

# The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD

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## See the BIGGER Tabernacle!

*Everywhere members are planning to see the BIGGER Tabernacle  
this autumn at the Feast of Tabernacles. Here's how you can afford  
to be there, too!*

*by Roderick C. Meredith*

**H**OW joyous the coming Feast of Tabernacles will be. What a tremendous inspiration and blessing it will be to see the BIGGER Tabernacle and meet the thousand new members being added to God's Church this year!

It is your money which is making the Tabernacle possible. You won't want to miss it, and you'll want to hear from Mr. Armstrong and his son Ted about their vital trip to Europe!

### What Feast of Tabernacles Means TO YOU

Think how much more real *meaning* there is in the annual festivals God has ordained than in the continual round of holidays the children of this world are busy observing. Most of you brethren know this—because you have attended God's annual festivals before. And you have undoubtedly compared them with this world's holidays.

No comparison, is there?

No, because God's annual *holy days* point out—step by step—the great PLAN of God and His method of working out that plan. But the *holidays* of this babylonish world picture only a false Christ and a *counterfeit* plan of salvation devised by *Satan the Devil!* But while most of you brethren have already *proved* this to yourselves, many of you wonder *how* it is possible to keep

these joyous festivals God has given His people.

So here is the answer—in *writing*—to the questions so many of you newly baptized members are asking about the Feast of Tabernacles.

### A GOD-Given Blessing

Are you *commanded* to leave your homes and assemble with God's Church during His annual festivals? Are there any *exceptions* to this command? And *how can you afford* to take such a trip?

While the world is busy observing the *pagan* holidays of Christmas and Easter, and devising "camp meetings" according to *human reason*—the "way which seemeth right unto a man" (Proverbs 14:12)—it sneers at the days God has *made holy*. The world ridicules these days as "Jewish"—forgetting that Jesus and the apostles kept these days in the *New Testament*. These days are *never* referred to as being "holy to the Jews." But God calls them "MY sabbaths"—"holy unto the Lord!"

These annual festivals *are* holy to the Eternal Creator, who gives you every breath of air you breathe! He *commands* you to keep them—for your own good. You are *defying Him* if you refuse to keep them. In so doing you will lose knowledge of the true God and of His *plan* which is pictured by these days. And you will be missing out on the most

happy, joyous, and really worthwhile *vacation opportunity* there is.

God's annual festivals truly are a great *blessing* to those who are yielded to God. Many of you brethren have come out of this world, and then found yourselves *unable* to fellowship with any of God's people. It is often impossible to meet with other true brethren on the weekly Sabbath. BUT God's *annual* Sabbaths or holy days provide an opportunity to travel even some distance and have that needed fellowship with other members of the true Church of God.

For many brethren who have attended before, the annual festivals are eagerly anticipated as an opportunity to renew the wonderful fellowship with brethren from all over the nation—and to drink in spiritual food in the inspiring meetings which are the highlights of the entire year.

In His wisdom, God has ordained that we should take time each year to make the trip to attend His annual festivals—where we can *relax* from our daily routine, *rejoice* with other brethren, and *learn* more spiritual truth in a few days than we ordinarily would in months. This is *God's way!*

Inevitably, many brethren will say, "But we can't afford to attend God's festivals."

The truth is, *you cannot afford not to attend!* And God has instituted a plan to

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**Be sure to notify us immediately of  
change of address.**

ensure that you CAN attend—if you will  
do your part.

## How to Afford It?

But HOW can we afford it?

These festive occasions are *commanded* to be kept *in the place that God chooses*. Deuteronomy 16:16 shows particularly that the days of unleavened bread, including the passover (verse 6), the day of pentecost, and the feast of tabernacles are all to be kept *where God would choose*.

How do we do it?

God has not only provided, but also *commanded*, a way to make it financially possible for us to keep His holy days!

It is a way which requires continual EFFORT and determination. If we are to be OVERCOMERS—and *they only* will be in the kingdom of God—then we will have to exercise enough strength of character and will to obey this command of God. Actually it works no real hardship, but brings a great blessing to ourselves and others. It is a way that builds faith and hope and patience and love.

What does God command?

God commands us in Deut. 14:22-27 to save each year a special or *second* tithe, *to go to the place God selects for each of His festivals*, and to rejoice in them. This second tithe is for expense money to enable us to keep God's annual holy days. In ancient Israel most of the money was spent for food there, as the expense for traveling was almost nothing. Today, however, our greatest expense is often transportation rather than

food. As the purpose of this *second tithe* is to enable us to attend the festivals, we will often spend a good portion in transportation.

## Not the First Tithe!

Please do not confuse this *second tithe*, especially for these occasions, with the *first tithe*, which God has commanded us to render to His true ministers for proclaiming to the whole world the gospel. *Unlike* the second tithe, the *first* tithe or tenth of our income belongs to God. He created all things and is only *permitting* man to use this material world anyway. "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psa. 24:1).

In Numbers 18:21 we read that God gave a tenth or tithe of Israel's income to the Levites for an inheritance. This tithe does *not* belong to us; it is the inheritance of God's ministry. Today the priesthood has been *changed* (Hebrews 7:12), so we now pay our tithes to God's representatives, Christ's true ministers, for the gospel work (1 Cor. 9:14). In Malachi 4:8-12, it says that we are *robbing* God if we fail to render to Him (through His true servants) our tithes AND offerings. Most people in this confused world don't even realize this. But once we have the knowledge of the truth, we had better repent and begin to obey God in this matter. And, as we just read in Malachi, if we do obey God by paying our tithes and giving offerings, He will bless us.

In Deuteronomy 14:22-27, we find that our Creator commands us to lay by a *second* tithe of our increase or income and go to the place which God has chosen. From this tithe we ourselves are to eat, drink, and rejoice in this place—the place where God has chosen that His annual holy days are to be held. We set aside this special tithe (or tenth) of our income *every year* in order that we might have the expense money to attend and to rejoice with the brethren. Notice that it says in verse 23: "and THOU shalt eat before the Lord thy God . . ."

*This* tithe is to be spent on *yourself*—not for the ministry. Since there is a commanded tithe for the ministry, this must be *another, different* tithe.

In the 12th chapter of Deuteronomy this *special* tithe is mentioned in verses 6, 11, and 17 along with the sacrifices Israel used to bring. Here again this *special* or *second* tithe is for *you* to use AT THE PLACE which God has chosen for you to appear before Him on these holy days.

## Should You Spend Your Second Tithe at Home?

If for some unforeseen circumstance you are unable to attend the Feast of

Tabernacles, what should you do with your second tithe? Many that we have met on the baptizing tours, and others by letters, have asked about this problem.

Now let us notice *where* the second tithe was to be spent. "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And *thou* shalt eat before the Lord thy God, *in the place which he shall choose* to place his name there . . . that thou mayest learn to *fear* the Lord thy God always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the Lord thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the Lord thy God hath blessed thee: then shalt thou turn it into *money* . . . and shalt GO *unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose* . . . and thou shalt eat *there* before the Lord thy God, and thou shalt rejoice." (Deut. 14:22-27).

The second tithe—the tenth that God wants *us* to use, which is another and separate tenth from the first tithe that He reserves for Himself for the carrying out of the gospel—the second tithe we are to use to attend *the festivals*. But let us read further: "Thou mayest NOT eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine . . . but thou MUST eat them before the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter" (Deut. 12:17-18).

Here is a positive command *not* to use the second tithe at home if you are unable to attend. You *must* use it to enable you to attend the festivals at the place which God chooses. If the money is spent for any other purpose, then you are breaking a command of God—you are not learning to *fear* His authority—and you are cheating yourself of the wonderful blessing of fellowship with others of like faith.

Let's use the minds God has endowed us with to carry out these commands in a reasonable manner. Deuteronomy 14:22 states that you shall tithe the increase of your seed. Then it is certainly permissible for you who are farmers to bring some of your produce or canned goods to the feasts instead of money.

If for unforeseen circumstances you are unable to attend the festivals, and if you are prosperous, it would be the right and brotherly duty to enable others to use your tithe. It can be sent to Pasadena, with an explanation that it is to enable others to attend the festival. But if you are like most of the brethren, not having many worldly goods, and a small income or none at all, and if you are unable to come to the festival, you should SAVE IT UNTIL THE NEXT YEAR or for two years, if necessary, when you will then have  
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# Is it Wrong to Have PICTURES of Christ?

*Here is an eye-opening article from one of our ministers in Great Britain. You will find it vitally interesting.*

*by Ernest Martin*

RECENTLY a very popular book has been published in which a leading Protestant minister advocates concentrating upon a small picture of Christ while you are praying in order to give you the proper inspiration for prayer.

Today, God is so far off to most people, so it is thought, that one must have some representation of Christ, the Father, or some saint in order to pray with reality. There are thousands of images, idols and pictures throughout the world—in homes, in Bibles, in churches—which are to remind people of Christ or some Biblical personage. Do we need such images?

## Are Images or Pictures Sanctioned by God?

The Bible expressly forbids the use of images in any form in the true worship of God. Notice Exodus 20:4,5: "Thou shalt *not* make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above [note, the command is against *any* likeness, no matter what form], or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them [it does not say worship them, but merely to bow before them], nor SERVE them [or, to use them in service to the true God]". This Second Command is primarily against the use of intermediate, material images, idols or pictures with which to worship the true God mentioned in the First Commandment. The worship of God must not be *through* images.

Most of you brethren have understood that the usage of images was wrong, but what about *pictures*? Does the Second Commandment specifically include them? Yes, it does! Notice that it says no *likeness* shall be made of heavenly beings to be used in the worship of God. Likenesses are portrayed in pictures as well as through idols or other images. Pictures of Christ, then, are definitely forbidden.

## Israel Told to Destroy Images and Pictures of Heathen

To carry out the enforcement of God's Second Commandment, notice

what God commanded the Israelites just before they entered the Promised Land: "Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, AND DESTROY ALL THEIR PICTURES, and destroy all their MOLTEN IMAGES, and quite pluck down all their high places" (Num. 33:52). Their pictures of heavenly things and their idols were considered one and the same. Idolatrous pictures and images are both forbidden by God. The Israelites were commanded to destroy them all.

Although the Israelites after moving into the Promised Land did not totally abolish these forms of idolatry, we find that the Jews, after the Babylonian Captivity, about 450 B.C. did, in general, remove idolatrous worship from the land. They had been told by the prophets that their captivity was because of their idolatry and Sabbath breaking (Neh. 13:18). And, after the Captivity, the Rabbis made the Sabbath one of the main commandments. Also, they legislated laws which were designed to separate the Jew from all appearances of idolatry. In fact, by the time of our Saviour, the making of sculptures or pictures was so unknown among the Jews that Caligula, the Roman Emperor, had to employ Phoenicians to make a statue of him to be put in Jerusalem because no Jew knew how to make one (Edersheim, *Life and Times*, pp. 89, 90). This was the condition of the pious Jews regarding image and picture making during the time of Christ. They carried the meaning of the Second Commandment to an extreme.

## Early Christians Forbade Images and Pictures

Not only did Jesus teach the commandments of God (Matt. 19:16-22), but His apostles also did (I John 2:3,4). It is not any wonder that those individuals converted by Christ and the apostles kept the commandments—including the Second. Dr. Farrar in his monumental book "*The Life of Christ as Represented in Art*," pages 5 and 6 says that early Christians of all ranks regarded the painting or representation of Christ as profanity and an act of irreverence. There is ample evidence to

show that they took the same stand as the Jews as far as Art was concerned. They needed no images or pictures to remind them of Christ or the Father. Jesus had said that those who worship Him must do so "in Spirit and truth." The only mediator between man and the Father is Christ—there is no need of intermediate pictures or images.

This early abhorrence for images and pictures of the Father or Christ was so indelibly planted upon the minds of early Christians that for over 300 years after the death of the apostles, there was no official representation of deity made. It is true that a few heretical individuals (undercover—not openly) had sketched outlines of Christ in various places (to be mentioned later), but the vast majority of professing Christians—Catholics or otherwise, refrained from portraying anything connected with God until about the Fourth Century.

## Early Catholic Officials Denounce Imagery As Idolatrous

Here is an example of how early Catholics looked upon the use of images and pictures of Christ.

In the year 326 A.D., one of the great Catholic leaders, Eusebius of Caesarea, showed great distaste for the request for a picture of Christ from the sister of Emperor Constantine. She had requested a picture to see how Christ looked. Notice what Eusebius wrote back to her. "And since you have written about some supposed likeness or other of Christ, what and what kind of likeness of Christ is there? . . . *Such images are forbidden by the second commandment.* They are *not* to be found in churches, and are forbidden among Christians alone" (Farrar, p. 56). This is striking testimony that even the Catholic Church at this time understood the laws of God on this matter. Farrar also records that Irenaeus, Clement, Origen and Lactantius, all of whom were high ranking Catholic officials, sternly condemned their use in any fashion. And, Irenaeus and Clement distinctly appeal to the Second Commandment as authority (p. 60).

Later, there was another Bishop of the Fourth Century, whom Catholic his-

torians regard as one of the saintliest and most orthodox, who had an energetic abhorrence for anything resembling a sacred picture. This was Bishop Epiphanius of Salamis. Farrar records an excerpt from one of his letters to the Bishop of Jerusalem. It concerned a condition he found existing in the Jerusalem area. It appears that on a journey to Jerusalem, near Bethel, he had come upon a building in which he saw a lamp burning. On being informed the building was a church, he entered to pray . . . He saw there a curtain which had on it (as he goes on to write), "an image, as it were, of Christ, or of some saint, for I cannot quite remember whose likeness it was. Horrified to see the likeness of a man, hanging *contrary to Scripture, in a Christian Church*, I tore it down and ordered the vergers (attendants) to use it as the shroud of some pauper" (See also Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition, vol. 14, p. 272).

Yes, even in the Fourth Century, the majority of Catholic officials were vehemently against the violation of the Second Commandment. Although, from this example, you can see that some Bishops were beginning to allow pictures even in the churches.

By the end of the Fourth Century, because of the increased influx of pagan influence, the tide was beginning to be in favor of the use of pictures for worship. Augustine, at the beginning of the Fifth Century, "complains that he knew many worshippers of superstitious pictures" (Farrar, p. 59). Still, however, the majority was opposed to their use. Farrar goes on to say that about the year 600 A.D., there was one Serenus, Bishop of Massilia who "broke up pictures and images in churches." This act of the Bishop's reached the ears of Pope Gregory who disapproved "of his breaking them, though he commends his opposition to their idolatrous use" (p. 59).

Yes, there was still opposition to such violations of God's law even this late in the Catholic Church. Even the Pope had to commend this Bishop for his motives. This plainly shows that a knowledge of what was right was known to the ones in authority. However, even this praise of opposition was soon to leave the officials in the Catholic Church.

So strong had paganistic influences entered the Catholic Church, that a Council of Catholic leaders was called in Constantinople in 691 A.D. in which they officially sanctioned the use of images and pictures in churches (Farrar, p. 100). There were some Bishops dissenting from this form of idolatry, but the majority carried and the decree passed. This decree of the Catholic Church was in direct antithesis to the

beliefs and practices of the same Church 300 years before when the early Church "Fathers" were in authority. The reason for this about-face was because of the unbridled paganistic ideals and philosophies that crept into that Church after the "conversion" of Constantine in the first part of the Fourth Century. So many doctrines of paganism had entered the Church, along with many Pagans themselves being converted, that she was forced to submit to the use of Pagan images and pictures, if she was to remain popular with the people. This, of course, she did. However, it was not until another Council of Constantinople in 842 A.D. that the last vestiges of opposition to images and pictures was stamped out. From that time, until the present, the Catholic Church has sanctioned images and the like in their churches. Some Protestants made a feeble attempt to reform the Catholic Church from this imagery in the reformation, but this they failed to do. In fact, the bulk of Protestants carried the representations of Christ in picture form, which came from Catholicism, directly into their churches. The pictures, mosaics and paintings of Christ you see today in Protestant churches and in their literature, are direct developments of the ones used by the Catholics.

#### How Was Christ Represented in Early Christian Art?

The Christ you see portrayed in pictures and images today is an effeminate looking individual with long hair and a beard. There are some differences in portraying Him among the different artists, but generally He is the same.

But, is the common picture we are used to and the one the Protestants adopted from the Catholics, the way Christ actually appeared while on this earth? Did He have a beard and long hair?

The very first pictures found of Christ are painted on the walls of the Catacombs of Rome. Most of these pictures were painted during the Second and Third Centuries and, it might be added, outside of the approval of the Catholic Church. That Church, we have seen, did not allow such representations at this early date. And, it is true, they should not have been drawn, but still there is something interesting in them for us today, for they show Christ in an entirely different form than we are accustomed to seeing Him.

#### What Early Paintings Looked Like

The earliest pictures in these Catacombs, date from about 100 years after the apostles. And, whoever sketched them were undoubtedly acquainted with individuals who were familiar with the

general appearance of Christ that came by word of mouth from the apostles. The most ancient of these pictures is described by Roderic Dunkerley in his book "Beyond the Gospels." He says: "In particular, there is a painting of the Resurrection of Lazarus in which Christ is shown—'*youthful and beardless, with short hair and large eyes*' . . . Although it is now only barely recognizable, this picture is of great interest since it is the oldest representation of Jesus that is preserved anywhere" (p. 57).

Did you notice any difference from the common portrayals today? Christ is here depicted as young (He was around 33 when crucified) and *He is without a beard and with short hair*. Farrar, also speaking of these early portrayals of Christ, says, "He is almost invariably boyish and beardless . . . *His hair is short, His eye full of tenderness*" (p. 43). These pictures are strikingly different from the "Christ" we see today in the churches of this land.

But, let us go on.

These early representations of Christ, being beardless and with short hair, persisted for a number of years. Dunkerley continues, "Reference may be made to another portrayal of Christ, dating from early in the third century. It was found on the wall of a house-chapel at Dura-Europos in the Syrian Desert in 1931-2 during excavations of Yale University and the French Academy of Inscriptions and Letters. . . . Here too He is young and *without a beard* and wearing the ordinary costume of the time" (p. 58). This picture was found near Palestine, and it corresponds with the portrayals of those found in Rome. The general appearance of Christ seems to have been known throughout the Roman world, and that Christ's appearance was not as we know it today. In fact, Farrar says, "During the first four hundred years there is probably no representation of Christ as bearded, or as a worn and weary sufferer" (p. 52). Dunkerley also agrees with this deduction, when he states, "It is not until the fourth century (after Christ) *that the familiar bearded face appears*" (p. 58). These are amazing statements. It took about 400 years to evolve the "Christ" that we had been brought up to believe in. And, this "Christ" is not the one the early Christians thought of—the Christ of the Bible. This is the picture of a false Christ—the one the whole world worships.

#### Bible Proves Christ Did Not Wear Long Hair

The foregoing evidence should not surprise you brethren who have studied your Bibles, for God's word plainly shows that a man should not wear long

hair—it is a shame (I Cor. 11:14). Christ did not wear long hair, and—as the first pictures show—even the Catholics knew He did not wear a beard.

Some have erroneously assumed that Jesus was under a Nazarite vow (this was a vow of extreme humility) in which the hair should, for a period of time, grow long, but this is not so! Jesus was from the small town of Nazareth in Galilee and was called "Jesus of Nazareth," but this had nothing to do with a Nazarite vow! And, the Scripture plainly shows that Christ was not a Nazarite while on this earth, for in Matthew 11:19 Jesus, Himself, stated that He came drinking wine. This was forbidden one under a Nazarite vow (Num. 6:3).

Also, another proof of this is Matthew 26:48,49. Here it says Jesus had to be kissed in order for the soldiers to know which one He was. If Christ had been dressed as a Nazarite, with long hair and old clothes (in other words, out of the ordinary), the soldiers would have recognized Him without his being pointed out.

The disciples were also dressed like ordinary men because they were not fasting or under a Nazarite vow (Matt. 9:14,15). The Bible is plain on this matter. Christ and the disciples dressed like ordinary men. Christ did not have long hair, and the early pictures of Him show Him without long hair and without a beard.

Isaiah 50:6 refers not to Jesus but to Isaiah the prophet.

### Where Did False Representations of Christ Come From?

The first paintings of Christ were just simple sketches. There seems to have been no outside influences directing how He should look. His general appearance was apparently common knowledge.

But, soon there began to creep into the Catholic Church a number of people who had been reared pagans. Along with them they brought many symbols of their art. These pagans began to blend their ideas with Biblical events. "Early Christian art," says Professor Woltmann, "does not differ in its beginnings from the art of antiquity" (Farrar, p. 29). Concerning this fact, Farrar continues, "Christians had to baptize, as it were, all that could be baptized of the ancient heathen types. They themselves had been Pagans, and were unaccustomed to any but Pagan decorations, into which they infused a new spirit" (p. 29).

Notice it! The pagans brought with them into the Catholic Church their old ideas on art and infused into them Christian significance. Yes, the pagans even went a step further than merely representing Christ in outline form (and

even that was wrong). They brought in direct pagan decorations.

Of course, this was at first done undercover in the Third Century, because the Catholic Church at this time still did not allow such things. But, nevertheless, paganism began to thrive throughout the Roman world under the guise of Christianity.

### Pagan Gods Became Direct Representations of Christ

Yes, this subtitle is a shocking one to make, but it is fact! The pagans, instead of destroying their gods, turned them into Christ or other Biblical characters. They kept right on worshipping them, but calling them now by Christian names. "Of these types of Christ, borrowed from Pagan antiquity," says Farrar, "the favourite was Orpheus taming the wild beasts with his lyre" (p. 30). When the pagans were converted to Catholicism, they quit calling the pagan god Orpheus by his name of antiquity. Now, they called him Christ. They reasoned that it was all right because Christ will tame the wild beasts in the millennium as Orpheus does. So, the pagan god Orpheus became Christ. They continued to paint the image of Orpheus, but now it was Christ.

"No Pagan symbol, therefore, better accorded with their tone of mind than that which represented the youthful Orpheus bending the listening trees and charming the savage lions by his celestial harmonies. It indicated Christ as the King of Love and Peace, as the Law of life, and the Harmony of the world" (Farrar, pp. 33,34).

Another authoritative work entitled "Wonders of the Past" pp. 1118,9 also has some information on this subject. It states, "For the Christians, even in the earliest days, observed the customs of their ancestors, though with a new intention." Continuing, "It (Art) remains as it were transformed, seen with new eyes, and drawn into the service of Christ." Now notice this statement from this work: "Orpheus becomes a prophecy of Him (Christ); and the Good Shepherd (Christ) bears the lamb on His shoulders precisely as Hermes (a pagan god) had been wont to do, but with a new tenderness. The portrait of Christ," the book continues, "is but seldom found, but when we do find a presentation of Him, He is represented as young and BEARDED, with a smile on His lips, splendid AS APOLLO" (p. 1119). Oh brethren, notice this! Here is Christ represented with a BEARD—as you see Him portrayed today—and it is exactly as some ancient portrayals of the chief pagan god APOLLO. Need any more be said? Here is where the Christ of today comes from! It is nothing more

than a portrait of a heathen god.

Farrar goes on to say, "Other Pagan symbols adopted by Christianity were those of the winged Psyche, the Sirens, and Hercules feeding the dragon with poppy seed. The story of Cupid and Psyche, of which there are several instances, was chosen as the emblem of God's love for the soul" (p. 34). Yes, there were many pagan gods of the heathens and they brought them right into the Catholic Church when the pagans were "converted." So numerous had these representations of Christ become, that by 691 A.D. (as stated before), the Catholic Church finally allowed them by official decree to become a part of the religious service.

Because there were many of these pagan gods, they could not all represent Christ for all of them had slightly different appearances. Augustine, the Catholic official in the Fourth Century stated that there were "in his time, innumerable pictures of Christ, which were all different" (Farrar, p. 73). We finally see the solidification of these varying pictures (representing many pagan gods) into the common one today.

Actually, today's representation is the blending together of the chief characteristics of major pagan gods. The wisest and most powerful of the gods were portrayed with beards and long hair. The hair and beard represented their ancient wisdom and godliness. This uniquely blended portrayal was the one finally sanctioned by the Catholic Church—it satisfied everyone. This is the very presentation of Christ that is extant in Catholic and Protestant churches today. Few realize that it is a direct representation of the chief of pagan gods. Truly, Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

### How Does Christ Actually Look Today?

Christ does not look like the pagan gods of Greece or Rome and as the world portrays Him today. There is no resemblance whatsoever. If you want a true Biblical picture of our Saviour, turn to Revelation 1:13-16). There is the real Christ. It is a description that no artist could paint nor any sculptor mold. This is the Christ who has a face that shines as the sun in its full strength. He was so bright that John fell at His feet as dead when he saw Him (Rev. 1:17).

Here is Christ in His full power and glory—the Christ of the Bible. And this is the way He will appear when He comes back to this earth with all His glory (Matt. 24:30). Most people will be looking for a false Christ—the one pictured today. What a shock they will

have when the REAL CHRIST is revealed!

### Violating the Second Commandment?

In the light of these facts, we should ask ourselves if we are violating God's commandments. Do we have pictures of this false Christ—the representation of pagan gods in our homes?—in our Bibles?

If we do have, we should do as God commanded the ancient Israelites in Numbers 33:52. "Destroy all their [the heathen's] PICTURES, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places." Yes, brethren, let us rid ourselves of any form of idolatry—this form of violating the Second Commandment. And, let us be about our Father's business, by always being in obedience to His commandments (1 John 2:3,4).

## See TABERNACLE!

(Continued from page 2)

enough to assemble where God has chosen to place His name. Meantime, you will be observing the festivals at home just as you would at the feast.

Sad as it sometimes is, with some families, the second tithe *just hasn't been enough* to bring them to the feast of tabernacles. In this case, those *having more than enough* second tithe should help those who lack. Remember, God doesn't expect the poor to save more than their small tenth, but *they must do their part!* God often blesses others, however, with a larger tenth so they can help those who have less.

We find in Acts 4:32-35 that the early Church of God helped its needy members and we follow this principle.

In many cases we try to aid the poorer brethren through the extra second tithe of those *few* who have more than enough. But only those who have faithfully saved their insufficient second tithe deserve the extra help. If you haven't tried to save your little, God can not deem you worthy of His extra assistance.

Yes, God has provided a method by which we can keep His festivals IF we are willing to do our part! It isn't difficult once we try. God has promised to care for our every need (1 Peter 5:7). And if we love the brethren we won't fail to do it.

Are we going to follow Christ? Let everyone examine his own heart!

If there is not enough second tithe to take the entire family to the three great feasts, then just the man, as head of the family, should go (Deut. 16:16). The other members of the family are expected if circumstances permit, and God will help us work it out in time if we do our part. Of course, if the husband is an un-

believer, the wife should certainly try to come anyway.

### God's Insurance Program

In reading the reference given in Deuteronomy 14:22-27, some of you may have wondered about the meaning of verses 28-29. In these verses, God is commanding another, altogether *different* tithe.

You may not have known it before, but God wants us to save *one more tithe* every third year to help the orphans and widows.

In both Deuteronomy 14:28-29 and Deuteronomy 26:12-15 we find this tithe commanded. It used to be set aside in every walled city, "within thy gates" (Deut. 26:12). But now many widows and orphans are so far away that we simply send it wherever needed. This third tithe is to be saved *only every third year*.

Since the laws of letting the land rest and releasing the poor debtors were based on a cycle of *seven years*, we are to save this special tithe in the third and sixth years out of every seven year period. Compare the story flow in Deut. 14:28-29 with 15:1 for proof.

None of you were really God's children—*spiritually Israelites* (Gal. 3:29)—until you were converted and baptized. So you won't need to save this third tithe until the third year after you were converted.

Some of you may think that paying God's (not your!) *first tithe* to His work, saving a *second tithe* with which to attend His feasts, and, every third year only, saving an additional *third tithe* is going to be impossible. That's what the world believes! But we are not of the world but of the household of faith.

Do you think God has commanded you to do something which He knows you will be unable to perform? NO! Those of us who have saved these three tithes know *by experience* that God is able to bless us sufficiently that we abound to every good work (II Cor. 9:6-8). He is doing it this moment for hundreds of the brethren and He will do it for you. You do YOUR part and God will be faithful to perform His!

### Historical Example

A most convincing example from a reliable historical source of how the Jews paid these tithes is given in the book of Tobit. This book is found in what is known as the Apocrypha—a collection of Jewish history and writings covering and extending beyond the period between the Old and New Testaments.

These writings were not inspired, but they do give us a great deal of reliable information. Tobit was a man of the tribe of Naphtali, which was among the

ten tribes taken captive by Assyria. Prior to the captivity, he kept the commandments of God even after the rest of his tribe began offering sacrifices to Baal.

In the third paragraph of the book of Tobit, he tells us, "But I alone went many a time to Jerusalem for the festivals, as the Scripture commands all Israel with an everlasting decree, taking with me the first fruits and the tenth part of my crops and my first shearings, and I would give them to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. A tenth part of all my produce I would give to the sons of Levi, who officiated at Jerusalem, and *another tenth* I would sell, and go and spend the proceeds in Jerusalem each year, and a *third tenth* I would give to those to whom it was fitting to give it, as Deborah my grandmother had instructed me—for I was left an orphan of my father."

Thus we see that the Israelites had always understood that they were to save three tithes, and that each one was to be used for a *different purpose*. God's commandments are not hidden from anyone who sincerely desires to know the truth.

### Let's Be There

Are you living by every word of God? Let us obey our own spiritual Father by keeping His annual holy days and saving the tithes that He has commanded!

God's annual festivals represent His *vacation plan* for YOU. God *wants* us to live happy and prosperous lives. Jesus came to teach men the way to an *abundant* life. He *kept* God's annual festivals from His youth (Luke 2:41-42), and He *rejoiced* in them as God directs. This is certainly the kind of vacation Jesus took. And it is the happiest possible solution to your vacation problem.

As most of you know, the Festival of Tabernacles is held in the United States at our large Tabernacle near Gladewater, Texas. The location there is beautiful, the climate is ideal, and Gladewater is located in the very *center* of our heaviest listening area for the broadcast.

Make your plans *now* to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year which begins at sunset, October 16, and lasts for eight days. Write us for information *immediately*. It is an experience you will *never* forget!

God in His infinite wisdom *knew* that His children should congregate with instruction and Christian fellowship. That is why God *BLESSED* us by giving us His annual festivals! We should *appreciate* this love God has lavished on us by saving the tithe that He commands for His holy days.

God has made your presence possible IF you do your part! Are you willing?

# SATAN'S FATE!

*Here is the truth about Satan, and the startling proof about his final judgment!*

*by Garner Ted Armstrong*

(Reprinted from the July 1957 Good News)

**T**HIS WORLD is totally deceived. In His very first words to His disciples in the Olivet Prophecy, Jesus sternly warned, "Take heed that no man deceive you, for MANY shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many!" (Matt. 24:4-5).

Most of you brethren are well aware of the false doctrines circulated about in modern "Churchianity" about Satan the Devil. The familiar tunes of the "preachy-toned" tent-camp evangelist shouting, "We're sure gonna twist ole Satan's tail tonight!" is just one of many examples.

Some believe he is merely the embodiment of all that is evil, and therefore not a real *being*, but just a BAD "idea" in the minds of men. Others believe Satan appears as a red dancing monster with wings like a bat, horns, a tail and a pitchfork. Still others believe Satan is merely the lustful and evil part of human nature.

## But What Is the Truth?

Surely most of you know, after having studied your Bibles, listening to The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast and reading the articles in The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS that *Satan is the god of this present world*.

Paul expressly calls him that! "In whom the god of *this world* {Greek *aiōn*, or "age"} hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, LEST THE light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:4).

In trying to overthrow Christ, Satan boasted, "All this power will I give you (all the kingdoms of the world), and the glory of them, for that is *delivered unto me*, and to whomsoever I will I give it" (Luke 4:5-6).

Had Satan made this statement falsely, Christ would certainly have refuted it! And yet, Christ said not one word to contradict Satan's presumptuous remarks about the kingdoms of this world. Jesus *did*, however, rebuke the Devil for *tempting Him by means of the kingdoms of this world*.

Jesus warned His disciples that the *majority* would be deceived, and going in the broad, wide, *easy* way—the way of following that which seems *right* to a man—to destruction! (Matt. 7:13).

The deceiver is called the "prince of the power of the air" in Eph. 2:2. John's

vision plainly showed Satan as the deceiver of the **WHOLE WORLD**, who was cast down with his angels, who are now called demons (Rev. 12:9).

## How It Happened

God reveals *how* Satan became the god of this world—and why! Perhaps many have falsely assumed the Devil is the god of this world *against* the will of God! Many, perhaps, have unknowingly followed another *deception* of Satan by believing the *false* idea of this world of some kind of GREAT CONTROVERSY between God and Satan! This doctrine represents the Devil as being much more powerful than God! After all—the world is totally wrapped up in sin, isn't it? Such religious teachings represent just one more example of the thoroughness with which Satan has done his work of deception.

Let's understand it!

Your Bible reveals Satan as a **CREATED** being—created of God. In Ezekiel the 28th chapter, God uses the king of Tyre (a type of Babylon) as a type of Satan the Devil. The type blends into the antitype, which is Satan, in the middle of verse 12. "Thou sealest up the sum full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." This could not be talking about any man!

Reading on, "*Thou* has been in *Eden* the garden of God, every precious stone was thy covering . . . in the day that *thou* wast created!" (vs. 13). Again, in verse 15, God shows Satan as a *created* being. "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that *thou* wast created, TILL INIQUITY was found in thee."

Another chief text about the origin and *history* of Satan is found in Isaiah the 14th chapter. Here, God uses the king of *Babylon* as a type of Satan. "How art thou *fallen* from heaven, O LUCIFER, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the *ground*, which did weaken the nations!" (vs. 12)

Remember, Satan was *cast down* from heaven to this earth! (Rev. 12:4). *Jesus saw it happen!* "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

Lucifer means *shining star of the dawn*, or light bringer! In his original office, Lucifer was assigned to *this earth*, as proved by Ezek. 28:13. While he was perfect in his ways from his creation, he became lustful for more power—

more authority—from the standpoint of vanity! This, by the way, is a vital lesson for us to learn! Lucifer was a **CREATED** being. He was created *perfect*. But **CHARACTER** is that which cannot be instantaneously created—but must be *developed* through trial, testing and experience! Lucifer had not *gained* his perfection through years of earnest fighting against the self, of sacrifice, of humility and obedience!

As a created spirit being, he visualized himself as exalted *above* God. He said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north, I will ascend *above the heights of the clouds* (clouds cover this earth!), I will be like the most High!" (Isa. 14:13-14).

## Chaos and Confusion

As a result of this attempt at rebellion, the earth became empty, waste, and in total confusion!

The word "was" in Genesis 1:2 should be rightly translated, "*became*." Notice! "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth [BECAME] without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep" (Gen. 1:1-2).

God is **NOT** the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33), and did not originally *create* the world in chaos and confusion! He tells you so! ". . . God Himself that formed the earth and made it, He hath established it, He created it **NOT** in **VAIN** [waste]" (Isa. 45:18). The Hebrew words used in Genesis 1 and in Isaiah 45 are the **SAME**: "*tohu* and *bohu*," which mean empty and in confusion.

Lucifer's attempted usurpation of God's throne resulted in the *ruin* of the surface of this earth. When God created Adam on the earth, Satan was *already* here—*pretending* to be a "light bringer," but now an *evil* spirit, in rebellion against the government of God.

## Counterfeit Doctrines

Many of you have heard how Satan began his deception by introducing the doctrine of the "immortality of the soul" to Eve in the Garden of Eden. He told her, "Thou shalt not surely die" (Gen. 3:4). Since that time, the Devil has succeeded in palming off *his own aspirations* and *his ultimate destination* on gullible human beings as their chief



religious doctrines—which are NOT found in the Bible!

Listen!

Satan (Lucifer) wanted to go to heaven! The churches teach a doctrine of going some day to heaven! Lucifer is a *spirit*, and is therefore *immortal*! The churches believe *man* has an immortal spirit! Christ said an everlasting fire awaits Satan and his angels. The churches teach an everlasting fire awaits all "sinners." Satan FELL from his attempt to overthrow God. The pagan misconception is that man FELL!

These are only a *few* of the more prevalent doctrines that Satan has palmed off as truth to this gullible world.

### Satan's Work

God shows that fully one third of all the multiplied millions of the angels followed Lucifer in his rebellion, and were cast down to the earth with him! (Rev. 12:4 with Rev. 1:20). These fallen angels, remember, are SPIRITS, not human beings! To accomplish his *work* of deception, with the ultimate goal of *destroying* human beings, Satan utilizes these millions of disobedient spirits! He is called the PRINCE of demons (Matt. 12:24).

Contrary to the belief of some, Satan the Devil does *not* have some kind of spiritual *essence* which is a counterpart of God's Holy Spirit! Satan cannot be everywhere present, as can God through His Spirit. Satan cannot act directly upon nations through a spirit! Instead, he utilizes the natural pulls of human nature, and his demons!

Satan himself is always concerned with the *top level* jobs in his attempt to destroy God's plan. Notice how he began—by trying to destroy Adam and Eve—the very FIRST (and therefore a primary aim) humans on the earth. Again, when God sent His own Son, Satan tried by many clever subtleties to cause Christ to SIN against the law of God. All through Christ's ministry, Satan tried to have Him killed—to thwart His every purpose! Finally, when it was time according to God's purpose to ALLOW Christ to be killed, Satan the Devil was a DIRECT instrument in executing Christ. He entered *personally* into Judas! (John 13:27).

It is not at all inconceivable that Satan could personally, individually tempt one of God's people! However, many people attribute many insignificant things to the Devil—not realizing that he is concerned with the top level jobs in his evil plan! Many of these things are nothing more than the pulls of their own human nature!

But make no mistake about it!

Peter warns us that Satan is as a "roaring lion, walking about, SEEKING

whom he may devour!" (I Peter 5:8). Perhaps more often than any of us realize, a demon is attempting to influence us—either directly, or through another person.

Since the Devil is concerned directly with the *primary targets* in trying to upset God's plan, it also follows that the MOST IMPORTANT TARGET ON EARTH IS GOD'S TRUE CHURCH!

God thunders a warning at every one of us that the Devil is *yet* to come down to this earth in GREAT WRATH—knowing he has but a short time left—to PERSECUTE God's Church, OUR Church! "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make *war* with the remnant of her seed, which *keep the commandments of God*, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ!" (Rev. 12:17).

Paul said he was not IGNORANT of Satan's devices (II Cor. 2:11).

Are you?

### What About the Everlasting Fire?

The time is rapidly drawing nearer when Satan the Devil will no longer be *permitted* to deceive the nations! At this present time, God is directly ALLOWING Satan to be used as His instrument in blinding the world, so the lesson of mankind will be so firmly and completely etched in its own blood that there will never again be a society existing in total rebellion against God's government! God is the One who has "concluded (shut up) them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy on all" (Rom. 11:32). He says He is *not willing* that ANY should perish, but that ALL should finally come to repentance! (II Pet. 3:9).

At the beginning of Christ's millennial rule over the nations, Satan is to be BOUND, and cast into an abyss (Rev. 20:1-3). This condition of restraint will last during the thousand years, and then the Devil will be momentarily allowed freedom to deceive the nations again! (vs. 3).

But consider what occurs next!

Jesus said He is going to cast unrepentant, carnal minded HUMANS into "everlasting fire, *prepared for the devil and his angels*" (Matt. 25:41). This parable of the sheep and the goats is another example of a parable of Christ that makes no special reference to the *time element*, but is showing a spiritual lesson and principle to be learned! The *separation* described in verse 32 takes place over a period of 1,100 years!—to the end of the 100 year period after the millennium.

Notice, however, that these wicked HUMAN BEINGS are cast into an everlasting *fire* prepared for the Devil and his angels.

Fire is a physical, chemical thing! Fire is the combustion of physical ob-

jects with oxygen which *changes* the physical objects into ashes and gaseous vapors!

Notice that the wicked (the *same* ones Christ referred to) are to be ASHES under the feet of the righteous! (Mal. 4:3). Therefore, this fire Christ spoke of in Matthew 25 is a fire that CONSUMES human beings! But Satan is a SPIRIT being! And *spirit beings* are *not affected by fire*! They are not material.

Yes—it may be *possible* that Almighty God could create a fire that would perhaps consume a spirit—since ALL THINGS are possible with God! (Matt. 19:26). But it is not a question of what God CAN do—it is a question of what has God WILLED to do!

Let's continue!

The word "everlasting" in Matthew 25:41 is "aonian" in the Greek language. "Aonian" comes from the root "aion" which means *age*! The correct translation into the English language should be "AGE-LASTING fire."

Does the Bible bear this up?

Yes, it does!

### The "Age-Lasting" Fire

Next, let's notice carefully some significant facts about the fire Christ will use to destroy His enemies!

When Jesus returns to this earth as KING, His first act will be to destroy, NOT ALL the wicked, but that "wicked ONE" who is going to be working miracles and deceiving the world! (II Thess. 2:8). Together with this great false prophet, Christ will lay hold of the Beast who is yet to arise, and throw them *both* into a *lake of fire*, burning with brimstone! (Rev. 19:20).

These two are human beings—physical, breathing *men*, who are alive and drawing breath at this instant! The fire will CONSUME them. *This lake of fire is going to be burning all during the millennium!* (Isaiah 66:23-24).

During Christ's time, the Valley of Hinnom, just outside of Jerusalem, was the place where refuse and the bodies of criminals were thrown—into fires that were kept constantly burning. God uses this as a *type* of the coming *lake of fire*! My father, mother and brother *saw* this valley, called "Gehenna" in the Bible—and thus were actually looking into HELL, believe it or not!

During the millennial reign of Christ and His saints, this valley will once more be kept perpetually burning—and the incorrigibly wicked ones who WILL to continue in rebellion against God's laws will be THROWN INTO this "lake of fire" as a stern witness to all the rest of the world!

Next, turn to Revelation 20:10. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where



the beast and the false prophet WERE CAST." There is *no verb* "are," in the original Greek, as the King James revisers have added in italics! See the Companion Bible, Diaglott, or any concordance!

Notice that the Devil WILL BE CAST into THE (not just "a," but the definite article "the" is in the Greek) lake of fire where the Beast and False Prophet WERE CAST!

THIS IS THE SAME FIRE!

It was burning at the precise *beginning* of the millennium when the Beast and False Prophet were thrown into its flames; it will be burning at the END of the millennium, when Satan is thrown into the same fire!

That's WHY it is called an AGE-LAST-ING fire in Matthew 25:41—because it does, literally, LAST for an age—the millennial age!

### What About the Demons?

Christ said the fire was being prepared for the Devil AND his angels! So they, *too*, are to be thrown into the lake of fire!

A commonly misunderstood explanation of this is found in I Peter 3:19-20. People have assumed, because they base their religious philosophies on the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, that Christ was busy PREACHING to some supposed "souls" of *men* in hell! What folly! Let's understand what really happened!

Your Bible plainly states the TIME element in these verses. Christ did the preaching, NOT during the three days and nights of His tomb when He was DEAD (I Cor. 15:3 and 20) but "WHEN once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing . . ." (I Peter 3:20).

But notice to *whom* Christ witnessed about the flood! "By which also He went and preached unto the SPIRITS IN PRISON!" (vs. 19).

Who were these "spirits?" Certainly not MEN—nor the "souls" of men, since *men do not have* immortal souls!

Turn to II Peter 2:4 for the answer! "For if God spared not the angels [spirits] that *sinned*, but cast them down to PRISON ("hell" is a mistranslation from the Greek *tartaroo* which means a condition or position of *restraint*, as an imprisonment!) and delivered them into CHAINS of darkness to be reserved unto judgment."

The "spirits in prison" are the sinning angels, or the DEMONS that have perverted their ways and followed Satan, and are BOUND to the earth—imprisoned here by the power of God until their day of JUDGMENT.

The final enemy of Christians is death itself. When the plan of God is finally

completed, even death is to be completely destroyed! (I Cor. 15:26). Just before the establishment of the new heavens and new earth, all that is corrupt, all that is physically combustible, will be consumed in a vast, WORLD-WIDE lake of fire!

### The Lake of Fire

This tremendous conflagration will be so intense, so white hot, that the surface of the whole earth will literally melt with the fervor of the flames! Peter describes this awesome time as a melting of the very elements, a time when all the works on the earth are burned up—dissolved! (II Pet. 3:10-11).

Christ shows this time occurs *after* the final Great White Throne Judgment when God's plan is complete—and all who have been added to His family are already born of Him. After this final judgment, even death and the grave are destroyed (Rev. 20:13-15).

The surface of the earth will become for a time just as if it were the blazing surface of the sun! This is the great Gehenna Fire that Christ talked of, that will destroy the wicked.

It is into this vast, seething lake of fire that Satan and his angels will have been cast.

But remember! This fire is PHYSICAL! It *consumes* the bodies of the wicked, and is so intense it even melts the rocks and elements of the earth until they are liquefied.

*But Satan and his angels are spirit beings!* Fire is PHYSICAL, and cannot BURN spiritual beings! Spirit is NOT COMBUSTIBLE!

Now notice an important verse!

### The New Heavens and New Earth

In the glorious picture of the new heavens and new earth, John wrote a description of the temple, and the beauty of God's new creation. A key scripture is Revelation 21:27! God expressly shows Satan and his angels will not BE in the new heavens and the new earth! "And there shall IN NO WISE ENTER INTO IT anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Satan will not be there! And the fire will BURN UP the wicked, and the works of the earth (Rev. 20:14, 21:8).

Peter tells us we can look forward to the new heavens and new earth wherein dwells *righteousness*! (II Pet. 3:13). It is evident from God's word that Satan and his angels will not be anywhere in the new heaven and new earth!

Then where are they to be?

Let's go on—and see what your Bible actually reveals!

Since fire cannot consume spirits—

then how can they be punished? Many people fail to realize that *mental* torment is *far worse* than physical torment!

### How a Spirit Can Suffer

God created our bodies with a type of "safety device" against too much pain! When the physical human body is subjected to extreme pain, it will reach a certain point and then lapse into unconsciousness! The mind does not continue to register the pain—even though the body continues to suffer! Mothers recognize the truth of this immediately. The thought of seeing their children suffer—having to stand the *mental* agonies of seeing their own children being tortured—would be far worse than having to suffer physical pain themselves.

A *disembodied* spirit—one that cannot any longer physically manifest itself—is an *uncomfortable, miserable* spirit! Jesus described this condition of mental torment when He said, "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking *rest*, and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out" (Luke 11:24).

This is further illustrated by the account of Christ's experience with the many demons who had entered the man in the country of the Gadarenes. Jesus commanded the spirits to come out of the man, and they "besought him *much* that he would not send them away out of the country" (Mark 5:10). "And all the demons besought him, saying, send us into the swine, that we may *enter into* them" (vs. 12).

When Philip was performing miracles at Samaria, he cast out many demons, who came out of people "crying with *loud voice*" (Acts 8:7) showing their frustration and anger at being deprived of their dwelling place! (Luke 8:28.)

God says the demons *know* of His power—they are aware of the great AUTHORITY of God! We are told that willful sinners are going to be left with a certain FEARFUL looking for of *judgment* (Heb. 10:26-27) and that it is a FEARFUL thing to fall into the hands of the living God! (vs. 31).

James said, "Thou believest that there is one God? Thou doest well, the demons also believe, and TREMBLE!" (James 2:19). They FEAR the awesome judgment awaiting them, and are therefore in TORMENT! "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because FEAR HATH TORMENT" (I John 4:18).

When Satan comes down to the earth in great wrath, it is because he knows he has but a SHORT TIME left! (Rev. 12:12).

His punishment will plainly be *mental, spiritual*, NOT PHYSICAL!

Many have misunderstood verse 16 of

Ezekiel 28. Notice that God is speaking of the beginning of the creation in this account of Satan's original rebellion. But, just as the Bible so often uses DUAL meanings, so THIS is history and prophecy at the same time! God refers to the "stones of fire" in verse 13. Notice how these same stones are used in the description of the Holy City! Compare with Revelation 21:18-21. Remember, the "mountain" (nation, or government) of God is ultimately going to be ON THIS EARTH! God CAST LUCIFER OUT of that mountain, throwing him DOWN from his attempt to be above God's throne! God's throne is then to be ON THIS EARTH! God will *again* cast Satan out of His presence!

"... therefore I WILL (both past and future) cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God, and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, FROM the midst of the stones of fire" (Ezek. 28:16). The word *destroy* is explained by the word FROM! God does NOT say Satan is to be DESTROYED! He DOES say Satan is to be DESTROYED FROM a certain place—the midst of the stones of fire, or the location of God's seat of authority.

#### Satan Will Not Be Destroyed!

Now, let's notice further proof that Satan is NOT to be destroyed. Turn to Revelation 20, and verse 10. I did not explain this verse sooner for a definite purpose, as you will see.

Notice that the Devil is cast into the lake of fire where the Beast and False Prophet *were cast*, AND he and his demons shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever!

This expressly states Satan will be tormented for the AGES OF THE AGES! (See *Critical Commentary*, Ivan Panin N.T., and *Diaglott*.) This expression in the Greek means for all eternity—for time everlasting!

BUT!

Notice carefully the verse states Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire AND tormented forever! It does not say that he will *remain in the fire* forever! The fire is on this earth! The fire is an AGE-LASTING fire, which will *not* be burning after God's new heaven and new earth are established! Since Satan is to be tormented FOREVER, and the fire is to finally *consume* the physical objects it is burning until it burns *out*, Satan does *not* remain in this lake of fire forever!

Satan is a spirit! Fire cannot consume spirit—and A SPIRIT CANNOT DIE! Jesus Christ said so!

For a clinching proof, turn to Luke the twentieth chapter. In verse 34, Christ begins to explain to the hypocritical Sadducees about the resurrection. "... The children of the world marry, and are given in marriage, but they which shall

be accounted worthy to obtain that world (age), and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage, NEITHER CAN THEY DIE ANY MORE, for they are equal unto the angels..." (vs. 34-36).

Jesus tells us the angels *cannot die*! Satan is a fallen angel! Therefore Satan *cannot die*!

#### "Reserved unto Judgment!"

Remember, Peter and Jude both attest to the fact that the sinning demons are reserved unto a time of JUDGMENT! Without realizing it, many people have assumed the "judgment" is a final SENTENCING that is passed in one instant at Christ's coming!

*Such is not the case!*

A judge must investigate the merits of each case and ARRIVE at a decision based on the facts! God is calling out His children to become Kings and PRIESTS with Christ—and to RULE THIS EARTH!

A vital part of the job of each of God's children will be JUDGMENT! Believe it or not, the Creator of all that exists is actually permitting us to have an opportunity to become judges of this world! Many have not understood the scriptures already mentioned in I Peter 3:19-20 and II Peter 2:4, simply because they have not understood an important phase of that judgment!

The Apostle Paul gives us the amazing answer in I Corinthians 6:2-3! "Do ye not know that the saints shall *judge the world*? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? KNOW YE NOT THAT WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS?"

There it is!

*We shall judge angels!* Remember, the wicked spirits, including Satan, are presently being reserved, being kept in restraint, *unto judgment*! That judging is yet to be done!

Now do you see?

The Bible plainly reveals Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, but the lake of fire will *end* when the new heavens and new earth are established, and Satan is to be tormented unto the *ages of the ages*! It also shows his torment *while* in that fire is going to be MENTAL, at seeing all he has strived toward, worked for, plotted for, *burned up*. Christ preached to the spirits on this earth *during the time of the flood* as a WITNESS to them! The flood was a type of the yet future destruction of the earth—this time by FIRE! Christ was warning them of the impending destruction of all their works—and their everlasting banishment from this earth! The *exact nature* of their ETERNAL punishment is YET TO BE DECIDED!

YOUR BIBLE REVEALS YOU MAY BE

INSTRUMENTAL IN DECIDING THAT PUNISHMENT!

Jude gave a slight indication of the possibility of the *nature* of that punishment when he used the demons as a *type* in warning Christians about false teachers who had crept in unawares. In reading through the book of Jude, you come to verse 6, where the demons are mentioned, to the next few verses, where these "filthy dreamers" are described. Notice how their error is EXACTLY that of the sinning angels in that they too tried to *usurp* authority! "They... ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gain-saying of Core..." (verse 11). See Numbers 16, where Korah tried to *usurp* the position of God's chosen servants.

Jude continues to describe, "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame, *wandering stars* [see Rev. 1:20, where stars are symbols of *angels*] TO WHOM IS RESERVED THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOR EVER!" (verse 13).

Notice, in Enoch's prophecy, he spoke of coming *judgment*, "... Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, to execute *judgment* upon all..." (verses 14-15).

As has already been proved—the *angels* (demons) are definitely included among those to be judged by the saints! Could this be an indication of their final fate? They are *miserable* when disembodied—wandering through "dry places, seeking rest!" Could this statement in Jude give us a picture of their punishment? "... wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever!" (Jude 13).

#### Your Responsibility

Part of our awesome responsibility is going to be the judging of angels! Satan's ultimate destination apparently is yet to be decided—*by the saints*!

Are you preparing yourself for such a job?

Such an overwhelming responsibility demands a tremendous amount of wisdom and knowledge! God Almighty has called you and me to much more than just some inactive, "fluff-fluff" eternity of laziness and ease! We are going to have the responsibility to rule the universe with Christ—to do what the fallen angels were unwilling to accomplish. So great is that responsibility that God says it has not entered into the *heart* of man the things He has prepared for us! (I Cor. 2:9).

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Correction: The Sacred Calendar in the May issue was mistakenly labeled "1th," "2th," "3th." It should have been "1st," "2nd," "3rd."

# Should You ASSEMBLE Without a Minister?

*We know you brethren long for local church fellowship. We know you need it. BUT, should you assemble by yourselves without a minister whom God has sent to feed the local flock?*

*by Herman L. Hoeb*

(Reprinted from the October 1957 Good News)

**T**HIS YEAR hundreds of new members are being added to God's Church. Many will attend the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time this year. They will return home filled with the joys of personal fellowship.

Soon they begin to visit with nearby brethren. With *social* fellowship comes the inevitable desire to assemble on the sabbaths for round-table discussions.

Many feel the necessity of *social* contact with brethren. They equally desire to learn more about the Bible. What could be better than meeting each sabbath for Bible study, it is reasoned! And think of the *social* fellowship!

Immediately some will think of Hebrews 10:25. "We should assemble ourselves together," they will say.

But what happens?

Wherever groups gather together a dominant individual inevitably arises. By force of personality others begin to look to him—even though he may *not* understand the Bible as well as they. He becomes a leader. Yet he may *not* be capable of keeping order. He is usually the center of arguments, doubts and divisions. Dissension and errors gradually arise. Some brethren leave in disgust—soured on the truth.

Is this *God's way* of feeding the flock?

## New Testament Example

There are two methods by which we can **LEARN** the solution to this problem: 1) by New Testament *example*, 2) by Jesus' *instruction*.

First, let us understand the example of the Bible itself. We are experiencing today the same problem which confronted the early, inspired, Spirit-filled Church of God. The apostolic Church was a *scattered* Church (Acts 11:19). So are you brethren today! But what did that early scattered Church do?

Open your Bibles to Acts 11. Notice that some "which were scattered abroad" (verse 19) "came to Antioch . . . and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem." What did they do? Notice it! "*They sent forth*

*Barnabas*, that he should go as far as Antioch" (verses 20-22).

Barnabas was a trained teacher (Acts 13:1). Barnabas also sought out Paul (Acts 11:25-26), who had already been trained personally by Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:17-18). They were eminently qualified to feed the flock.

Jesus Christ directed His apostles at Jerusalem to send pastors lest the Antioch brethren would assemble without leadership. The **SAME** example occurs in Acts 14.

The apostles, Barnabas and Paul, fled the city of Iconium because of persecution (verses 1-5). They came to Lystra where the Jews soon attacked them as they were conducting their evangelistic work. Thereupon they fled to Derbe (verse 20). In each of these cities the apostles were prevented momentarily from continuing their ministry. They soon returned, however, to confirm the disciples in the faith (verse 21). Now observe verse 23: "And when they had ordained them *elders* in **EVERY** church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord."

Paul did *not* establish churches without pastors! **EVERY** local church had its pastor. Jesus called His people sheep. They need a shepherd. Paul therefore gave them pastors, or shepherds, who would feed the flock. We are **NO** different today. God's people still need pastors to lead them into truth.

And notice, too, that they were *ordained*, with prayer and fasting, *by the apostles*. God did not leave it to the brethren to gather together and to follow anyone who had a desire to become an elder. In these cities, where hundreds were being converted, Paul established local churches and ordained elders for **EVERY** church! But before ordaining elders, Paul's practice was to teach them personally, both in public and in their homes. He said so in Acts 20:17,20.

This is God's pattern—God's **WAY**.

If we are to enter the Kingdom of God, *we* must come under the government of God. We must learn to conduct ourselves God's **WAY**. Christianity is a **WAY** of life.

## Joined to Christ

To many people, a local congregation becomes a place of *social* rather than *spiritual* fellowship. People join themselves together, instead of *being joined to Christ*. In John 15:5, Jesus said: "I am the vine, ye are the branches." What would you think if the branches would say to themselves, let us bundle ourselves together? Yet that is exactly what you are doing when you meet *of your own accord without ministers!*

To be a Christian you need to "abide" in Christ—you need to *live* by His instruction. Do the branches of a grapevine receive their sap from each other? Or do they receive it from the central stump? You need to receive your spiritual power from Christ—the vine. Not from a branch—an individual who thinks he would like to hold a study group on the sabbath.

Your *spiritual* fellowship is not merely with one another, but "with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ" through the Holy Spirit (1 John 1:3). Notice what John writes in verse 6: "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and *walk in darkness*, we lie, and *do not the truth*." If you claim to have real fellowship with God, and "walk in darkness"—disobey the instruction of the Bible—you are not doing the truth. You are actually cut off from real fellowship with the Heavenly Father.

"But if we walk in the light"—if we obey the Biblical instruction—"we have fellowship with one another" (verse 7). How plain! In order to have real fellowship with one another, you need to *abide* in the teachings of Jesus and His apostles—you need to follow the example and the instruction of the Bible, which is **ABSOLUTE** and **FINAL AUTHORITY!**

## New Testament Instruction

Now let us turn once again to Hebrews 10:24-25. What is the *purpose* of assembling in local churches? "To provoke unto love and to good works . . . exhorting one another."

Notice carefully that Paul explains *the*

*purpose* of our assembling, but *he does not explain HOW* the local assembly should be conducted. To understand *this*, we must turn to other verses which explain this phase fully.

In Eph. 4:11-17 Paul explains that Christ gave evangelists, pastors and teachers and other ministerial offices "for the perfecting of the saints . . . for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man . . . that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness . . . but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things."

What is the purpose of the ministry?

To instruct the brethren to grow in love and in good deeds—exactly as Heb. 10:24 mentions. Then God intends *the pastors* to set the right example and to instruct the flock which should assemble *with a minister*. IF BRETHREN COULD ACCOMPLISH THIS BY ASSEMBLING WITHOUT A MINISTER, THEN JESUS WASTED HIS TIME TO TRAIN INDIVIDUALS TO BECOME PASTORS OR ELDERS. Then He was mistaken in training the disciples to preach and to feed the flock, if the flock could feed itself!

The very fact that the ministry is **FOR** the edifying of the church is **PROOF POSITIVE** that assembling without a shepherd will *NOT* lead to *unity* and perfection in knowledge. Without a pastor, disunity, contention and error will inevitably arise in a local group. *Experience proves it!*

### Where Two or Three Gather Together

But didn't Jesus promise that wherever two or three brethren gather to-

gether, He will be in their midst?

The common misapplication of this text comes from careless reading. Christ was discussing with His apostles the matter of making binding decisions in the church (Mat. 18:17). He promises to back every decision—even where only two or three are gathered together **IN HIS NAME!**

What does "in His name" mean?

It means "by His authority"! We baptize "in the name of Jesus Christ"—"by His authority." But Jesus never gave authority for His converts to hold meetings by themselves without a pastor! Any who do so are not acting according to Jesus' commands. They are going contrary to Christ's authority. He does not promise to be in their midst. Besides, according to the pattern laid down in Lev. 23:2-4, *God orders His ministers* to convoke assemblies—to order meetings. God tells us upon which days we must meet, and He orders His ministers to tell the people when and where He wants the assemblies held. It is God's doing, not man's. Ministers are God's bond-servants and the shepherds of the flock.

Now we can also understand clearly other New Testament passages. In writing to Philemon, Paul spoke of "the church in thy house" (Philemon 2). This is not speaking of brethren gathering for discussion groups or Bible studies. It is speaking of a *church*—an organized body of saints—over whom Philemon presided. Notice that Paul addressed him as "fellow-laborer" (verse 1). In verse 24 Paul lists "Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my *fellow-laborers*." These men were elders and evangelists laboring with Paul in the ministry. Philemon was also a "fellow-laborer"—a minister. Paul even calls him

"a partner" (verse 17). The church in his house was **NOT** without a pastor.

Another important consideration many brethren still overlook is that the local church is for the instruction of those who are converted. *It is not the place to convert outsiders!* Yet it seems that some, not understanding this important principle, want to hold sabbath study groups to convert outsiders. And sometimes the unconverted are the very ones who dominate the meeting!

Mr. Armstrong has learned by experience that every group needs competent spiritual leadership. It cannot be left to zealous, but unwise, desire to have Christian fellowship. True fellowship comes by *obedience to God's WAY*. Even though many of you are scattered and have no regular sabbath service, yet be thankful that you are being instructed through two magazines, The PLAIN TRUTH and The GOOD NEWS, and The Correspondence Course.

You can hear the daily broadcasts—you actually hear Mr. Armstrong and his son on the radio *in your own homes!* When "The World Tomorrow" broadcast is on the air, you are attending, in a sense, a church service *with a minister*. This is how God is feeding His flock!

Let's realize our blessings and be thankful, no matter where we are. But let's be obedient and doers of God's WAY. He knows best!

Instead of murmuring about the lack of trained ministerial help—we are trying our best to train those whom God gives—why not do as Jesus said: "The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers few: PRAY therefore the Lord of the Harvest"—Jesus—"that he send forth laborers into his harvest"? (Luke 10:2). That is your duty, brethren!

## Question Box

*Your questions answered in these columns! Your opportunity to have discussed those problems pertaining directly to members of God's Church.*

### Should Christians Serve On Juries?

**ANSWER:** From time to time members are called upon by the courts to serve on juries. As jury members we place ourselves in a position—along with others—of passing judgment on fellow human beings.

This means of arriving at a verdict is deemed fair in the eyes of our civil law. But what *does* God say about it?

God is allowing the nations in this age to rule *themselves*. God intends that the nations should judge in matters according to *their* law. But, their laws

are not according to the Bible. Their ways are **NOT** God's ways (Isaiah 55:8).

Jurists today do not consult the Law of God to determine the guilt or innocence—or the penalty that should be imposed. The laws by which those indicted are judged today are *man made laws!* To participate on a jury we must associate ourselves with, and become a part of, the nations and laws of this world. But, our "kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). We do not meddle with the politics of this world.

Two points should be kept in mind concerning this question. One is

that a *prejudiced* person automatically disqualifies himself for jury duty. All prospective jury members are asked if they are already prejudiced in the case. Any true Christian must answer *that he is!* The knowledge of God's truth and His ways prejudice us against man's laws to the extent that it is *impossible* to judge a fellow man based on man's law. Such participation is direct disobedience to the command to "judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

Secondly, those chosen for jury duty are selected from the list of *registered voters* or volunteers in each area. Those who do not register or who do not volunteer, are not called to participate. Mr. Armstrong's article, "How Would Jesus Vote For President," which appeared in the October 1956 issue of the *Plain Truth*, fully explains what God thinks about voting. Write for this issue if you have not already read it.