Lord. From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the Lord. Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the Lord, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the Lord. Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering. The priest is to wave the two lambs before the Lord as a wave offering, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred offering to the Lord for the priest. On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.*

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God.”

This feast also has a grain offering as a portion of its regulations. The firstfruit grain in this case is wheat.

Feast of Trumpets — 1st of Tishrei (late September or early October) Rosh Hashanah

Leviticus 23:23-25 (NIV), *The Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts.*

Do no regular work, but present an offering made to the Lord by fire.”

Remember, the first month is April (Nisan), therefore, the seventh month is October (Tishrei).

Day of Atonement — 10th of Tishrei (early October) Yom Kippur

Leviticus 23:26-32 (NIV), *The Lord said to Moses, “The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering made to the Lord by fire. Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God. Anyone who does not deny himself on that day must be cut off from his people. I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on that day. You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. It is a sabbath of rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath.”*

It seems the implication is a full day of fasting and abstaining from anything (deny yourself). No food! No drink! No drugs! No smoking! No earthly pleasure! You are to abstain from all things and to rest!

Feast of Tabernacles — 15th Tishrei (toward the middle of October) Sukkot I

Leviticus 23:33-43 (NIV), *The Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the Lord’s Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. For seven days present offerings made to the Lord by fire, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present an offering made to the Lord by fire. It is the closing assembly; do no regular work.*

These are the Lord’s appointed feasts, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing offerings made to the Lord by fire—the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day. These offerings are in addition to those for the Lord’s Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the Lord.

So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest. On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

There is another firstfruit offering to be made within the Feast of Tabernacles. The firstfruit for this offering is grapes (wine) and olives (oil).

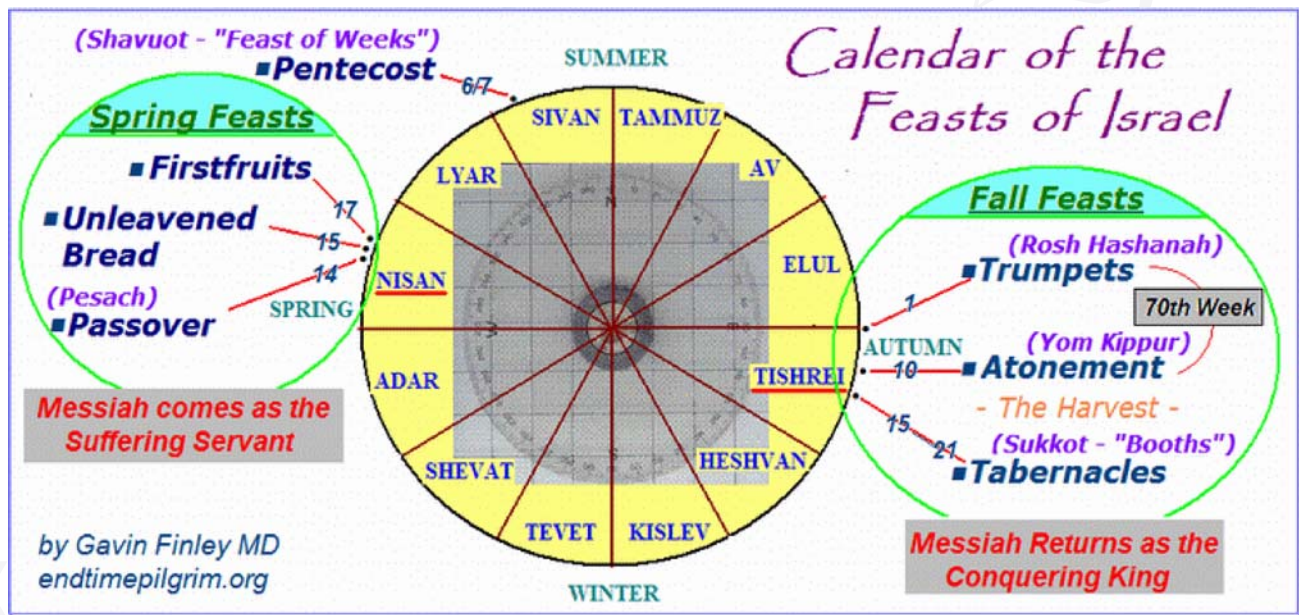
The procedures of the feast ceremonies require sacrifice and burnt offerings as documented throughout the 23rd chapter of Leviticus. Now we can bring Jesus into the picture and what He did for us. We must remember that Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, instead to fulfill it. Matthew 5:17-18 (NIV), *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”* Jesus became the required sacrifice once and for all. Recall that when Jesus was crucified on the cross the veil of the Holy of Holies at the temple was torn in half. Matthew 27:51 (NIV), *At*

that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. Mark 15:38 (NIV), *The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* Luke 23:45 (NIV), *For the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.* This removed the separation between mankind and God and completed the healing of the breach. Jesus effectively removed the curse of the Law: Those parts that required a burnt offering or a sacrifice were removed. **However, the instructions for God's ordained feast days were not removed and remain in effect throughout all of mankind's generations.**

These are the ordained Feasts of God. Why is it we do not celebrate these feasts at their appointed times? We have been deceived in our disobedience to the point that we truthfully do not understand the request of God to obey seven feasts each year. The words to identify God's feast days are given and simple to read. The three feast days that every male is required to appear before God are shown. How did we get so far from the truth?

I find it interesting to note that Jesus spent 40 days on the earth after His resurrection. Acts 1:1-3 (NIV), *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.* That would indicate that Jesus was taken from the earth just before Pentecost on or about the 27th of May.

It is hard for me to practice these days for the simple reason that they were not included in my teachings from the largest Protestant denomination in the United States. I have read, and reread, these verses and have marked calendar after calendar to try and teach myself and my wife the importance of observing God's feast days. I pray earnestly that you may find this helpful in understanding God's feast days and recognizing who the people of the United States truly are.



In this booklet, I've attempted to provide you a little information on the importance of the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments and God's feast days. I feel I must place an extra special effort to have you understand the major point in the relationship with Jesus, God and yourself. If you study the Old Testament and read the prophets of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Hosea and the other

minor prophets, you will find that they provide warnings from God to Israel and Judah to repent and turn back to obeying God's rule and feast days. God instructed that these Commandments and feast were to be observed in all of mankind's generations. Unfortunately, the English speaking nations of the world have just about abandoned all regard for those required observances.

There was a time when the United Kingdom and the United States were the great missionary providers to the rest of the world. It seems to me that God is moving His church away from those two nations in particular and transferring His church to different places. We can see this from the news we get from the Christian side of the media. These countries include Iran, Iraq, many nations in Africa, the nations along the border with Russian which have the suffix "Stan" at the end of their names. It even includes countries in the Pacific rim and in India. God is moving through His Holy Spirit to provide salvation to as many as will listen to the Word of God. People around the world are finding Jesus as the Messiah while the great missionary providers of old are relying on the thoughts of the woke/LBGQT left to lead them into a new and wonderful world of electric cars and a controlled climate that man has thought up that is better than what God provided to us in the past. What is actually happening is an out and out rebellion against God and all of His rules. The words I'm giving you are another warning that **IF** this nation doesn't turn around and change its ways that wrath and destruction will soon follow.

I stated above that there are Christian media outlets that provide Christians with current valuable information of what is happening in other nations around the world. Here are a few of the programs that will give you a better perspective of what is happening in the world:

The Joel Rosenberg Report	Thursday 9:00 PM	TBN
The Watchman	Friday 6:30 PM	TBN
Jerusalem Dateline	Saturday 2:00 PM	Daystar
Christian World News	Saturday 3:30 PM	TBN
The John Ankerberg Show	Sunday 5:30 PM	Daystar

Please check your local listing (cable or Dish) for the correct time and date in your area

There are two places in the Old Testament which provide a blessing and curse perspective for obedience or rebellion against God's instructions. The first location, for these verses is in Leviticus 26 and the second location is in Deuteronomy 28. In either record, there is about a 2 to 1 differential in either record. There will be about 14 verses for being obedient and receiving God's blessings and about double that number of verses for disobedience and being under God's wrath and punishments. It is up to God's people concerning which set will happen in whichever land where you are living. You can obey God or you can reject God's love and instructions. In today's New Testament ideology of anything goes, it's okay, you need to understand that the wrath is about to come because of those manmade ideas that are against the rules of God. Every person who has been born had or has a choice to make. You can either establish a relationship with Jesus or you can reject the free gift of salvation and join with the other followers of Satan who will be punished in the lake of fire for all of eternity.

It is your choice!
Make it a good one!

Maranatha



VQP



VQP



VQP

