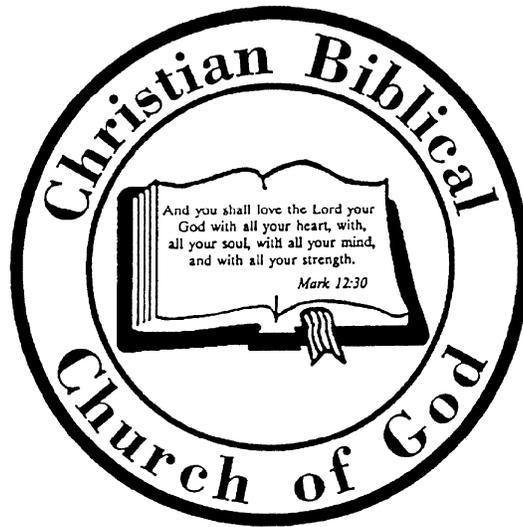


Study Package Eight

Holidays vs. Holy Days



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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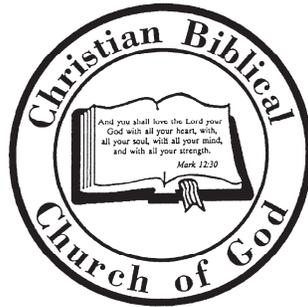
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Study Package Eight

Series of 10 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



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Holidays vs Holy Days I

Fred R. Coulter

It is really a war! Some people can accept the weekly Sabbath, such as the Seventh-Day Adventists and the Seventh-Day Baptists, and some other groups. Most of Protestantism can't, Catholicism can't, and very few will accept the Holy Days.

Today we live in a world that amplifies that error even more. We live in an age where everybody has an opinion.

Bill O'Rielly says, 'I respect your opinion.' You he doesn't! You know the guy said, 'Well, I respect your opinion,' and you know he didn't. This exemplifies what it is. Everyone thinks that his or her opinion, because they have an opinion, has to be right. That's the way it is.

So, when they come to the Bible, they've got a lot of opinions that they've heard out there, a lot of lies, which is that 'you don't need to worry about the Old Testament, that's done away.' *Oh good! I can do what I want!*

That's what people want to hear, however, let's look at this opinion as it relates to God and *His way vs* the other gods of this world and *their way*. Of course, when there's trouble and difficulty those who obey God are always blamed first, and that's what happened with Elijah. King Ahab of Israel blamed Elijah for the drought rather than the fact that Ahab had married Jezebel the daughter of the priest of Baal. Baal-worship was rampant in Israel.

So, when it came time for God to bring to them the fact that they had to make a decision; here's what happened when Ahab saw Elijah:

1-Kings 18:17: "And it came to pass when Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, 'Are you he that **troubles Israel?**'" Isn't that always the way? Same tactics, you blame everybody else.

Verse 18: "And he answered, 'I have not troubled Israel, but **you and your father's house have in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD,** and you have followed Baalim.'"

Let's understand something about Baal and Baalim. Baalim means *various gods called Baal*. The 'im' at the end of the word means it is plural. So, they followed many gods. As we go through here, I want you draw the parallel in this nation today where we have:

- many religions
- many gods
- many opinions

The truth is, once you understand the Truth, all the other opinions are worthless. What they're doing is pitting their opinions against the Word of God. ***Guess who is going to lose!***

- Has anyone ever fought against God and won?
- Has God ever accepted the opinion of any man over His commandments? *No!*

But people don't like that today. They like nice sweet smooth things.

Here's a contest, v 19: "Now, therefore, send *and* gather to me all Israel to Mount Carmel, and four hundred and fifty of the prophets of Baal..." Sounds like our denominations today; I imagine that there are over a thousand in America today, by the time you count all the other pagan gods with a pseudo-Christian religions and churches and things like this.

As I've mentioned, they have big mega churches. There's one in Texas that has a building that accommodate 35,000 people. They've got everything in there:

- gymnasiums
- beauty parlors
- weight rooms
- basketball
- racquetball
- study

Hello! I wonder if they have any Bibles in there. They have counseling rooms; everything in there! They probably have a bookstore where you can buy all your favorite little idols, cards and sweet little songs that tell you nothing.

I got an e-mail from someone who received *A Harmony of the Gospels*. Along with that we send a letter based upon when Jesus was born, a booklet: *Christmas, the Greatest Story Never Told*, and *Beliefs of the Christian Biblical Church of God*. Those who are not serious will ignore it. But it will still be in their house, because the *Harmony* book is so nice nobody will throw it away, and we have not ever had anybody return it or haven't had any angry mail either. By the way, there is a movement among some Lutherans and Methodists to dump Christmas.

"...four hundred and fifty of the prophets of Baal, and four hundred of the prophets of Asherah..." (v 19)—the groves. So, that's 850, almost a thousand like we have.

This woman who sent the e-mail said, 'I'm so thankful to find someplace where they just teach

the Bible. I've gone to so many different churches and I have surfed the Internet until I'm about blind and I'm so glad to be able to study the Bible and have someone speak the truth. It was nice to get an e-mail like that; a response from someone you've never heard from.

Verse 20: "Then Ahab sent to all the children of Israel and gathered the prophets together to Mount Carmel"—thinking that this was going to be a 'cakewalk.'

Verse 21: "And Elijah came to all the people and said, **'How long will you vacillate between two different opinions?....'**"—jump back and forth. That's what people do! If they need a blessing *they say* they trust in God. Otherwise it's their own opinion. Or say, 'this is a quaint thing we need to do'—like Christmas and Easter. We're going to see that the Bible has an awful lot to say about Christmas, Easter and Halloween, and *not what people would like to hear!*

"...If the LORD *is* God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, *then* follow him.'...." (v 21). So, Elijah was going to give them the Truth, not an opinion. *He didn't say*, 'I've served God all my life and what I'm telling you is true.' He's got 850 against him! So, he said what he was going to do; you can read the rest of the account:

'Take two bullocks; we'll give one to the prophets of Baal and they make an altar and put their offering on there. I'll make another and put the other one and put my offering on there. *The One that answers by fire He is God!*

The prophets of Baal chose their bullocks and put it on the altar. There's no fire under it, you couldn't put fire under it. The fire has got to come from the One Who is God! Either God *or* Baal!

Verse 26: "So, they took the bull, which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, 'O Baal, hear us.'...." If you have *The Messiah* by Handel this is really quite a tune, just like the music in the churches today.

Another woman wrote and said, 'I'm tired of going to church where they play the ping-pong balls for singing.' They have the music and words on the screen and then they have a ping-pong ball to lead you to each word. Then in their 'praise-dancing' she says they stand there with their eyes closed and sway back and forth. She said she got hypnotized and had to leave.

This is what they're doing from morning to noon; 'here's O Baal, here is O Baal.' That didn't work!

"...But there was no voice, nor any who

answered. Then they leaped upon the altar, which was made" (v 26). They had the pentecostals there and the natives, probably with their feathers and tom-toms, jumping up and down.

Verse 27: "Now, it came to pass at noon Elijah mocked them and said..." Well so, because if there's one true God, which there is, the others are the figments of the imaginations of the minds of men, inspired by Satan the devil. Elijah didn't have to worry, he mocked them.

"...Cry aloud with a great voice, for he *is* a god. Either he is meditating, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened!' And they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves with knives and lances until the blood gushed out upon them. So, it came to pass when midday was past, and when they prophesied until the offering of *Elijah's* oblation..." (vs 27-29). A true *evening offering* (KJV) would be offered at sunset, and that would be way too late for all the rest of the events that took place.

"...there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor anyone who paid attention. And Elijah said to all the people, 'Come near to me.' And all the people came near him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob to whom the Word of the Lord came, saying, 'Israel shall be your name.' And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar big enough to contain two measures of seed. And he arranged the wood, and cut the bull in pieces, and placed *it* on the wood, and said..." (vs 29-33).

Now Elijah was going to prove a point. After three and half years of drought, water is pretty precious:

"...Fill four water jars with water and pour on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood.' And he said, 'Do *it* the second time.' And they did *it* the second time. And he said, 'Do *it* the third time.' And they did *it* the third time. And the water ran all around the altar. And he filled the trench also with water. Now, it came to pass at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said... [notice how long this prayer is] ...'LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that You *are* God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your Word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and that You have turned their heart back again.'" (vs 33-37)—27 seconds!

Now you know why Christ said to not use vain repetitions as the heathen! *If you have faith in*

God and believe God, you know He will hear!

Verse 38: “Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the burnt sacrifice and the wood, and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.” Scared everyone to death!

Verse 39: “And when all the people saw, they fell on their faces. And they said, ‘The LORD, He *is* the God! The LORD, He *is* the God!’” We’re going to see that even though this happened, even though Elijah said:

Verse 40: “And Elijah said to them, ‘Take the prophets of Baal. Do not let one of them escape.’ And they took them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and killed them there. And Elijah said to Ahab, ‘Go up, eat and drink because of the *sound of plenty of rain.*’” (vs 40-41).

What happened to Elijah is what happens to a lot of us after God intervenes and does something for us and answers prayer. Everything goes fine, then you get afraid and discouraged, so he did. After it started raining, someone said to Elijah ‘Someone is coming after you,’ and he ran away and went on down to Mt. Horeb and hid in a cave.

Then God again spoke to him and said, ‘Don’t fear Jezebel, I have 7,000 who haven’t bowed the knee to Baal. Now you get up and go do what I told you to do.’ So, Elijah did! This is very typical of people and their opinions about religion and the Bible and God.

Let’s look at some other Scriptures that tell us how we need to approach this. Most people are told that the God of the Bible is a liar, because when they come to church on Sunday—which is the wrong day anyway—the preacher will get up there and read from the Bible and say that God didn’t mean what He said.

- he’s calling God a liar
- he’s saying that the Word of God is not true

So, the preacher will say, ‘I’m going to tell you what’s true.’ In relationship to the holidays—Christmas, Easter, Halloween and whatever other ones they might want to have—‘it’s okay to do,’ it’s a fun thing.’

What are all of these things geared around? *Think about it!* Not only business, that’s just part of it. Who are they aimed to, or for? *The little kids!* ‘It’s okay because it’s fun for the children.’

- You mean, you can lie to your children?
- Do you think you’re going to glorify God by lying to your children?

God is against all of those prophets that prophesy lies in the name of God! Most people aren’t willing to hear it. So, let’s start with some basic Scriptures:

John 17:17: “Sanctify them in Your Truth; **Your Word is the Truth.**” *All of it!* Not just some of it! Paul wrote that *all Scripture is God-breathed!*

The *New International Version* of the Bible says, ‘All Scripture that God has inspired is profitable for doctrine, correction’ and so forth, which opens the door that maybe some things in the Bible were not inspired of God. **That is an absolute lie!**

Everything—and we prove it in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*—that is in the Bible, every word of the original Hebrew and Greek is God-breathed! It’s the *recorded voice of God, written by men who didn’t get this concoction out of their own minds!* They were *moved* by the Holy Spirit to do exactly what God wanted them to do; just like the incident we read here of Elijah.

The Word of God is true! It says that all men are liars! So, when you make God in *your* image, you’re making a lie!

Titus 1:1: “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to *the* faith of God’s elect and *the* knowledge of *the* Truth that is according to Godliness; in *the* hope of eternal life, which **God Who cannot lie promised before the ages of time**” (vs 1-2).

It is impossible for God to lie. That’s why the God-breathed words of God in the Bible are true. I’m making a very profound point on this, and we’re going to look at some Scriptures that also verify this, because when I read in the Word of God—which is true—what it says about the holidays of this world, you will clearly understand that:

- you cannot worship the God of Truth with a lie
- you cannot do evil things so that good may come

Here’s what God did to show the power of His Truth, Hebrews 6:17: “In this *way* God, desiring more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise **the unchangeable nature of His own purpose**, confirmed *it* by an oath.” That’s referring to when Abraham was tried to offer Isaac. God said, ‘I swear by Myself that in blessing I will bless!’ That’s how absolute the Word of God is. He confirmed it by an oath.

Verse 18: “So that by two immutable things, in which **it was impossible for God to lie...**” One of the quickest ways that you can spot a false preacher, even though they’re using the Bible, is that when they get up and explain something about the Bible and say that it doesn’t mean what it says. **They’re liars!**

- Do you want to serve Jesus Christ?
- Do you want Him to be your Savior?

A lot of people profess the name of Jesus Christ, a lot of people say that they're a Christian. What does that mean?

- There are *false Christians!*
- There are *false brethren!*
- There are *false ministers!*

So, if Jesus is really your Savior, and you really believe in Jesus, here's what He says, John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, **'I am the Way...'**" Whatever way Jesus says to do and go, you must do! He is the way to God the Father! There's no other way!

He also said in another place that He's the door, and if anyone comes in another way, the same is 'as a thief and a robber.'

"...and the Truth..." (v 6). When we read what it says about holidays, I'm going to read you the Truth of God's Word! I'm not going to tell you the 'good things' that people think can come from the lies that they observe.

"...and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me" (v 6).

Deuteronomy 32:1: "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.... [remember, it's impossible for God to lie] ...My teachings shall drop as the rain... [good thing] ...my speech shall drop down as the dew... [purity] ...as the small rain on the tender plant... [just enough water so it will grow and prosper] ...and as the showers on the grass, because I will proclaim the name of the LORD, and ascribe greatness to our God. *He is the Rock...* [1-Cor. 10:4] ...His work is perfect..." (vs 1-4).

- God doesn't need any improvement upon His Word; He just wants it translated correctly, that's all.
- He doesn't need any improvement upon His doctrine; He just needs you to understand it the way He gave it.

"...for all His ways *are* just, a God of faithfulness... [truth, no lie] ...and without iniquity..." (v 4). You can't worship God in iniquity. I'm going to tell you straight out the truth: *If you worship God on Sunday, as a day of worship, and you observe Christmas, Easter, Halloween, New Years and all the rest of the pagan holidays, you are worshipping God with iniquity!* He doesn't accept that! That's just the way it is.

If you don't like it, if you think I'm hard on you, *too bad!* Take it up with God, don't take it up with me. God is the One Whom your argument is

with, go argue with Him. Be careful that fire doesn't come down from heaven and take care of you.

Psalm 117:1: "O praise the LORD, all you nations; praise Him, all people, for His merciful kindness is great toward us; and **the Truth of the LORD endures forever.** Praise the LORD!"

God is not going to change His Truth to accept the lies of men. This is contrary to what a lot of people say. A lot of theologians say that God gave the Old Testament as punishment. *He did not!*

Psalm 146:5: "Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God, Who made the heavens and earth, the sea and all that is in them; **Who keeps Truth forever**" (vs 5-6). Has it been done away?

You need to read in *A Harmony of the Gospels* and also in the *Faithful Version Bible*, Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets? Then study the comparison between the Old and the New Covenant. *His Truth endures forever!*

Let's see some important things in the book of John; let's look at a confrontation between Jesus and some of His followers *and* the religious leaders. Let's understand that one of the most profound things that you need to realize is that Satan is the great liar and subverter. What he loves to do is to come right where the people of God are and turn them away from God.

Here right at the temple where God has placed His name the priests, who are supposed to represent God—scribes and Pharisees—who were supposed to teach the people God's Word, the descendants that received the blessing of Abraham, we're going to see that they were subverted. God was not *their* Father.

They had another one whom they thought was *their father*, and we will see that's *none other than Satan the devil!* That ought to give you some good cause to think!

- Who is your God?
- Is He the God of the Bible?
- Is He the God of Truth?

John 8:38: "I speak the things that I have seen from My Father, and you do the things that you have seen from your father." Remember, this is right at the temple.

Verse 39: "They answered and said to Him, 'Our father is Abraham.' Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.'" What was it said of Abraham?

- Abraham obeyed *My voice!*
- Abraham kept *My charge!*

- Abraham kept *My commandments, statutes, judgments!*

Verse 40: “But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has spoken the Truth to you...” That’s what happens.

I saw an interview with the man who played Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ* movie. He’s not some feminized fink. As a matter of fact, he’s a Jew who is a Christian; there are Christian Jews. He was 33-years-old when he was doing the part. In the interview he said that the only way he could have done this was that he had to get away to a private place and pray every day. It was done under the threat of death to Mel Gibson by the Hollywood elite and producers who hate God and serve Satan.

When this man said that he would accept the role, the next day Mel Gibson called him and said, ‘I want you to think about this because you said you would accept the role to play Jesus. You may never work again in Hollywood!’

He’s had many death threats because they don’t want the **Truth. Satan is the god of Hollywood!** Mel Gibson used his own money. From what I’ve seen of it—except for the long hair, which by time it’s all wet, damp and covered with blood, it’s not the long finky hair that shows on many pictures—when you really speak the Truth people won’t like you. They defame you and say that you’re mad, hostile and angry. No, we’re not! We just believe the Truth and have conviction of it and live by it. Jesus said:

Verse 40: “‘But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has spoken the Truth to you which I have heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father.’ Then they said to Him...” (vs 40-41). Typical, they don’t have the facts, never got it straight.

They never read in the Old Testament where it says that ‘a virgin shall conceive and bear a child. They were the keepers of the Law but didn’t believe it. How many times did Jesus say, ‘Have you never read...’?

“...Then they said to Him, ‘We have not been born of fornication. We have one Father, *and that is God*’” (v 41). They thought that they were serving God. They thought that they had safety in the fact that they were the children of Abraham. *They didn’t!* Before God it’s not *who* you are, it is *what* you are.

Verse 42: “Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I proceeded forth and came from God. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why don’t you understand My speech? **Because you cannot bear to**

hear My words. You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice. He was a murderer from *the* beginning... [this goes all the way back to Cain] ...and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it” (vs 42-44).

When you begin comparing Truth with lies, there’s bound to be a fight!

Verse 45: “And because I speak the Truth, you do not believe Me.” Will you do the same thing when I show you what God says about the beloved Christmas, Easter, and Halloween? **or** Will you shrug it off and say, ‘That’s okay, our hearts are right. We intend good and it’s fun for the kids. Besides, what would the economy do without it?’

Verse 46: “Which *one* of you can convict Me of sin? But if I speak *the* Truth, why don’t you believe Me? The one who is of God hears the words of God. For this reason **you do not hear, because you are not of God**” (vs 46-47). That’s what it is with the religions of this world.

Turn back to v 31: “Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘If you continue in My Word...’”

- Do you know the words of Christ?
- Do you live by them?
- Do you understand them?
- Do you believe them?

“...you are truly My disciples. And **you shall know the Truth...**” (v 31-32). There’s a process.

- you have to believe Jesus
- you have to believe what He says
- you have to continue in His words

It’s time and a process! You will then understand the Word of God.

“...and the Truth shall set you free” (v 32). That doesn’t mean free to do whatever you want and desire. This means to set you free:

- from sin
- from lies
- from the traditions of men
- from the works of Satan the devil who is a liar

The ultimate of what we’re going to do, of how you’re going to worship God is defined by Jesus.

(go to the next track)

Let’s see how God wants us to worship. A lot of people think that in keeping Christmas, Easter, New Years and Halloween that they’re worshipping God. They go to Mass and it’s all ‘religious.’ They go to Christmas services and sing Christmas carols; it’s all wonderful and fine. But it’s **a big fat lie!**

God is not worshipped with a lie! Remember, it's a profound truth that ***you can never worship the God of Truth with a lie!*** That's why when you come to God He requires repentance:

- repentance of our deceitful nature
- repentance of our lies
- repentance of the way that we have lived contrary to His laws and commandments

John 4:23: "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth..." That's the only way you can worship God.

- not in ritual
- not with idols
- not with statues
- not with weeping Madonnas
- not with beads
- not with religious garb

but in Spirit and in Truth! In other words it's has to be from the heart, 'a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and you tremble at the Word of God.' God will accept that. God is no respecter of persons. But everybody has to come to God *on God's terms! No one comes to God on their own terms!*

"...for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him **must...** [obligatory; required] ...worship in Spirit and in Truth" (v 23-24).

Let's see some things that are very important in the Old Testament, what God says. Remember that *His Word is Truth*, Old Testament and New Testament. Understand that there's a profound principle: ***No lie can come of the Truth!*** (1-John 2:21).

Let's look at the nature of man and *his way*. We've already seen some of the errors, but let's look a few more. Here's one to remember, and as I read this I want you think about human history, about all of those down through history who were thinking they were doing right.

Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way, which seems right to a man, but the end thereof *is* the way of death." That's what happens to man's way. So, if it seems right to people to keep Christmas, Easter, Halloween and all those things...

There are two books that will tell you the truth about it in detail:

1. *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop {cbcg.org}
2. *The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer (www.hermetics.org/pdf/Sir_James_Frazer_-_The_Golden_Bough.pdf)

The Golden Bough was originally 12 volumes, but there's a one-volume summary. You will see how that Satan was busy from day one inspiring and producing various religions with various counterfeits so that when the true Christ came there would be nothing but confusion. Sound like a tactic that you see today in operation in many different things? *Yes, indeed!*

That's why you need to stick to the Bible, because there is a way that *seems right*.

Proverbs 16:2: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes..." Remember the man who murdered 47 women? They couldn't bring the death penalty against him because he wouldn't confess or lead the police to where the bodies were buried. But he started out by killing prostitutes as a favor for the policemen.

Verse 2: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes..."

Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way, which seems right to a man, but the end thereof *is* the way of death."

Those are extreme examples but it fits the same thing with what we're talking about here in how you worship God.

Exo. 20—here is where the Ten Commandments are given. By the way, in all Catholic catechisms they show the lie. They remove the second commandment concerning idolatry so they can keep the idols in their churches and cathedrals. In order to make ten, they split the tenth commandment into two parts. However, in every Catholic Bible, approved by the pope, Exo. 20 has the second commandment in it. So, they are caught with their own devices and lies!

Exodus 20:1:1: "And God spoke all these words, saying, 'I *am* the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt..." (vs 1-2).

- What did God do on that first Passover night with Israel?
- When He passed over at midnight and spared the firstborn of the children Israel, what did God say that He did?
- *He judged all the gods of Egypt!*
- *He proved by His power that they were nothing! worthless! demonic!*

"...out of the house of bondage" (v 2). Not only the physical slavery that they were in, but also the slavery of false religion.

Here's an emphatic command because of that, v 3; the first commandment begins with v 2 and includes v 3.

Verse 3: "You shall have no other gods

before Me.” *None!* That’s the very first commandment!

How can people take the gods of the nations and say that they are justified to do it? *Because there’s a way that seems right to a man and the ends thereof are the ways of death!*

After God gave the Ten Commandments and gave some of the statutes and judgments, the covenant was confirmed, all the people said, ‘Yes, we will do what God has commanded, all the words that He has said, we will do and be obedient.’

Let’s see how those words were spoken, and God will hold you to your words! So, you better intend that they be right. We don’t know how many days lapsed between that, but Moses went back up on the mountain and he was there for 40 days and 40 nights. So, this is probably day 30. So, whatever took place in Exo. 32 took a little time. How long we don’t know, so I’m just making a guess here:

Exodus 32:1: “And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, then the people gathered themselves to Aaron, and they said to him, ‘Up! Make us gods which shall go before us, for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’” After all the mountain was smoking and on fire! Who knows, maybe he fell into a lava pit up there and is burned up!

It shows how quickly people turn aside from the true God. What did they do? *They reverted right back to the worship they had in Egypt!* We’ll see what they did. “...Up! Make us gods...” and God said to not have any other gods ‘before Me.’

Didn’t last long! Aaron should have never done this; he should have said to wait, ‘God is true and Moses is His servant, just calm down and wait.’ Just like too many ministers today, he was weak-kneed, willy-nilly and goes by the demands of the people *rather than the demands of God!*

Just like one minister who knows—and there are a lot of them who do—the seventh-day, Saturday today, is the true Sabbath of God. He knows it! But he said, ‘I couldn’t possibly tell my parishioners because none of them would show up.’ That’s the way Aaron was!

Verse 2: “And Aaron said to them, ‘Break off the golden earrings which *are* in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring *them* to me.’ And all the people broke off the golden earrings, which were in their ears, and brought *them* to Aaron. And he took *them* from their hand, and fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molten calf. And they said, ‘These *are* your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land

of Egypt.’ And when Aaron saw *the calf...*” (vs 2-5)—or young bull, one of the gods of Egypt that God judged!

When you watch some of these documentaries on ancient Egypt, they have a bull with the horns and they have the big sun-disk in it. That was an idol to Baal the sun-god. His day of worship is Sun-day. His holidays are Christmas, Easter, and New Years. That’s what they did, made a calf.

“...And they said, ‘These *are* your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt’” (v 4). Just like people always do, take the characteristics of false gods and idols and attribute them to the true God. *God has nothing to do with that!*

“...And when Aaron saw *the calf* he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow *is* a feast to the LORD’” (v 5). A self-proclaimed, illegal feast to a pagan god, given by the one who was to be the high priest for Israel! Satan likes to get right in there at the top and subvert them!

Know and understand that regardless of what any many says, regardless if he’s considered important, holds a high office or is revered as the most righteous man on the earth. Religious leaders today—such as the pope and the Dalai Lama—if they proclaim a feast contrary to what is in the Bible, which they do and all of them are, *it’s a lie!*

Notice who they dedicated it to: *the Lord with the other gods!* We’re going to see that *this was the sin of Israel over and over and over again to this very day!* When we talk about Israel, we’re not talking about the people who call themselves *Jews*. We’re talking about all the 12 tribes that came from Israel, which includes the United States and Britain, the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph.

Here’s what they did. They planned this and said, ‘O boy! We’ve got to get a good start here.’

Verse 6: “And they rose up early on the next morning...” I wonder if they had sun-worship; after all the calf had the big disk between its horns that symbolized the sun. Why get up early in the morning if it’s not to be there when the sun comes up.

“...and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play” (v 6). They had a big sex party! They had a gigantic rock concert!

Verse 7: “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go! Get you down, for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*.’” *Every time the children of Israel did*

wrong, it's the people that Moses brought out!

We could get into a whole long story of this: Moses came down and broke the Ten Commandments written with the finger of God on the two tablets of stone. Moses was angry when he saw the people naked. He got after Aaron for doing it.

This is where we all fit into this, and this becomes important. We need to ask ourselves:

- What will I do?
- Will I stand for God?

or

- Will I stand for the way that *seems right to me*?

Verse 26: "Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, 'Who *is* on the LORD'S side?...'" Just like Elijah, where we started: *How long halt you between two opinions?*

"...Come to me.' And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves to him" (v 26). So, they showed a love and zeal for God. Apparently, they stood off on the side when all of this was going on, and they were probably absolutely shocked to see what Aaron did, who was also a son of Levi.

Verse 27: And he said to them, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "Each man put his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and kill each one his brother, and each one his companion, and each one his neighbor.'" ***The wages of sin is death!*** And in this case it was swiftly executed.

What does God think about taking pagan deities and attaching the name of God to it and say it's a feast of God? *There's your answer right there! It's sin!* 'The wages of sin is death.'

Verse 28: "And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And there fell of the people that day **about three thousand men.**"

After that incident, God gives Israel warning, Exodus 34:12: "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the people of the land where you go, lest it be for a snare in the midst of you. But their **altars you shall destroy, their images you shall break, and their groves you shall cut down**" (vs 12-13). What does God think about idolatry? These false religions?

Verse 14: "For you shall worship no other god... [well said after what they did] ...for the LORD, **Whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.**" Remember that! If you name the name of Christ, you need to depart from sin, which includes not only breaking the last six commandments, but the first four.

Verse 15: "Lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice to their gods, and call you, and you eat of his sacrifice; and lest you take from their daughters for your sons, and their daughters go whoring after their gods and make your sons go whoring after their gods. **You shall make no molten gods** for yourselves" (vs 15-17).

Pretty profound! Remember, this is the Word of God and this is the Truth.

- Do you believe the Word of God?
- Do you believe the Truth of God?

Instead of the pagan holiday, God says, v 18: "**You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread....**"

Let's see what else God said, and this is true. Remember, these are the words that God spoke. Do you think because you have an opinion contrary to that, that you are right and God is wrong? *Never happen!*

Deuteronomy 18:9: "When you come to the land which the LORD your God gives you, **you shall not learn** to do according to the abominations of those nations." *Shall not learn it!*

- Are *their idols* abominations? *Yes!*
- Are *their religious practices* abominations? *Yes!*

Let's see where they started from. Satan was busy; he knew God's plan when he was cast down after he rebelled against God. Just like everything else, he probably said in his heart: *I'm going to thwart the plan of God, and I'm going to have so many counterfeits and so many religions. I'm going to spawn them over all the earth and no one will be able to understand the Truth!*

- God is the One Who calls
- God is the One Who has given His Word
- God is the One Who has caused billions of Bibles to be printed and distributed in the world

No one has an excuse. If it's there and you don't read it, it's not God's fault. Let's see what God says of this system.

Revelation 17:1: "And one of the seven angels who had the seven vials came and spoke with me, saying to me, 'Come here; I will show you the judgment of the great whore who sits upon many waters; with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication'" (vs 1-2).

When you commit *spiritual sins* called fornication, and *spiritual drunkenness* you can't see and understand the Truth. You've got to stop both of them!

Verse 3: “Then he carried me away in *the* spirit to a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet beast that had seven heads and ten horns, full of names of blasphemy. And the woman *was* clothed in purple and scarlet, and *was* adorned with gold and pearls and precious stones; *and* she had a golden cup in her hand, **filled with abominations and the filthiness of her fornication**” (vs 3-4). We’re going to see that:

- Christmas is an abomination to God!
- Easter is an abomination to God!
- Halloween is an abomination to God!
- Every idol, statue, cathedral and church that is filled with them is an abomination to God!

Let me tell you a little story: this cowboy came into the Church and he had on his jeans, cowboy boots and hat and the regular cowboy shirt. This was a ritzy hooty-snooty church and they gamed that he came. So, after services were over, the pastor came down and said, ‘Now, if you want to attend this church you’re going to have to change the way that you dress, because these clothes are not acceptable to God. You go home and think about it.’

So, the cowboy went home and prayed about it, thought about it, and came back to church the next week and came with the same kind of clothes, had on his cowboy hat and sat down in the congregation.

After services were over the pastor came to him and said, ‘Didn’t I tell you that you should talk to God about this? That you need to change the way that you dress in order to attend this church?’ *I did.* ‘What did God say?’ *God said I’ve never been in that church!* Think on it!

Verse 4: “And the woman *was* clothed in purple and scarlet, and *was* adorned with gold and pearls and precious stones; *and* she had a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominations and *the* filthiness of her fornication; and across her forehead a name *was* written... [the way she thinks, acts, is and does] ...MYSTERY... [can’t understand it] ...BABYLON THE GREAT...” (vs 4-5).

Goes clear back to the first Sodom Hussein called *Nimrod!* In the same land that is now called *Iraq*, which has probably been cursed with dictators from that day forward.

“...THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (v 5). That’s what God thinks about these things.

It doesn’t matter what I think. I tell you that I think the way the Bible says. We need to think

about it. It doesn’t matter what anyone else’s opinion is; it doesn’t matter what anybody else thinks, they aren’t going to change God or the Word of God. They can have thousands and millions and billions of people on their side and it makes absolutely no difference and not one wit to God whatsoever!

Here are some things that God said shall not be, Deuteronomy 18:10: “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire...” What’s one of the quaint ‘religious’ things that comes from the east? *Walking on hot coals!*

This was a little worse than that. They would dedicated a son or daughter who would be roasted to the god Baal, and the priest of Baal would eat the flesh of that little child. That’s where you get the name *cannibals*, priests of Baal.

“...or that uses divination, or an observer of times... [Christmas, Easter, Halloween] ...or a fortuneteller, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or one who seeks oracles from the dead” (vs 10-11).

It doesn’t matter what your opinion is, it doesn’t matter what people think, *it matters what God says!*

Verse 12: “For all that do these things *are* an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations, the LORD your God drives them out from before you.”

I challenge you to do this: write down the Ten Commandments and keep them handy by your television. Watch any documentary on any country you want to watch and ask: How many people in these documentaries that you watch, are suffering from various curses because:

- they have idols
- they have the wrong gods
- they eat the wrong food
- they have wizards
- they worship demons

When you get to the basest barbarian societies in the jungles scattered across the earth, you will understand why they are there and the curses that are upon them.

God requires of those who are His, v 13: “You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations whom you shall possess hearkened to observers of times and to diviners; but **as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do so**” (vs13-14). That’s pretty clear! Isn’t that amazing! *Surely, surely is!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Kings 18:17-21, 26-41
- 2) John 17:17
- 3) Titus 1:1-2
- 4) Hebrews 6:17-18
- 5) John 14:6
- 6) Deuteronomy 32:1-4
- 7) Psalm 117:1-2
- 8) Psalm 146:5-6
- 9) John 8:38-47, 31-32
- 10) John 4:23-24
- 11) Proverbs 14:12
- 12) Proverbs 16:2
- 13) Proverbs 14:12
- 14) Exodus 20:1-3
- 15) Exodus 32:1-7, 26-28
- 16) Exodus 34:12-18
- 17) Deuteronomy 18:9
- 18) Revelation 17:1-5
- 19) Deuteronomy 18:10-14

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1 Corinthians 10:4
- 1 John 2:21

Also referenced:

Books:

- *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter
- *from the Faithful Version Bible, Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?*
- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop
- *The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer(www.hermetics.org/pdf/Sir_James_Frazer_-_The_Golden_Bough.pdf)

Booklets:

- *Christmas, the Greatest Story Never Told* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Beliefs of the Christian Biblical Church of God* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo
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Holidays vs Holy Days II

Fred R. Coulter

It's amazing that this whole thing concerning the movie *The Passion of the Christ* focuses right in on the Holy Days or the holidays.

Solomon created in Jerusalem and all of Israel the acceptance of pagan religions. Guess what pagan religions do? *They have their days! They have their holidays!*

There's no record that Solomon repented. We don't know what the final disposition of Solomon is going to be, because in 1-Kings 11 it tells all about it. This is what happens when you begin mixing the religions of this world with the Truth of God, whether it was back then with the times of Israel in the Old Testament or today in our day with all of the false Christianity that is going around. Here's what happens when you begin to mix it:

1-Kings 11:4: "For it came to pass when Solomon was old, **his wives turned away his heart after other gods....**" That breaks the first commandment. What we are dealing with the Truth concerning the holidays vs the Holy Days is that the holidays turn you from the true God.

So, all of those who have been in the Church of God who have left the Holy Days of God, and have turned to the holidays of this world, if anyone can reach them, or anyone who has been there is listening to /reading this sermon, you better wake up because you are going down the road to perdition! You are breaking the first commandment and don't ever think that by celebrating the pagan holidays of this world that you're ever, *ever, ever* going to receive eternal life, **because you're worshipping other gods!**

"...And his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God as *was* the heart of David his father, for Solomon went after Ashtoreth..." (vs 4-5). We read that right after Joshua and the elders died what did the children of Israel do? *They went after Ashtoreth!* That's the female goddess.

"...the goddess of the Sidonians..." (v 5). Just to make a point there are two major books you need to read:

1. *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop

Papal worship, proof to be the worship of Nimrod and his wife Semiramis. Ashtoreth is just another one of her names. It's got all about Christmas and Easter and all of that.

2. *The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer

This is a very profound book; it's a one-volume summary of 12 volumes. It is quite a detailed historical analysis and writing of all the pagan holidays.

What is important to understand is that God is never going to take the excuse: *I never knew!* There are publications and truth out there, even any ordinary encyclopedia and it will tell you that Christmas did not originate in the so-called Christian church and that it has pagan origins.

We're going to see that the Scriptures have a lot to say about it. So, we're going to cover first the holidays of this world, because they aren't anything new.

"...and after Milcom... [another name for Nimrod] ...the abomination of the Ammonites" (v 5).

A man I was talking to one time who was repairing the tile at the pool where I was taking my water therapy at the time, and we were the only ones there, and he asked me what I did. I told him I was a minister and he told me, 'Oh, I go to church on Sunday.' I said, 'Well, Sunday is not the day of worship that the Bible teaches.' I told him it was Saturday the Sabbath, and he says, 'Well, I know that, but the Lord knows my heart.' I thought to myself:

Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" There was a living example right in front of my own eyes, that he didn't even know his own heart, and couldn't even realize what he was saying. That's the way people are. They think that *if they think* their heart is right and good—after all 'I'm a good person'—that God accepts me the way I am. If that's true then there's no need to repent anywhere! *Not so!*

1-Kings 11:6: "And **Solomon did evil...** [because his heart was turned away] ...in the sight of the LORD and did not *go* fully after the LORD like his father David." What he did was go to the temple on the days it was required to go. He would keep the Sabbath, but he would also keep the other days, because it said 'he didn't go fully.' It didn't say that he totally abandoned God; he didn't go fully after Him.

Aren't a lot of people like that today? 'Oh, we love Jesus; we read the Bible. We go to church on Sunday.' You're not going fully after the Lord. But people never open their Bible's enough, think enough, **and realize that the Bible is a thinking book!**

Verse 7: Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill, which *is* before Jerusalem... [west of the temple mount] ...and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise he did for all his foreign wives, and burned incense and sacrificed to their gods” (vs 7-8)—which means that every one of these temples and altars for incense you had to have a pagan priesthood.

Verse 9: “And the LORD *was* angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him concerning this thing, **that he should not go after other gods; and he did not keep that which the LORD commanded**” (vs 9-10).

God said, ‘All right, I’m going to separate the kingdom from you when you die. Your son is going to be the victim of it’; his son was Rehoboam.”

God selected Jeroboam. He sent the prophet to tell him, ‘Look, Jeroboam, God is going to take ten tribes of Israel away from Rehoboam and he’s going to give them to you. If you will keep the commandments of God and follow after Him, ‘I will build you a dynasty just like He did David, your father.’

- Did he believe God?
- Did he believe the prophet?
- *No!*

We need to understand that the land was paganized! Ecumenized with paganism! What happened? After receiving this, what did Jeroboam do? This will tell you how God feels concerning changing *His* days. At least you’ve got to give credit to the Catholics, in the article *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants* they freely admit that *they* created Sunday as the day of worship, and prove from Scripture that the Protestants that God changed day, and nowhere prove that that God approved the day, but only the Roman Catholic Church by its authority and sole discretion did it.

That the Protestants ought to stop being hypocrites with the Bible and either keep the Saturday Sabbath or get wholly on Catholic ground and quit being pretenders. I think that’s what this movie *The Passion of the Christ* is going to move many of them to do.

What they will do is say, ‘Look, we have so many things in common, you have met us halfway and we’ll meet you halfway. We won’t return to Rome, but we’ll all be together. How is that?’

Doesn’t that sound like mother Babylon with her daughters? The harlots? All getting together in a family reunion?

I believe that the results of this movie is going to begin preparing the ground for the coming false Christ and the apostasy, and it’s going to also open the doors for those that God can call, for those who don’t want to go along with it, but really want to know the Truth. Now they can no longer have the shame of reading the Bible. Even some of the antagonistic journalists who reported on the movie, after they saw it, ran home and opened their Bible and read the accounts in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

What other one thing would force those carnal-minded God-hating people to go home and open their Bibles? Even Herbert Armstrong’s radio program where he says, ‘Blow the dust off your Bibles and read it’ could not get them to do that. So, this is going to be out there for a long time.

Here’s what Jeroboam did, and this is here for our learning. Should we abandon the Passover and the Holy Days of God and go to the pagan feasts and ‘Christianize’ them? We’ll talk about that later.

1-Kings 12:25: “And Jeroboam built Shechem on Mount Ephraim and lived on it, and went from there and built Penuel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, ‘Now, the kingdom may well return to the house of David! If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me and return again to Rehoboam king of Judah.’” (vs 25-27).

He didn’t believe God, and he didn’t want to lose political power. He knew that political power came through the alliance of religion. Does that sound a lot like Rev. 17 and the woman ruling over the nations of the earth and *riding the beast*. Same thing!

Listen, history today is only an altered repeat of the history in the past. That’s why Jesus said, ‘As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of man. As it was in the days of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of man.’

Let’s see what Rehoboam did, v 28: “Then the king took counsel...” That’s how you always get these things in. The way you get apostasy in is you sit down with your cohorts and you have all the wise, intelligent, the important sit down in council and say, ‘What do you think?’

Here’s Rehoboam’s commission, “...and made two calves *of* gold...” (v 28). So, what we can do, and we don’t want to go down to Jerusalem and be down there with all of the Jews, because the ten tribes of Israel always looked down on the Jews even way back then.

It's the same thing we have today in Protestant theology, 'Oh, we don't need the Old Testament of the Jews.' Isn't that the same thing we hear today? *Yes!*

So, they made two calves, just like ones in the book of Exodus, and he said, 'we're going to make it convenient for you.'

"...and said to them, 'It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Behold your gods, O, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' And he set the one in Bethel... [the house of God] ...and he put the other in Dan. And **this thing became a sin**... [because it broke the first and second commandment] ...for the people went to worship before the one, even to Dan. And **he made houses of worship on the high places**..." (v 28-31).

- you've got to build buildings, cathedrals
- you've got to institutionalize it
- you've got to make it important

"...and made priests of the lowest of the people, who were not the sons of Levi" (v 31)—because most of the Levites left and went back to the temple, because they understood the problems.

- What do we have today?
- What are the depiction of most ministers, especially in movies?
- *They are the lowest scum of stupid idiots that ever walked the face of the earth!*

That's what they did with Jesus when they made the movie *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Verse 32, this is part of the sin: "And **Jeroboam ordered a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that is in Judah**. And he offered upon the altar. So, he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places, which he had made." What's a high place? *Pagan priests!*

All of the pagan priests came and said, 'We will help you, Jeroboam, we know how to do this thing. We've been practitioners of this religion a long time.' That's exactly what happened during the days of Constantine: All the pagan priests came and said, 'You know, Constantine, this is a good deal. We're almost Christianized, but we want to keep our Sunday.'

Constantine said, 'Yes! I'm going to give an edict that everybody has worship on Sunday,' *and he did!* And the pagan priests said, 'You know, we can have our cathedrals and the people really need something to encourage them to worship. We're really not making idols and images, but we're going to make the likeness of Christ, that may inspire some people.'

When Catholic priests are asked about that today, they say, 'We don't worship them, we only venerate them.' Look up the word *veneration* and that is a synonym for *worship*. How can the world be fooled with such stupidity? *The main thing is that they never open the Bible! Nowhere does it ever say that they had anything to do with the Scriptures of God!*

Verse 33: "And he offered upon the altar, which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, **in the month which he had devised out of his own heart**. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel. And he offered upon the altar and burned incense."

Because of the sin of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, the children of Israel became so paganized that God had to send them off into captivity. That's what God thinks of those holidays and so forth.

The eighth month puts into the month that Halloween is. It doesn't say that this is Halloween directly, but it's the 15th day of the 8th month instead of the 15th day of the 7th month. Not only that, but this is sort of an ecumenical starter. They were all led off into paganism.

Let's read what happen and see how the people are. God was patient, kind and understanding, and He gave them 232 years to change their mind. There was a short period of time after Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal. Remember the account where God said, 'How long halt you between two opinions.' That's what most people have concerning God; *it's an opinion! 'I think...'*

Let me tell you something, unless you think with the Bible, your thoughts concerning God are meaningless! Unless you repent! God is not into 'opinion taking.' God is not into poll-taking! **God is into repentance and obedience**, otherwise 'you're out of here!'

2-Kings 17:7: "Now, it came to pass because the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods." When you do that, that means you practice *their* days.

Verse 8: "And walked in the statutes of the nations whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which the nations had made. Now, the children of Israel **secretly did things that were not right against the LORD their God**..." (vs 8-9).

So, there are a lot of sins and secrets that people have today, but understand this: *It doesn't matter who you are or where you are, God knows!* If He knows when a sparrow falls because it dies, *He knows what you are doing!* He can find out at

any time that He needs to, and He knows the thoughts of men that they are vain.

People think that if ‘I do it and nobody knows, it won’t make any difference.’ That’s how this whole homosexual movement got started. Where are we today? They say that in the whole San Francisco Bay Area that those who do not approve of homosexual same-sex marriages, or the near akin unions thereof, are in the minority. So, this is truly Sodom and Gomorrah here.

“...And they built high places in all their cities for themselves from the Watch Tower to the fortified city. And they set up images and groves for themselves in every high hill, and under every green tree. And they burned incense in all the high places, like the nations whom the LORD had removed from before them, and they practiced evil things to provoke the LORD to anger” (vs 9-11). That’s exactly what we’re doing with this cultural war that’s going on now. They’re provoking God to anger:

Verse 12: “For they served the idols of which the LORD had said to them, ‘You shall not do this thing.’ And the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all the prophets, *by* all the seers, saying, ‘Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments *and* My statutes, according to all the law, which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.’ Nevertheless, **they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like the neck of their fathers who did not believe in the LORD their God**” (vs 12-14).

Hello! Faith and belief was required back then! It always is! It takes faith to keep the commandments of God!

- It takes no faith to say, ‘Jesus did it for me.’
- It takes no faith to say that His perfect obedience is a ‘substitute for my obedience.’

Listen and understand that *Jesus will never keep the Sabbath for you. You must do it!* As well as the other commandments of God. That’s what the Jews have against Protestantism. How can you say that you don’t have to keep the commandments? That is a ‘moryoxon,’ an incongruity, an impossible thing! Christianity without God is where it leads to.

Verse 15: “And *they* rejected His statutes and His covenant, which He made with their fathers, and His warnings that He testified against them. And they went after vanity...” What I want you to think about is today’s society that is supposed to be proclaimed as ‘Christian.’

“...and became vain, and went after the

nations around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them not to do like them. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God and made molten images, two calves for themselves. And they made a grove, and **worshiped all the host of heaven...** (vs 15-16)—astrology.

We even have it today: ‘You can write in and get a star named after you,’ which goes right back to the old pagan thing that Alan Knight wrote in his book: *Primitive Christianity in Crisis*. One of the things that pagans believed is that when you die your soul went back to the stars in heaven where it came from. That’s what it means to worship “...the host of heaven...”

“...**and served Baal.** And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire. And they used divination and sorceries, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.... [that is what we are doing] ...So, the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of His sight; not one was left, only the tribe of Judah by itself. Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes, which Israel made” (vs 16-19). So, they were pagan!

Verse 20: “And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers until He had cast them out of His sight, for He tore Israel from the house of David and they made Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, king. And Jeroboam drove Israel away from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin” (vs 20-21).

‘And many **shall be led** into sin’ (Matt. 24). That’s what it means, and this is a good example of it right here.

Verse 22: “For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did. They did not depart from them until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So, Israel was carried away out of their own land to Assyria, **as it is to this day**” (vs 22-23)—when this was written.

Let’s see how bad it got with Judah. Divination is seeking to understand the spirits. There are many forms of it, talking to them, etc. I couldn’t tell you all the distinctions of divination. I’m sure there are so many that I don’t know them. They had tarot cards, dice, tea leaves, killing chickens and looking at the liver to divine what was going on, and I’m sure reading palms.

There’s a parallel account there in 1-Kings 21 that you can read about. 2-Chron. 33 is about Manasseh:

2-Chronicles 33:2: “But he did *that which*

was evil in the sight of the LORD, like the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel, for he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down..." (vs 2-3).

Isn't that the way it always is, when there's something good that comes along, the evil forces come along and destroy it. You can see that in politics everywhere. You can see that in religion everywhere.

"...and he reared up altars for Baalim... [Sunday worship] ...and made groves, and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served them" (v 3). He probably made the temple area to look much like St. Peter's Basilica does today. The 'host of heaven' there at St. Peter's Basilica is pictured by all the saints that surround the whole front courtyard.

Verse 4: "And he built altars in the house of the LORD... [pagan altars] ...of which the LORD had said, 'In Jerusalem shall My name be forever.' And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom. He also observed times... [Christmas] ...and used enchantments... [for good luck] ...and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards.... [probably able to read minds] ...He did much evil in the sight of the LORD to provoke Him to anger. And he set a carved image, the idol, which he had made... [probably commissioned to be made] ...in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, 'In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever'" (vs 4-7).

The long and the short of it is that God rejected Jerusalem, and the final rejection was in 70 A.D., and because of the sins of the Jews they have never recovered.

Concerning where God put His name, v 8: "Nor will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land, which I have set apart for your fathers—if only they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.' But Manasseh led astray Judah and the people of Jerusalem, *and caused them to do worse than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and to His people, but they would not listen*" (vs 8-10).

Let's see what happens when you do that. I want you to think about what's happening in America today. Here's why God sent them out:

2-Kings 21:15: "**Because they have done**

what is evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt even until this day.' Furthermore, Manasseh also shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah to sin in doing the evil in the sight of the LORD" (vs 15-16).

Do we have a lot of murders going on today? *Yes!* All of these bleeding-heart liberals scream to high heaven every time one of the soldiers was killed in a Iraq {during the 2nd Iraq war}; which is a tragic thing indeed. But war is bloody and meant to kill and destroy. You need to understand that. But do they raise a voice about all that are killed in automobile accidents every day. Do they raise the voice of all those children who are kidnapped and they never know where they have gone? Probably sacrificed to demons and Satan-worship. *No!* Not so much as a '*we gotta take care of this.*'

So, when they set their hearts to evil... How do evil people get in power? *By criticizing, coming against, going against, tearing down those who want to do good,* whether they know God or not!

Just like they're doing today, they change the law of the land so their legal activities become legal! That's what they're doing! It's all right to have same-sex marriage, but don't you dare teach anything in our schools out of the Bible. It's all right to advocate civil disobedience, even the extermination of people if it's convenient—like in Waco, TX—but to say that we need to keep the commandments of God is evil. You are intolerant and harsh.

Listen, brethren, we're all caught up in the middle of a cultural war, which is a spiritual war. The thing that is so profound and important for us to understand for us to do what God wants us to do.

Don't be defeated by the evil all around you! The eyes of God go to and fro in the earth seeking those who are seeking Him. So, the only reason that this world and society has not been destroyed or come under great and horrendous distress is *because of the people of God.* Even with that, with a great many of them, He has great problems, because they are doing like the children of Israel.

Jeremiah 5:1—God told Jeremiah: "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in her open places, **if you can find a man, if there is one who does justice, who seeks the Truth; and I will pardon her.**" That is the sin of the whole nation. Think about that!

Isa. 1 is a parallel of Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot and his children and so forth. There were a lot of people who were killed in the destruction who may have not been practicing homosexuals but went along with it.

What does God think of the Church. Here we are living in this nation, the stakes are high, the battle is intense! After talking about how bad it was, how sinful they are and how revolting they are to God:

Isaiah 1:9: “Except the LORD of hosts had left us a very small remnant... [God looks to the remnant] ...we would have been as Sodom; we would have become like Gomorrah.”

Let’s see some of the things we need to aware of today and what we need to do.

Ephesians 5:10: “Proving what is well pleasing to the Lord”—by thought, action, deed; everything that we do is well-pleasing to the Lord. In another place he says, ‘Whatsoever we do, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.’

Verse 11: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*; for it is shameful even to mention the things being done by them in secret. But all of these things being exposed by the light are openly revealed. Therefore, He says, **‘You who are sleeping—wake up, and arise from the dead! And Christ shall shine upon you.’** So then, take heed that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as those who are wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (vs 11-16).

That’s exactly what we are living in. I tell you what, we are in a desperate fight:

- to retain the Holy Days
- to retain the Truth of God

We have got to stand and defend the Word of God, the Truth of God and the things that are in the Bible and not give any quarter to anybody or be fearful of anything, because it’s going to be all out there sooner or later!

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Kings 11:4-5
- 2) Jeremiah 17:9
- 3) 1 Kings 11:6-10
- 4) 1 Kings 12:25-33
- 5) 2 Kings 17:7-23
- 6) 2 Chronicles 33:2-10
- 7) 2 Kings 21:15-16
- 8) Jeremiah 5:1
- 9) Isaiah 1:9
- 10) Ephesians 5:10-16

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 17
- Matthew 24

Also referenced:

Books:

- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop (cbcg.org)
- *The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer (www.hermetics.org/pdf/Sir_James_Frazer_-_The_Golden_Bough.pdf)
- *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight

Article: *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants* (cbcg.org)

FRC:bo
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Holidays vs Holy Days III

Fred R. Coulter

Today we're going to see that the Bible has an awful lot to say about the holidays of the world, but not in the way that the world would like to hear it. So, let's understand something very important: *Jeremiah was a priest*. He had the right to go to the temple and say these things, and this needs to be shouted in every church—Protestant and Catholic—around the world. The reason being is that just exactly as the Jews trusted in the temple, the physical building, instead of God, so the Catholics say they are the only Church of God. The Protestants say that they left them because they're not. But the Protestants only became half reformed.

That's why in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* I put in Rome's Challenge to the Protestants. The same thing fits here: ***If you claim the name of God, that you worship God, let everyone depart from sin!*** That's what the message is, and we'll see what they did, how they reasoned.

Just like recently a senator said that anyone who says that marriage is between one man and one woman only is unchristian, vicious, mean and hateful. Likewise, when you come along and tell the people of the world that everything that they do with their holidays, where they supposedly honor God—the God of Truth—with their lies... Now, that's in incongruity; you can't honor God—Who is the God of Truth—with lies. You dishonor Him, and that's just the way it is!

Stop and think about all the lies concerning Christmas. Santa Claus does not exist; he doesn't make toys at the North Pole. You can add many other things that are lies, obviously, in dealing with children. What are you doing? You're impressing upon young children that lies are the way to go! Then you start looking in the Bible and you find out that Jesus was not born on Dec. 25th, not born in a cave like the Catholics claim.

How about Easter? The whole thing is a lie. Jesus was not resurrected on 'Easter Sunday morning.' He was resurrected just before the end of the Sabbath. He wasn't crucified on a 'Good Friday,' He was crucified in the middle of the week and was in the grave three days and three nights, as He said. 'Easter bunnies' *do not lay hard boiled, tattooed and colored chicken eggs!* Evolution not withstanding! Charles Darwin did not cooperate!

You can do the same thing with all the holidays of the world. As we have seen, these things are old pagan days of worship, which Satan planned hundreds of years before Christ ever came.

We will see that the sin; I did a sermon year's ago called *The Sin of Israel: Sunday Worship*.

They worshipped Baal and Ashteroth. The day of Baal, who is the sun-god is Sunday. Just like this little church that had a sign—this is when I first went out in the field up in Idaho—that said: Sun Worship 10am. I thought, the guy has it right! That's what it is!

Not only that, today we're going to see the reasoning that is used to amalgamate all these pagan things and call them Christian or 'of God.' One of the ways that ancient Israel did it was they got it sanctioned at the temple.

- Isn't that the temple that God instructed to be built?
- Isn't that where God placed His name?
- If it's sanctioned there by the priests and the people, is that not accepted?

It's the same way today. People say that if the pope says so, then it's okay. Jesus Christ is going to say, 'Who is the pope? He does not represent Me!' Just like today when they mention 'the church' it's automatically 'the Catholic Church.'

I challenge Catholics, if you're Catholic don't get mad if you find out that these things are not true. After all, how many times have the priests lied to you concerning pedophilia? How many lives were hurt, ruined and destroyed because they took a position that God never gave. They abused innocent children and destroyed their lives from hence forth!

If you think that's the only problem with the Catholic Church, I challenge you to get the *New American Standard* version of the Bible—which the Catholics recommend that you can read—and read carefully the first four commandments of the ten, because that becomes the key to unlock the problems and difficulties of the lies of all the Sunday-keeping churches of the world. That's the key! Now, *if you don't love the Truth*, stop here and go on to someplace else.

Jeremiah 7:1: "The Word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying." Jeremiah didn't do this on his own. He didn't run down there with a loincloth and sword. God said:

Verse 2: "Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this Word, and say, 'Hear the Word of the LORD, all Judah...'"

This also belies another fact. This also shows that the Jews did not universally keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days for all time. No, they didn't; they were involved in pagan-worship.

"...who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.' Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God

of Israel, ‘Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place’” (vs 2-3).

The first thing that has to happen with anyone who wants to know about the true God is that they have to repent and amend their ways.

- you’ve got to admit that you have sinned
- you’ve got to be convicted in heart, mind and soul that you have sinned
- *you’ve got to repent directly to God*

You don’t need to run off to some priest or pastor and you don’t need beads to go around and do ‘hail Marys’ and ‘our fathers.’

You need to get on your knees in a quiet private place and examine your life, heart and sins, and repent directly to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, and ask for His Spirit to lead you and guide you into the Truth so that you can come out of living in the world and the sins and deceptions that Satan the devil has foisted upon this whole world in his ‘religious’ attempt to counterfeit what God originally gave.

That’s what needs to be done! Don’t get mad because I as a man may say something. *Prove it! Check it out!* If you mend your ways then God says that you will dwell in this place.

Verse 4: “Do not trust in lying words, saying...” [this is what God is saying, and this is to anybody] “The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD *are* these.” Isn’t it interesting that it’s three times.

- this is God’s Church
- the pope is the vicar of Christ

that applies to anyone at anytime or any organization who claims to represent God. *If you represent God:*

- you will preach His Word you teach the people to follow God, not a man

So, God says, v 5: “For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor; *if* you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your hurt” (vs 5-6). Let that sink in!

You’re either going to walk in the way of the Lord, or you’re going to walk in the way of the world! The way of God is according to His Ten Commandments, statutes and judgments, through Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. The way of walking after other gods involves:

- the holidays of this world
- the theology of this world
- going after them

Today they even have to allow witchcraft as an official religion in the armed forces of the United States. This world is going to ‘spiritual hell in a hand-basket,’ and you have to realize that the reason Jesus Christ is going to return—and return in great power and destroy almost everything on the earth—is because of the way that men have been going, because of what they have been doing right here.

Just like this was a warning by Jeremiah to the Jews in Jerusalem in Judea, that unless they repented God was going to remove them. They didn’t and He sent Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, and took them into captivity.

If you follow any other ‘religious’ practice other than what you find in the Bible, it is to your hurt! That’s the truth of the whole matter! Too many Protestants say, ‘Oh, that harsh God of the Old Testament!....’ ***Not so!***

Let’s see something important; you have a choice. Everybody has a choice, and you have choices everyday beginning with what time you get up, what time you’ll eat, what you will eat and so forth. Your whole life is one series of choices after another. The most important choice you need to make is to ***understand how you are to live your life before God,*** because everything else will come from that.

This is what God has set before everybody in the world; we are all being judged all the time, whether we know it or not, how we choose and what we choose. There are a lot of people out there that choose adultery, fornication, homosexuality, drugs and all that sort of thing. Look at what it reaps:

- death
- destruction
- misery
- broken lives
- broken minds
- broken families
- broken society

People are out there choosing death, evil and sin! God has given the freedom to choose it, but you’re going to suffer the consequences of it. Remember this, say to yourself: ***Whatever I choose, I will suffer the consequences whether for good or whether for evil! God has decreed that for every human being!***

If you don’t like it then go someplace else, but you will never avoid it, you will never get away from it, because that is life!

Deuteronomy 30:15: “Behold, I have set before you this day life and good...” That’s what everyone wants, but they want it with their lies, and

you can't have it both ways.

"...and death and evil" (v 15). What does God want you to do? *God wants you to choose the right!*

Verse 16: "In that **I command you** this day to **love the LORD your God...**" That's what it's all based upon; to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being, and to walk in His ways! That's where it's at. If you choose that and repent and are baptized you can get your whole life straightened around. But you're going to have to do the effort first, and then God will respond.

"...to **walk in His ways**... [instead of the ways of other gods] ...and to **keep His commandments**... [instead of commandments of men] ...and **His statutes and His judgments**..." (v 16)—which have to do with the living the way of the Lord and keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days.

"...**so that you may live and multiply**...." Everyone wants the blessings of God, but *you're not going to get the blessings of God unless you obey Him!* The blessings of God are not going to come because you lie, cheat, steal and bow down to idols. It isn't going to happen!

"...And the LORD your God shall bless you in the land where you go to possess it. But if your heart turn away..." (vs 16-17). Everybody has to make a choice. And *if you choose to sin*, then you're going to suffer the consequences. If you repent, God will forgive you, but Jesus also said, 'Go and sin no more!' That's important to understand. You cannot go to the priest and confess your sins, do 'hail Marys' and 'our fathers' and buy indulgences. *That is a lying sin to keep you in bondage! That is not true!* Nowhere can you find it in the Bible.

Verse 17: "But if your heart turn away so that you will not hear... [that's a choice] ...but shall be drawn away... [that's a choice] ...and worship other gods... [that's a choice] ...and serve them... [that's a choice] ...**I denounce to you this day that you shall surely perish**; you shall not prolong *your* days on the land where you pass over Jordan to go to possess it" (vs 17-18).

What I want you to think about is v 19; this is very profound and it's not restricted to the voice of a man. It's not restricted to what's printed in this Bible.

Verse 19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you..." If you step out and see that the heaven and earth you know this is true, and you know that the Word of God is going to happen. You don't need anyone else telling you any other thing, except for the fact that God created the heaven and the earth. That is His witness against you, and God has said through the person of Jesus Christ that

'heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.'

Think about it! It's not some little man in some little corner being angry and mad at the majority establishment. It is from the Word of God that you may repent and change your life.

Verse 19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, **choose life, so that both you and your seed may live**.... [the whole purpose]: ...that you may love the LORD your God..." (vs 19-20). Isn't that how we started in v 16? *Yes!*

"...and may obey His voice..." (v 20)—which has been written and recorded here in the Scriptures. Anything that any man tells you contrary to the Word of God, and you believe and follow it, **that causes you to disobey the voice of God!** That is also a choice that you have to make.

"...and may cleave to Him; for **He is your life**... [no man, no minister, no church, no guru] ...and the length of your days, so that you may dwell in the land, which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob—to give it to them" (v 20).

Jeremiah 7:8: "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit." *No lie of any 'religious' person will profit!*

I need to do some things on lies from the pulpit. What is the easiest way to detect lies from the pulpit? *Very simple!* You sit in church and a minister or priest reads from the Bible and then says, '*God did not mean this! Jesus did not mean this!*' You know they're telling a lie! "...you trust in lying words..."

The whole structure of the holidays of this world are built on lies, fantasies, and pagan demonic satanic myths beginning with Sunday, Christmas, Easter, New Years, Halloween and all of the other days that *have been invented to enslave people into a system and hold them in fear!*

Verse 9: "Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know... [here is what gets God angry]: ...**and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations?'**" (vs 9-10). In other words, 'God has given us permission.' God calls all the holidays of this world *abominations!*

- Is it not an abomination to lie to your children?
- Is it not an abomination to lie to people and

say that God has done away with the Sabbath?

- Is it not an abomination to lie to people and say that God has done away with the Holy Days?
- Is it not an abomination?

or

- Have you believed so many lies for so long that anyone who preaches the Truth sounds like a raving lunatic?

Verse 11: “‘Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it,’ says the LORD.” He says, ‘I want you to learn a lesson. I want you to think about this.’

All you have to do is look at Palestine today. Is it cursed of God because of sin? *Yea!* So, He wanted them to understand.

Verse 12: “‘But now go to My place which *was* in Shiloh... [that’s where they first put the tabernacle when they came into the land of Jordan] ...where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of My people Israel.”

That’s why nations are destroyed and go into captivity. God rules in the kingdoms of men! God rules in His Church! One thing about that is very important to understand: Whenever any church—whether a Church of God or whatever name you want to call it—goes against God, sooner or later *his judgment is coming!* And it comes! Those who are in the Church of God have a living witness to it today. For those who know, all you have to do is visit Pasadena!

Verse 13: “‘And now because you have done all these works,’ says the LORD, ‘and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but **you did not hear**; and **I called you, but you did not answer**; therefore, I will do to *this* house, which is called by My name, in which you trust...’” (vs 13-14).

This is most important to understand: God’s correction begins *with His own* first!

“...and to the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, the whole seed of Ephraim” (vs 14-15).

He’s saying, ‘I want you learn a lesson, you who are in Judah, that I sent off the ten tribes of Israel—who were in the north—into captivity and sent the Assyrians to take them away because they sinned. They followed the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made other gods.

This is what happens when a people get so bad, v 16: “Therefore, do not pray for this people, nor lift up cry nor prayer for them, nor make

intercession to Me; for **I will not hear you**.... [here’s the reason why]: ...Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger” (vs 16-18).

The queen of heaven is none other than Ishtar, who in the Roman Catholic Church is called ‘the virgin Mary.’ We’re going to see that the lying deception, the mystery of iniquity that has come on this world has taken all the things of paganism and satanism and has put a Christian title on it.

If you own a car, please understand that if you take a Rolls Royce and put on it Hyundai, it is still a Rolls Royce. Let’s reverse, if you take a Hyundai and you put on Rolls Royce, it’s still a Hyundai. That’s what they’ve done the Sabbath and Holy Days of God, and the laws and commandments of God.

Same way if you ride motorcycles, what if you put Honda on a Harley, it’s still a Harley. You would have the Japanese doing great conniptions if you put Harley on a Honda.

Likewise, God does not like to have His name put on Nimrod! He does not like people worshipping saints, because none ascend into heaven except Christ.

- Do you think this sounds harsh?
- How badly have you been deceived?

ask yourself:

- Have I been deceived?

if so:

- How much?
- By whom?

Understand that God holds *you* responsible!

Verse 23: “‘But this thing I commanded them, saying, ‘**Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people**...’” Very simple; if you don’t obey the voice of God He’s not your God; though you profess it, though you desire it. It’s not so!

“...and walk in **all** the ways... [not your ways with His name on it, but *all His ways*] ...that I have commanded you, so that it may be well with you” (v 23). God wants to bless you. But if you live lies and you choose *your own ways* you’re only bringing the curses of God upon your life instead of the blessings.

Satan would like to make it look as though you’re receiving a blessing, but remember, what good will it do if a man win the whole world but lose his soul? So, we’re down to those things in life.

Verse 26: “Yet, they did not hearken to Me, nor bow down their ear, but hardened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.” It gets right back to that choice that we covered in Deut. 30.

Verse 27: “Thus you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not hearken to you...” If you don’t hear what I’m saying, you’ve had a witness. Remember that!

“...you shall also call to them, but they will not answer you. But you shall say to them, ‘This *is* a nation which does not obey the voice of the LORD their God, nor receives correction; Truth has perished, and is cut off from their mouth’” (vs 27-28). That is exactly the state of the United States of America today. If that’s not apparent to you, you’re deaf, dumb and blind! God is going to do to America what He did to Judah.

Jeremiah 8:1: “‘At that time,’ says the LORD, ‘they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its rulers, and the bones of the priests...’” When the Babylonians would come in and destroy the city. Like the Romans did in 70 A.D. they left not one stone upon another at the temple.

“...and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the people of Jerusalem, out of their graves. And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of the heavens, whom they have loved and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshiped. They shall not be gathered nor buried; they shall be as dung on the face of the earth” (vs 1-2).

If there’s any one thing you never want, you never want to have God’s judgment upon you!

Jeremiah 9:2—Jeremiah says: “Oh, that I had in the wilderness a lodging place for traveling men, that I might leave my people and go away from them!....”

The whole society is so sick and miserable you want to get out someplace, but it cost too much to hire NASA to shoot you into orbit to get away!

“...For they *are* all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. ‘And they bend their tongues *like* their bow *for* lies. But they are not valiant for the truth on the earth; for they go from evil to evil, and they do not know Me,’ says the LORD. ‘Everyone beware of his neighbor, and do not trust any brother! For every brother will supplant his neighbor, and will walk with slanders’” (vs 2-4). That’s sure true today!

Verse 5: “And everyone will deceive his neighbor and will not speak the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies, *and* they weary themselves to commit iniquity. Your dwelling *is* in

the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me,’ says the LORD” (vs 5-6).

That’s exactly what it is. It’s all deceit! Do you believe that especially in the United States of America we live under the cloud of lies, *lies*, *lies*? *Yes!*

- in religion
- in government
- in entertainment
- in people
- in courts
- in business

Wherever! They all live by lies! God’s judgment is going to come! It’s absolutely true! We will see what God thinks about all of these pagan days that bear His name. Then we will see who did it.

Ezekiel 8:5: “And He said to me, ‘Son of man, lift up your eyes now to the way of the north.’.... [that’s where Santa Claus dwells] ...So, I lifted up my eyes toward the way of the north, and behold, northward at the gate of the altar the image of jealousy *was* at the entrance.”

If you want something similar to it, go to St. Peter’s Basilica and see all of the idols, statues and things that are painted on the ceiling and the walls. The people are so deceived and misled that they go kiss the foot of a supposed St. Peter carved in black marble.

Verse 6: “And He said to me, ‘Son of man, do you see what they do; even the great abominations which the house of Israel is doing here, that I should go far off from My sanctuary?....’”

When you do these things you drive God away. You don’t please God. He doesn’t come to you! He doesn’t hear your prayers!

“...But turn again, *and* you shall see greater abominations.’ And He brought me to the opening of the court; and I looked, and behold, a hole in the wall. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, dig in the wall now.’ And I dug in the wall, and, behold, an opening. And he said to me. ‘Go in and see the evil abominations that they do here.’ And I went in and saw. And behold, every kind of creeping thing, and hateful beast, and all the idols of the house of Israel, were carved on the wall all around” (vs 6-10).

This is what you would call today: Masonry, Knights of Columbus, Eastern Star, Rebekah. All of these secret organizations that claim to lead you to God, *but lead you to Satan the devil!*

Verse 11: “And seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel...” In other words, the leaders of

the nation are all involved! The greatest way to succeed in politics and in this world is to be a Mason or with the Knights of Columbus.

Verse 12—God says: "...For they are saying, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the earth.' He also said to me, 'You shall see greater abominations that they are committing.' And He brought me to the opening of the gate of the LORD'S house, toward the north. And behold, women were sitting there **weeping for Tammuz**" (vs 12-13)—'Good Friday' services!

This book—*The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer—tells you where all this nonsense comes from.

Verse 15: "And He said to me, 'Have you seen this, O son of man? You shall see greater abominations than these.' And He brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house..." (vs 15-16).

- Where does Satan like to come?
- Where does the deception like to begin?
- *Right within the inner-circle of those who are suppose to serve God!*

That's precisely why God chose Judas Iscariot, to be a warning to all people. Satan loves to come into the highest circle to deceive.

"...and behold, at the opening of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east; and **they worshiped the sun toward the east**" (v 16).

Easter sunrise services are on every hill in every city that they can get to. I remember when I was about 14-years-old I was delivering papers in Seattle and up on the Capitol Hill. This is was an Easter Sunday and I had to get up at 4:30 to get the papers out and get them delivered and was done about 5:30, so I decided to go over to Volunteer Park and see the Easter sunrise services.

Lo and behold, I get there—I was never churched and knew absolutely nothing about Catholicism—and here's this big assembly of people and here are these Catholic priests doing all of their rigmarole and so forth, and as soon as the sun came up the priest stood up and held up the wafer and all the people bowed down and worshipped toward the east. I thought: What is this?

So, they're going to do it. My greatest delight every Easter Sunday is when it rains and snows, so that the idolaters cannot go and perform their idolatry! When we were in Idaho pastoring in 1965 to 72, there was a place called Lizard's Butte. It was a high hill and when you look at the formation of the lava rock it looked just like a lizard with the

head, short legs and tail coming down.

I thought: Wasn't that an absolutely perfect place for them to go commit their idolatry to the serpent Satan the devil, but to be right on Lizard's Butte! That's what people do today.

If you worship on Sunday, you are deceived! Christ never changed the day! If you don't believe it see our booklets:

- *Which Day is the True Christian Sabbath!*
- *A Sabbath/Sunday Challenge You have Never Read (Rome's Challenge to the Protestants)*

Even the Roman Catholic Church knows that it was never changed in the New Testament from Sabbath to Sunday. But the Roman Catholic Church proudly says that 'they did it!'

Verse 17: "And He said to me, 'Have you seen, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they do the hateful things, which they do here? For they have filled the land with violence and have turned to provoke Me to anger still more. And lo, they put the **branch** to their nose.'"

This *branch* refers to Nimrod who is called *the branch*. {see book: *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop, which shows that all the Christianity of the world today who worships on Sunday comes from the idolatrous practice of Nimrod and Semiramis who was the original so-called queen of heaven, now renamed Mary.

If you think this is a heavy load I'm giving you, you don't have a clue as to how much you've been deceived.

Also the branch refers to the quaint little steeples that are on the church buildings. Do you know what the steeple is? *A fallax symbol of Nimrod's private parts!* Right in the center of St. Peter's Basilica is a huge fallax symbol from Egypt! The other one is in Washington, D.C., called *The Washington Monument!*

- Have we been paganized or not?
- Have we been deceived or not?
- *No question about it!*

Verse 18: "Therefore, I will also deal with fury; My eye shall not spare, nor will I have pity. And though they cry in My ears *with* a loud voice, I will not hear them."

You don't ever want to get into a position where God won't hear!

(go to the next track)

Let's talk about the Christmas tree for just a minute. Someone sent me a paper saying that Jer. 10 doesn't refer to a Christmas tree. *But it does!* There

is similar language to making idols by overlaying with gold, but that is not what it's talking about here. We'll read some of these things out of *The Golden Bough* in just a minute.

Jeremiah 10:1: "Hear the word, which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the LORD, 'Do not learn the way of the heathen...'" (vs 1-2). That covers *every* way. We're to learn *God's way!* We're to walk in *God's way*, not the 'gods of this world.'

"... 'Do not learn the way of the heathen, and do not be terrified at the signs of the heavens...'" (v 2)—astrology, birth signs: What is your sign? What were you born under? And all of that sort of thing.

"...for the nations are terrified at them. For the **customs** of the people *are* vain; for **one cuts a tree out of the forest with the axe**, the work of the workman. **They adorn it with silver and with gold...**" (vs 2-4). It doesn't say that they strip it down and carve it. This is taking a tree and decking it.

"...they fasten it with nails and hammers, so that it will not move" (v 4). You don't do that when you carve a totem pole, you carve a totem pole.

Verse 5: "They **upright** like the palm tree, but cannot speak. They must surely be carried because they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them; for they cannot do evil nor good, for it is not in them." It's just a stupid tree!

Verse 6: "Therefore, there is none like You, O LORD; You *are* great, and Your name *is* great in might. Who would not fear You, O King of nations? For fear belongs to You because among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, *there is none like You*" (vs 6-7).

So, if you want to be smarter than anybody in the world, you study the Word of God and you will have greater understanding than people in the world.

Verse 8: "But they are altogether foolish and animal-like; the tree *is* a doctrine of vanities."

Remember that in the two Babylons it says that after Nimrod was killed, a tree sprung up and it was the Christmas tree.

from *The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer (PDF
www.hermetics.org/pdf/Sir_James_Frazer_-_The_Golden_Bough.pdf)

The Worship of Trees: Tree Spirits

In other words the tree can't speak and can't move; that's what it's saying.

IN THE RELIGIOUS history of the Aryan race in Europe the worship of trees has played an important part.

What is a Christmas tree called in German? *O Tannenbaum!*

For at the dawn of history Europe was covered with immense primeval forests... [they could] ...traveled for two months through it without reaching the end....

From an examination of the Teutonic words for "temple" Grimm has made it probable that amongst the Germans the oldest sanctuaries were natural woods.

What does the Bible talk about? *In the groves!* Where they committed adultery and fornication and homosexuality and worshiped other gods.

However that may be, tree-worship is well attested for all the great European families of the Aryan stock....

Sacred groves were common among the ancient Germans... The heathen Slavs worshipped trees and groves. The Lithuanians were not converted to Christianity till towards the close of the fourteenth century, and amongst them at the date of their conversion the worship of trees was prominent. Some of them revered remarkable oaks and other great shady trees...

What do you get in oaks? *Mistletoe!* So, you can kiss someone under the mistletoe and then you have freedom to commit adultery.

...from which they received oracular responses....

The trees talked! That's what it's talking about.

...Proofs of the prevalence of tree-worship in ancient Greece and Italy are abundant.... In the Forum, the busy center of Roman life, the sacred fig-tree of Romulus was worshipped down to the days of the empire...

And on and on and on it goes!

On Christmas Eve many a South Slavonian and Bulgarian peasant swings an axe threateningly against a barren fruit-tree...

In other words, if you don't produce fruit this next year, I'm going to cut you down.

...the marriage festival of all the gods and goddesses....

What celebrated when? *In the spring!* Probably what we call today St. Valentine's Day. Then he talks about China and so forth.

Beneficent Powers of Tree-Spirits

Germany, France, India, the May-tree, the Maypoles

The common European custom of placing a green bush on May Day before or on the house of a beloved maiden probably originated in the belief of the fertilizing power of the tree-spirit.

Put the branch to their nose. By the way, the Maypole is another fallax symbol.

Among the gods of eastern origin who in the decline of the ancient world competed against each other for the allegiance of the West was the old Persian deity Mithra....

He is the false savior, who is also called in Babylon *Tamuz*.

...The immense popularity of his worship is attested by the monuments illustrative of it which have been found scattered in profusion all over the Roman Empire. In respect both of doctrines and of rites the cult of Mithra appears to have presented many points of resemblance not only to the religion of the Mother of the Gods but also to Christianity....

He was called the unconquered son, which was what Constantine claimed that he was to conquer and bring Christianity.

...An instructive relic of the long struggle is preserved in our festival of Christmas, which the Church seems to have borrowed directly from its heathen rival. In the Julian calendar the twenty-fifth of December was reckoned the winter solstice, and it was regarded as the Nativity of the Sun, because the day begins to lengthen and the power of the sun to increase from that turning-point of the year....

Then it shows how that it has to do with a heavenly virgin goddess Astarte.

...Now Mithra was regularly identified by his worshippers with the Sun, the Unconquered Sun, as they called him; hence his nativity also fell on the twenty-fifth of December....

Guess what? *Leo the Great designated Christmas as a Christian day!*

Thus it appears that the Christian Church chose to celebrate the birthday of its Founder on the twenty-fifth of December in order to transfer the devotion of the heathen from the Sun to him who was called the Sun of Righteousness....

And on and on and on this book is absolutely loaded with it.

However, another Christian tradition, followed by Lactantius and perhaps by the

practice of the Church in Gaul, placed the death of Christ on the twenty-third and his resurrection on the twenty-fifth of March. If that was so, his resurrection coincided exactly with the resurrection of Attis.

Attis is another name for Mithras, and there you have the Good Friday/Easter Sunday resurrection of the false Christ, which was depicted in the movie *Passion of the Christ*.

Let's understand something about what the Bible calls *the system*. Remember, God's mystery is revealed. Satan's mysteries are concealed, and you can't understand them. That's why you are told that with the mystery of the trinity you can't understand it, but you must accept it on faith. Why? *God never gave us anything that we cannot prove!* And you cannot prove the trinity in the Bible.

In *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order* there is a lot of material on the trinity: Appendix W: [The Two Jehovahs of the Old Testament by Carl Franklin](#)

On the website by Carl Franklin: cbc.org

- *Defining the Oneness of God*
- *The Two Jehovahs of the Pentateuch*
- *The Two Jehovahs of the Psalms*
- *Mystery of the Trinity*

That's one of the main doctrines of the mystery of lawlessness. Let's understand what Paul is saying here:

2-Thessalonians 2:1: "Now, we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by epistle, as if from us, *saying* that the day of Christ is present. **Do not let anyone deceive you by any means** because *that day will not* come unless the apostasy shall come first..." (vs 1-3).

Let's understand that Paul wrote this in 52^{A.D.} It was already starting in Paul's day, the mystery of lawlessness or iniquity, and it comes from Egyptianized Jewish Hellenism. {note book: *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight}

"...unless the apostasy shall come first..." and the total amalgamation, the finality of this apostasy is going to be the great ecumenization of the all the religions of the world, and *it is coming!*

"...and the man of sin... [*the beast* (Rev.)] ...shall be revealed—the son of perdition, the one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is an object of worship... [we've never had a man like that on earth, yet; *it is coming*] ...so that he comes into the temple of God... [which shall yet be built in Jerusalem] ...and sits down as

God, proclaiming that he himself is God” (vs 3-4).

Why is going to happen that way? *Because the Jews are going to rebuild it*, and they are going to try and convince the world that through the animal sacrifices and the temple service you can have contact with God. God destroyed it, because that’s not how He works. He’s going to teach the Jews an everlasting permanent lesson by having a man—not the blood of swine on the altar as Antiochus Epiphanes did back in the 200_{S.B.C.} Have a man go in there and say that he is God! There are great events that are going to take place. Unless you:

- are obeying God
- are keeping His commandments
- have the Spirit of God
- have repented of your sin
- walking in God’s way

you are going to be deceived!

This was to last from the time of Paul down to our time. What only counterfeit Christian church in the world is in existence from that time to this, beginning with the early church fathers? *The Roman Catholic Church!*

Verse 5: “Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? And now you understand what is holding *him* back in order for him to be revealed in his own set time” (vs 5-6). It’s going to happen at a time that God decrees.

Verse 7: “For **the mystery of lawlessness is already working**; only *there is* One Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of *the midst*.” It comes out of the midst of the original Church of God and grows to fill the world.

Verse 8: “And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming).” How long does it last? *To the return of Jesus Christ!*

Notice who this character really is, and it’s going to put to shame all of these historical things that I have read, because it’s going to come on like ‘blue blazes’ and just absolute breathtaking deception.

Verse 9: “*Even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan... [just like Judas, possessed of Satan] ...with all power and signs and lying wonders.” They’re going to do miracles. They’re going call fire down from heaven. It is going to be awesome.

Verse 10: “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing because... [here they have a choice; every human being is going to have a choice]: ...**they did not**

receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved.”

Do you love the Truth? *The Truth is the Word of God!* If you don’t love it... Some may be angry at me for saying this, but *if you don’t love it, you’re going to fight against Christ **Whom you may think*** is your Savior!

Verse 11: “And for this cause God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe *the* lie.” If you want your lying ways, you’re going to be totally deceived.

Verse 12: “So that all may be judged who did not believe the Truth, but who took pleasure in unrighteousness.” That’s day is at hand, and the foundation has been set, it has been laid.

Let’s look at some other things; let’s see how this ties in to the Holy Days vs the holidays of this world. Let’s understand something very important concerning these days.

- What does God say about these things?
- What does God think about Sunday-worship?
- What does God think about Christmas, Easter, New Years, Halloween, Lent, etc., and all of those things?

Here’s what God thinks about all of the holidays of this world; Amos 5:21: “**I hate, I despise your feast days**, and I will take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them. Nor will I regard the peace offerings of your fat animals” (vs 21-22). Nor will God accept the Mass, the sacrifice of the Mass called the Eucharist.

Verse 23: “Take the noise of your songs away from Me; for I will not hear the melody of your harps. But let judgment roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream” (vs 23-24). In other words, ***return to God and keep His days, His commandments!***

Verse 25: “Have you offered sacrifices and offerings to Me forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? But now you have carried the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun, your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves” (vs 25-26). God says that He *hates them!*

Let’s see what happened when the perverted the temple-worship that God gave them, even with the sacrifices and everything. It was not the days of God that were sin, *it was what they did to change the days of God that was sin!*

Isaiah 1:10: “Hear the Word of the LORD,

rulers of Sodom; give ear to the Law of our God, people of Gomorrah. “To **what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?**” says the LORD....” (vs 10-11).

- What purpose is it to go to church on Sunday?
- What purpose is it to go to Bible study on Wednesday?
- What purpose is it to go through catechisms?
- What purpose is it to go through the sacrifice of the Mass?
- What purpose is it?
- **God never gave it!**

“...‘I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I do not delight in *the blood of* bulls, or of lambs, or of he-goats. When you come to appear before Me, who has required this at your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more vain sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me—new moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity along with the solemn assembly!’” (vs 11-13). Why? *Because they weren’t following God, though God gave the Sabbath, Feast and things like this!* What were they doing?

Verse 14: “Your new moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates...” God hates those things, though the name of Christ may have been attached to them.

“...they are a trouble to Me; I am weary to bear *them*. And when you spread forth your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; yea, when you make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood” (vs 14-15). So, God calls them to repentance.

Let’s take another look at the movie *the Passion of the Christ* by Mel Gibson. Those of us who were not involved in Catholicism do not understand many of the things behind it. But here is from Catholic Passion Outreach:

A Guide to the Passion: 100 Questions about The Passion of the Christ:

They couldn’t put all of these things in the movie, because the movie now becomes a stepping stone, a foundation.

As I said, when I first watched the movie, where they stuck to the Scriptures it was fine, but what we need to understand is how *cleverly* that the Catholics manipulate everything to make it appear to be Christian. That’s what they have done.

The truth is that if you take the finest ingredients and make a cake, then put arsenic in it you’re going to die. The finest ingredients are not going to save you. Even if you have the best recipe in the world, you have polluted it, poisoned it and

perverted it, and God does not accept it!

Let’s me just read a couple of things here. They want to get group studies together for all those who have seen *The Passion*.

Prior to the group study’s first meeting all participants should see *The Passion of the Christ*. They will also need the following materials:

A copy of *A Guide to the Passion*

which is just an outline

the Bible (we recommend using the Revised Standard Version—Catholic Edition or the New American Bible)

Let’s understand that the long and short is that the greatest sins of the world—which they neglect—are the first four commandments. The Catholics in their catechism have removed the second one concerning idolatry. However, they didn’t have the gall to do it in their Bible.

So, if you are a Catholic and you are offended by what I say, take up my challenge. Get your catechism and see how they changed it, then go to Exo. 20 and see that they didn’t take it out of *their* Bible, and if they didn’t take it out of their Bible, **why don’t they obey it?** *They can’t, because they’re serving the wrong god!*

At least one copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (second edition)...

I have here the book *My Catholic Faith* that tells you about these things. This is quite an eye-opener. If you have never read anything of the Catholic catechism you do not understand the subtly and the weaving together of Truth and lies to create *a spiritual arsenic cake* for yourself to eat.

Let me mention that I have an *old My Catholic Faith*. They don’t print it; they have become very ecumenize. I also have another Catholic publication: *Outside the Roman Catholic Church there is No Salvation*. That’s what Heir Ratzinger—the head of the Inquisition, the department of doctrine and dogma—believes. That’s what the Catholic Church will ultimately enforce in the final analysis.

Length of Study Group Program: We recommend that your study group program last 4-6 weeks.

And you can have an hour to an hour and a half meeting. They have it all laid out what you do for a 60 minute session, what you do for a 90 minute session.

Suggested List of Questions for Study

(with answers)

Week 1

Christians refer to Jesus' "agony in the Garden." What does this phrase mean and what is its significance?

Right away you get them involved in *their own opinions*.

Before we go any further, is there any hard evidence that Jesus really existed and that the events portrayed in the movie actually took place?

So, in the Garden, Jesus knew He was going to die?

Of course He did! He knew from day one!

But did Jesus have to die? Couldn't God have simply declared humanity's relationship with Him restored? Why did He choose such an extreme and bloody means of reconciling the world to Himself?

How does Jesus' death fit with your own notion of justice?

You can't understand the Truth if you rely on your own opinions. You've got to make your judgments based upon the Word of God. Then you can understand. You may have an opinion that may be right. You may have an opinion that may not be right. One Catholic stormed out of *The Passion saying*, 'My Christ never suffered like this.' Notice this one in particular:

Things are starting to connect now for me...

This is the facilitator for the meeting.

...Didn't the timing of Christ's passion have something to do with the Jewish Passover?

That word was not even mentioned in the movie, so here they bring it up in a very oblique way. The truth is, the Passover had *everything* to do with the day that Jesus died. {note book: *The Day That Jesus the Christ Died*} Without the knowledge of that, the understanding of the movie becomes very moot. All you have in the Scriptural references are:

- coming before the priests
- being beaten by the soldiers
- coming before Pilate
- coming before Herod
- the judgment that was given there
- the beating that Pilate gave
- the scourging that Pilate gave
- the crucifixion that Jesus took
- the way that His flesh was laid open

with was not portrayed in the way that it should have been, because it was really ripped asunder off of His

body. That's the only Truth in the whole thing concerning *The Passion*. But enough Truth for those people who think that it has been a faithful rendering of the Scriptures to believe that's actually what happened.

In condemning anti-Semitism, Pope Pius XII noted that all Christians are "spiritually Jewish." How are the Jewish Passover and the Passion of Jesus related to this statement by that pope?

There are other question concerning the devil and Mary and so forth.

The director uses "flashbacks" to connect the Passion to other aspects of Jesus' life. The first flashback shows Jesus as a carpenter, living at home with His mother. What was his purpose in creating this scene?

We might ask: What was the purpose in creating all the scenes? What it did not show that Jesus was not a furniture-maker. He was One Who built with stone and bricks and wood, and Joseph was His surrogate father. It never showed Joseph. Jesus also had brothers and sisters, which in the catechism it says that 'those are only His disciples.' Read Mark 6.

It didn't show a family setting, just Jesus and Mary. So, what was the purpose of that? *To put forth the immaculate conception* and that Jesus was the only child. It never said that in the Bible. He was the firstborn. If He was the first born, then that means there were second born, not the only born.

When you saw this moving scene, how did it change your understanding of Jesus? Of the relationship He had with His mother?

One of the men testifying against Jesus argues that Jesus claimed He was "the bread of life," and repeatedly spoke about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. Where is this in the Bible?

Why do you think this was regarded as a "hard saying" by some of Jesus' disciples.

Why do you think Christ would institute the Eucharist?

Jesus did not institute the Eucharist! The Scriptural Truth is that He instituted the New Testament Passover ceremony of the New Covenant, ***not the Eucharist!***

This *Guide to the Passion of the Christ* is going to be used by the Catholics as an evangelical tool to reach out and bring wayward Catholics and others into the Catholic Church via the Eucharist, and justify Mary-worship!

There is a scene in which Mary enters a

place and finds Jesus chained to the ceiling below the stone pavement. What is the deeper significance of this scene?

What do you think the deeper significance of this scene was?

To elevate Mary into heaven!

The movie includes a scene in which Pilate asks his wife about Truth and why he can't hear it. Why?

Because God made Pilate do what He wanted him to do!

What is the significance of the flashback in which Jesus washes His disciple's feet?

Nobody knows! They said about and contrasted it with Pilate washing his hands.

As Jesus carries His cross, the director cross-cuts between the devil and Mary walking along with Him through the crowd. At one point their eyes meet in an amazingly powerful silent exchange. What exactly is going on here?

I heard an historian say that Jesus only carried the crossbeam—the horizontal part of the cross—as He walked to Calvary. Why does the movie show Him carrying the whole cross?

Because the Catholics want it to be the whole cross! That's why! He did carry the crossbeam.

Recommended Closing Meditation: Pray the Seven Last Words of Jesus found in Appendix C of *A Guide to the Passion*

Is this not organized, or what?

Week 4

Why does the movie show a flashback to the Last Supper during the Crucifixion?

What is the relationship between the Mass and Jesus' death at Calvary?

There is no relationship, except as the Catholics make it in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Explain why the film flashes back to Jesus' offering the wine at the Last Supper as His blood drips down to the foot of the cross.

Have you ever made the connection that the sacrifice of the altar...

in the Catholic Church

...and the sacrifice of Calvary are one and the same?

What is your reaction to this Catholic teaching?

A horrible counterfeit!

In the book *My Catholic Faith*, it talks about

why the churches are made in the form of a cross. Here's where it's going to ultimately lead to with Mary. Though he couldn't show it in the movie like this, there were some illusions to it.

From *My Catholic Faith*:

The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from original sin in view of the merits of her Divine Son, and this privilege is called the Immaculate Conception.

No such thing! Jesus could not have had human nature if He didn't receive it from Mary. And she had to have a human nature that was inherited from Adam and Eve, all the way down.

From the very first moment of her conception the *Blessed Virgin* was preserved from all stain of original sin. She was *conceived and born* without original sin.

God, having ordained that Mary was to be the Mother of His Son, could not permit her soul to lack for a single instant all those graces that would make her most pleasing to Him.

Our Blessed Mother's soul was created as *pure* and spotless as the soul of Eve. Where Eve committed sin and lost her spotlessness, our Mother Mary...

That's another thing they had in the movie, calling her 'mother all the way through!

...kept herself pure and spotless to the end of her life.

We commemorate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8.

You didn't know that, did you?

St. John the Baptist was cleansed from original sin while he was still in the womb of his mother. He was born free from sin, but he was, like us, conceived in sin.

Churches are built in the form of a cross because within the sacrifice of the cross is reenacted in the sacrifice of the Mass called the Eucharist.

Which they perform over and over again! In Heb. 6 it shows that they are re-crucifying Christ over. When you do not keep the Passover and you get into the Lord's Supper, Communion and the Eucharist, you are getting into the worship of Mithras the sun-god.

Within them we remember easily the events that took place that long day ago when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for the love of us suffered and died on the cross.

The church spires to lead us to seek those things that are above and so forth. They are surmounted by a cross the symbol of our salvation. Their bells call us to prayers, communion with God. The church interiors are divided into three parts: the porch, where in former times those participating for baptism and penitents knelt; the nave, which is the central and main portion, for those attending the holy Sacrifice; and the choir or sanctuary, where in former times the singers stayed, now reserved for the clergy, and separated from the nave by the communion rail.

I'm going to leave you with this:

Chief Feasts of the Year

for the Mystery of Iniquity

- Immaculate Conception: December 8th
Blessed virgin Mary
- Christmas Day—Dec. 25th: This, one of the most beautiful feasts of the year, is celebrated in remembrance of the Nativity of Our Lord.

He wasn't born then!

- Holy Innocents—Dec. 28th: The feast honors the children murdered by order of King Herod...
- Octave for the Unity of the Church, *January 18 to 25*
- The Epiphany, *January, 6*
- Feast of the Holy Family
- Feast of the Baptism of our Lord
- Septuagesima Sunday: Septuagesima Sunday, and the two following Sundays, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima, mean respectively seventieth, sixtieth and fiftieth, because they fall near the 70th, 60th, and 50th days before Easter.
- Our Lady of Lourdes, *February 11*.
- The festival of choir chair of St. Peter--apostle *Feb. 22*
- Ash Wednesday
- First Passion Sunday
- Commemoration of the seven sorrows of the virgin Mary
- Second Passion Sunday—Palm Sunday
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Good Saturday
- Easter Sunday
- Enunciation of the blessed virgin Mary
- Ascension Thursday—40 days after Easter
- Pentecost Sunday

That's the only thing they have right!

- May the month of the blessed virgin Mary

Isn't it interesting that they have the maypole?

- St. Joseph
- The first Trinity Sunday
- Sunday follow Pentecost
- Corpus Christy—Thursday after trinity Sunday
- Birthday of St. John the Baptist—June 24th
- Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul—June 29th
- The most precious blood—July 1st
- Visitation of the virgin Mary—July 2nd
- Commemoration of Our Lady of the Mt. Carmel—July 16h
- The Transfiguration—Aug. 6th
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary—Aug. 15th

Which they could not proclaim she was assumed bodily into heaven until over 1800 years after the birth of Christ.

- Birthday of the blessed virgin Mary—Sep. 8th
- The most holy name of Mary—Sep. 12th

None of these are in the Bible! These are all considered Catholic! And in the church that calls itself Christian, but it is the Mystery of Iniquity! *The Catholic Code of Jewish Law!* Same thing!

- The feast of the exaltation of the holy cross—Sep. 14th
- The seven sorrows of the blessed virgin Mary
- The feast of guardian angels—Oct. 2nd
- The feast of the blessed virgin of the rosary—Oct. 7th
- Mission Sunday, the Sunday before the last in Oct.
- The feast of Christ the King—last Sunday in Oct.

Halloween! When Halloween falls on Sunday

- The feast of all saints—Nov. 1st
- All souls day—Nov. 2nd

That's the day that commemorates all souls in purgatory. You go pay more money so the priest gives a Mass and you can get them out of purgatory.

This is the *Mystery of Iniquity!* If you want to follow the holidays of this world, you're going to suffer the same thing that Israelites and Jews did when they did!

God calls you to come out of it!

When do they work? It's like the man who says, 'I keep every day holy.' The answer is, 'When

do you work?’ All these days are a testimony to one thing: *They keep you so busy that you have your mind focused on the Roman Catholic Church rather than Christ!* And it shows and proves that there is no faith of the Holy Spirit, because you have to have all these things to keep you busy.

Revelation 18:1: “And after these things I saw an angel descending from heaven, having great authority; and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried out mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the Great is fallen, is fallen...’” (vs 1-2). The first fall of Babylon.

That’s why *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop is an absolute must read for you especially if you have been Catholic.

“...and has become a habitation of demons, and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hated bird; because all nations have drunk of the wine of the fury of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the power of her luxury” (vs 2-3).

Those are the great corporation of the world today. Are they not getting rich. Who are the major stockholders in it? *The Jesuits of all the companies of the world, and the Jesuits of the Roman Catholic Church!*

Verse 4: “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, ‘**Come out of her, My people...**’”

- you are to come out of this system
- you are to repent of it
- you are to keep the Sabbath and Holy days of God
- you are to reject this ungodly lawless system.

Why?

“...so that you do not take part in her sins, and that you do not receive of her plagues, for her sins have reached as far as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her as she has rendered to you; and give to her double, even according to her works. In the cup that she mixed, give her back double” (vs 4-6).

That’s the judgment that’s coming when Christ returns! *That’s why holidays vs Holy Days is a matter of life and death!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 7:1-6

- 2) Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- 3) Jeremiah 7:8-18, 23, 26-28
- 4) Jeremiah 8:1-2
- 5) Jeremiah 9:2-6
- 6) Ezekiel 8:5-18
- 7) Jeremiah 10:1-8
- 8) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- 9) Amos 5:21-26
- 10) Isaiah 1:1-15
- 11) Revelation 18:1-6

Scripture referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 1
- Exodus 20
- Mark 6

Also referenced:

Booklets:

- *Which Day is the True Christian Sabbath* by Fred R. Coulter
- *A Sabbath/Sunday Challenge You have Never Read* (Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants)

Books:

- *The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer (www.hermetics.org/pdf/Sir_James_Frazer_-_The_Golden_Bough.pdf)
- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop
- *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight
- *A Guide to the Passion: 100 Questions About The Passion of the Christ* (PDF at catholiccompany.com)
- *My Catholic Faith* by Louis LaRavoire Morrow (catholicbook.com)
- *Outside the Roman Catholic Church there is No Salvation*
- *The Day That Jesus the Christ Died* by Fred R. Coulter

from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order: Appendix W: The Two Jehovahs of the Old Testament by Carl Franklin*

On the church website by Carl Franklin: cbcg.org

- *Defining the Oneness of God*
- *The Two Jehovahs of the Pentateuch*
- *The Two Jehovahs of the Psalms*
- *Mystery of the Trinity*

FRC:bo

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Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority? I

Fred R. Coulter

- Pagan holidays or God's Holy Days, which should we keep?
- By whose authority do people do what they do?
- Why do they do it?
- Do they have the authority to take God's Word and interpret it they way that they have?

Let's begin first of all by looking at the Word of God. Let's see what the Bible says about the Word of God and it can be proved that these things are true.

{note that the N.T. in It's Original Order with commentaries is no longer available but can be found at cbcg.org; it is replaced by *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order* in print or online at afaithfulversion.org}

It's important to understand about the Word of God. The Word of God is like nothing else that there is in the world as far as the written word.

By whose authority and on whose word This becomes very important. Many people and many ministers feel that they have the right to interpret the Word of God. Yes, in fact, that they have a right to *command* God and that God must obey them.

- Is that true?
- What about the Word of God?
- What does the Bible say?

In the commentaries that we have in the *Faithful Version* of the Bible, you will find that it is absolutely provable that God watched over and provided us with accurate copies of the *Greek New Testament*, from which we have the English translation, and accurate copies of *The Masoretic Text* for the Old Testament.

You do have to be careful because there's so many corrupt translations that are coming out now that you need to understand and realize do not reflect the true meaning of the Greek or the Hebrew in very many critical cases, which I will point out one here in 2-Tim. 3. Paul is writing to Timothy who had grown up knowing the Old Testament. He says to him:

2-Timothy 3:15: "And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings... [referring to the Old Testament] ...which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which *is* in Christ Jesus." This runs contrary to a lot of preaching that people give such as one man who says that all the 613 commandments in the Old Testament have been removed and done away through Christ. *That's not what Paul is writing about!*

There is the preaching of a man who throws away the authority of God and the authority of God's Word. That's why this series is ***By Whose Authority?***

- **By whose authority** do people keep Sunday?
- **By whose authority** do they keep Christmas, Easter, Halloween and other 'religious' days?

And yet, claim in the name of God and the name of Jesus Christ that they can do it.

- **By whose authority?**

It's very important for us to understand this.

Today we live in what is called the postmodern world. The postmodernist thinking is that if you have an opinion and you believe it, it is true *because you believe it*. That's where the whole world is going 'cockeyed' and falling into sin and wretchedness. You just look in society and you see the major problems and crimes that we have and it's because they have thrown God out of:

- the schools
- the government
- the courthouse
- everyday life

What are the problems?

- sex
- lying
- cheating
- stealing
- murder
- rape

All of those things, yet, they won't allow the Ten Commandments to be taught, which if they were taught in the schools, public places, adult life, *and yes*, in the Churches there would be a whole lot less of those crimes. When the crimes come, they say, 'Oh, what are we going to do? Oh, what is the cause of this?' *The cause is you've rejected God!* Yet, they take the Word of God, *part of it*, what *they* like. We're going to see that you have to have all of it because part of it will still lead you into sin.

Paul says of the Old Testament that it's able to "...make you wise unto salvation..." Do you understand that? We also have another couple of sermons that are *Laws of Moses Without the Veil*, with the veil of blindness lifted. How does it read? *You would be surprised!* Jesus made it very clear, He said, 'If you do not believe Moses, how can you believe Me, because he wrote of Me?' We'll see some of that a little bit later. This is quite profound!

You can check in certain of the modern translations and you will see v 16 *improperly* translated. This is a proper literal translation:

Verse 16: “**All Scripture...** [Old and New Testaments] *...is God-breathed...*” If it’s God-breathed, God-spoken and God-inspired, then anyone who goes contrary to it, or says that it should not be used, *is going against God!* It’s important to understand. You cannot come to the Bible with preconceived notions and preconceived opinions and because you think it, therefore, it is right. ‘Therefore, I’m going to go into the Bible and find out where I can prove that I am right.’ The Bible was never written for that. It is *God-breathed!*

Let’s see something else that is also where there is a mistranslation. Some of the modern translations translate this first phrase as: ‘All Scriptured-inspired of God,’ which leaves open the question: ‘Well, maybe I can find some in there that are not inspired of God. Therefore, if I think that I can find something that’s not inspired of God, like the genealogies, which *are* inspired of God, like the histories, which *are* inspired of God...’

Jesus said, ‘every jot and every tittle is *not* going to pass from the Law until all be fulfilled.’ It’s very important to understand.

The greatest sin that ministers and people do when they come to the Bible is pick and choose. ‘Oh, I like this because I agree with it. Oh, I like that because I agree with it.’ What did Ted Turner say on an interview on television? He said, ‘You know, the Bible ought not have the law ‘you shall not commit adultery’—*picking and choosing!* God doesn’t give *you* the authority to pick and choose. If it’s God-breathed, which it is spoken by God, spoken by Christ. God spoke to Moses saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel...’ Those are **God’s** words. *It’s all inspired of God!* It is all necessary and what we need to understand:

- about God
- about His plan
- about true salvation
- how we can love God
- how we can serve Him
- how we can keep His commandments

All that’s profound and important.

Verse 16: “All Scripture *is* God-breathed and **is profitable for doctrine...** [teaching] **...for conviction...** [so that you know what’s right and wrong] **...for correction...**” So that when you are wrong you can be corrected by the Word of God, which the Word of God does and through the Spirit of God to correct us and guide us because the human heart ‘is deceitful above all things.’

“...**for instruction in righteousness**” (v 16). Part of the righteousness is instruction on how to keep the commandments of God. **By whose authority do you do what you do?** Ted Turner said that by *his* authority we should not have the commandment ‘You shall not commit adultery.’

By whose authority, then, do those who claim to be Christians keep Sunday when you can’t find one word of it in the Old or New Testaments that it was changed from Saturday to Sunday?

You can download for yourself *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants* {cbcg.org; also found in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*, appendix N} and they’re absolutely right. There is no place in the Bible to find any authority whatsoever for keeping Sunday. The authority that brought in Sunday was *man’s* authority of the Catholic Church. We’re going to see and it’s very important to understand:

- No man has the authority to tell God what to do!
- No man has the authority to change the commandments of God!
- No one!

That’s why we have a whole detailed section in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order—A Faithful Version* is Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets? In *A Harmony of the Gospels*, we also have section called Twenty-eight Prophecies Fulfilled on the Crucifixion Day. I think you’ll find that very instructive in seeing what God did, because Jesus Christ was God manifest in the flesh. Therefore, as He fulfilled it He gave a higher standard, not only to all the commandments of God, but He gave a higher standard for everything. We have a comparison in there. You need to get *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* so you can understand. We’re going to see a little later that God is judging every person all the time, everywhere, and you’re going to be held accountable.

Verse 17: “So that the man of God... [man or woman] ...may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.” That’s all the Word of God.

2-Tim. 4 also becomes a very important thing in understanding:

- Where do we begin to know what we should do?
- What does God require of us to do?
- How should we do it?
- Which day should we observe?
- Which day is the true Sabbath?
- Which days are the Holy Days of God?
- What does the Bible have to say about the holidays of this world?

I think you're going to be surprised. We're going to see that the Bible has a lot to say about the holidays of this world and not in a very good light, indeed.

2-Timothy 4:1—Paul is writing to Timothy: “I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the living* ... [the living are being judged] ... and *the dead* at His appearing and His kingdom: **Preach the Word!**....” (vs 1-2). That's what they're to preach:

- not platitudes
- not opinions
- not man-made doctrines
- not man-made interpretations

Preach the Word of God! The way the Bible tells us to interpret it is, ‘line upon line, precept upon precept, word upon word,’ putting it all together and let the Bible interpret itself, which it does.

- Preach the Word!
- All Scripture is God-breathed!

What is to be preached? *All the Word of God!* That comes from God.

“...**Be urgent** in season and out of season...” (v 2). This shows there are seasonal things that we need to keep and obey, which is the whole focus and point of this sermon series.

“...**convict**...” (v 2). That's what I hope this will do, *convict you of the Truth!*

“...**rebuke**... (v 2)—where there is serious error and there needs to be a change of heart and mind, along with repentance.

“...**encourage**...” (v 2)—so that we know that we love God and keep His commandments.

“...with all patience and doctrine” (v 2). Doctrine is important; doctrine means *teaching*. What are the teachings of God? *They're right here in the Bible!*

This comes down through time in all history. This was also true right during the apostolic age that there are roles right alongside the primitive New Testament Church, which had the original teachings and doctrines that you find that Jesus and the apostles taught—which we have a full section Appendix M: Beliefs and Doctrines of the New Testament Church—that they leave the Word of God. We are in this age right now, again, only multiplied.

Verse 3: “For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine... [thus saith the Lord] ...but according to their own lusts they shall accumulate to themselves *a great number of teachers*, having ears itching to *hear what satisfies*

their cravings.” That's what people want. Why do you think you have these large churches?

Like one man told me, he said, ‘Down in Oklahoma, because they have a lot of Protestant Churches down there, when I drive around and I see these big churches that have 5,000 and 20,000, I know they're all preaching what they want to hear because they are so big.’

Just like politics; the way you keep people in a political party is *tell them what they want to hear*. When someone speaks the truth, he's viciously attacked, whether it is in politics or whether it is in ‘religion.’

Verse 4: “And they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth...” We're going to see what the Truth is in a minute.

John 17:17: “...Your Word is the Truth.” *The Word of God is the Truth*. They turn away from the Word of God.

- Do they not do that when they preach from the pulpit that the commandments in the Old Testament are done away? *Yes, they do!*
- Do they not do that when they preach love, love, love, which is a false love, an emotional love—which is a feeling love—but has absolutely nothing to do with the true love of God? *Yes, it is!*
- Don't they turn to myths when they blend Buddhism and Christianity together? *Yes, they do!*
- Don't they turn away from God and go into myths when they teach the traditions of men and the false demonic visions of their religious leaders? *Yes, they do!*

2-Timothy 4:4: “...and they shall be turned aside unto myths” That's where we find the world today; that's where we find a lot of Christianity today. They turn aside from the Truth. Stop and think for a minute:

- How far would you get if you walked into one of these great, mega churches and told them that they're all a pack of sinners because they keep Sunday, Christmas, Easter and New Years and that that is contrary to the Word of God?
- How long do you think a person would last if they stood in front of a Catholic Church and said all of these idols are against the Word of God?

You need to think about it because that's what the Bible says. Yet, they all claim that it's in the name of Jesus Christ. So, **by whose authority?** Let's understand something about the Word of God:

- what the love of God really means
- what it is based on
- how we have the love of God

Lest someone think that because you've been so brainwashed in Protestant or Catholic theology, or other Eastern/Oriental religions, which is rampant today. Lest you say that there is no love if you keep the commandments of God. *There is another lie!*

- Do ministers stand in the pulpit and preach lies? *Yes, they do!*
- Are you able to discern Truth from error?
- Do you know right from wrong?

I've talked to Protestant ministers who say, 'Well, if you keep the Law you're trying to earn salvation.' *It's not so!* Yet:

- Don't a lot of those who say that the Law is done away go back and pick up the commandments they agree with?
- Don't they preach against not honoring your father and mother? *Yes, they do!*
- Do they not preach against murder and adultery, lying, cheating, and stealing? *Yes, they do!*
- Why won't they accept the commandments:
 - ✓ you shall have no other Gods before Me?
 - ✓ you shall not make any idols?
 - ✓ don't take the name of the Lord your God in vain?
 - ✓ remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy?
- Why don't they do that?

It's because you can't pick and choose and take the things that you like and reject the things that are not convenient!

Let's see what Jesus said, because there's always been an argument concerning the commandments. People argue it all the time. We're going to understand that every human being in the world *judges God every single day of their lives:*

- by their thoughts
- by their actions
- by what they practice

You think about it! Yes, they do! Here's an argument that came up between the Pharisees and Jesus:

Matthew 22:35: "And one of them, a doctor of the law, questioned *Him*, tempting Him, and saying, 'Master, which commandment *is the* great commandment in the Law?'" (vs 35-36)—always an argument. This is going to very instructive for us. As we're reading this, let me ask you:

- Which commandments of God do you agree with?

- Which commandments of God do you not agree with?
- Which commandments of God do you reject?
- By whose authority do you reject them?
- Which traditions of men do you keep?

We'll cover traditions a little later; you just think on that.

I want you to understand this very carefully. I want you to think about the all-encompassing, all-overarching, view of what Jesus is saying and how our lives need to be oriented to this and living this. These are the words of Jesus Christ

- Did He not bring the words of salvation? *Yes, indeed!*
- Didn't Paul say that 'the Holy Writings are able to make you wise into salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord'? *Yes, he did!*

Verse 37: "And Jesus said to him, 'You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" Notice. It's not a part-time thing. It's not:

- 20 minutes to a drive-up church
- 45 minutes to a walk-in church
- 2 hours in double services in some churches
- then you go do whatever you want to do

It's a full time thing! What you need to understand is that *the way of God*, as related in the Word of God, is *a way of life*:

- how you live
- how you think
- how you conduct your life
- how you treat your neighbors

You first have to love God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.

- Do you do that?
- Are you growing in that?
- What does this mean?
- How does this fit into holidays and Holy Days and Sabbath and Sunday?

Verse 38: "This is *the* first and greatest commandment; and *the* second *one is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (vs 38-39).

Let's just briefly explain this; v 37 is referring to the first four commandments, directly. You cannot love God if you're breaking any of the first four commandments. The catechism listing of the Ten Commandments in any Catholic publication is incorrect, because it changes the second commandment and eliminates it *in order to justify*

their idolatry. These are referring to the first four commandments. That's why it's called the first and greatest, 'and *the second one is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' These are the last six commandments.

Isn't it interesting that there are six commandments and the number of man is six. This tells you how to get along with your fellow man beginning with your parents—*as yourself.* Everything that Jesus taught was to fulfill and bring to the understanding—so that we can live by every Word of God—the meaning of the commandments of God.

Far from doing away with any of the commandments of God, v 40 tells us this: "**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**" Not some, *but all.* You think about that!

It's just like this little clipping here. I don't recall who gave it to me, but it's very interesting.

The reason that we can't have the 10 Commandments in a courthouse: You cannot post "Thou shall not steal," "Thou shall not commit adultery," & "Thou shalt not lie," in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians it creates a hostile work environment —George Carlin

- let *them* be assaulted
- let *them* be caught in adultery
- let *them* be caught in lying
- let *them* be caught in stealing

You can lay it right at the door of the National Education Association, the NEA, because that's what they teach in school.

I'll just mention it here, because we have to have reality. This may come as a shock to some tender ears, but in Germany they are showing fourth graders full sex acts of human beings to educate them on what sex is, and by that destroy their minds. That is a device of Satan to destroy many minds and many lives.

You want an interesting study in the Bible? Just get a concordance or if you have a computer, do a word search:

- look up adultery
- look up fornication
- look homosexuality

Find out how it ruins and destroys lives. Enough said on that.

Let's continue on about the love of God. What we need to understand what it is that we're talking about here. Why are people so against the commandments of God? Let's just take the last six

again. What I want you to do is think on it. **By whose authority** has it been done? *Sometimes by the authority of the state!* They encourage dishonoring your father and mother. They encourage rebelling against father and mother.

- How is our society?
- Is it better because they teach that and encourage that?

or

- Are we worse off?
- Is that not the judgment of God against us for sinning?

Let's take the next one, you shall not murder. Oh! We have whole television shows and newscasts devoted to 'what happened when someone murdered So-and-So.'

- Are people better off?
- Are they happier because they have thrown away the law, 'you shall not commit murder?'
- Does that not affect the society? *Oh, yes, indeed it does!*

they wonder:

- How come people can't get along?
- Why is society so violent? *Because you've thrown away God!*
- How do you reform a society? *Preach the Ten Commandments!*

You could reform a society and reduce the crime rate. There has to be a standard by which we know what we're doing. The Bible gives it to us.

1-John 5:2: "**By this standard** we know that we love the children of God: **when we love God and keep His commandments.**" We're going to see how important that is. Loving God and commandment-keeping go hand-in-hand.

Verse 3: "For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments; and **His commandments are not burdensome.**" Very important!

Let's see something else that is basic. Do you want to know how you can detect whether a minister or religious teacher is telling a lie? *Because they do!* They stand up in the pulpits and every Sunday they are living a lie and preaching a lie. Here's how you can tell.

1-John 2:3: "And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments."

- Do you?
- How did Jesus say we were to keep the first four commandments? *Love God with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength!*
- How do you keep the last six? *Love your neighbor as yourself!*

“...by this standard we know that we know Him: if we keep [know] His commandments.” You have to have a standard. *This is God’s standard! This is New Testament standard!* Now the Greek there is a simple phrase: ‘en touto,’ which means *in this way or in this standard or in this manner.*

Verse 4_[transcriber’s correction]: “The one who says, ‘I know Him...’ Isn’t that the theme of a lot of Protestantism? Catholicism? religions of this world?

“...and does not keep His commandments...” (v 4).

- is a well intention person
- is entitled to his opinion
- is justified in his thoughts
- is a deep thinker

NO! It says, “...is a liar... [pretty plain] ...and the Truth is not in him” (v 4)—which means the Word of God is not in him, because ‘Your Word is the Truth.’ Furthermore, in Psa. 119 it says:

- all Your commandments are true
- all Your statutes are true
- Your Word is true from the beginning

You see, it is a contradiction. It is a prima facie fact that if anyone:

- individual
- minister
- teacher
- professor
- government official
- church leader

—even clear up to what the world considers the highest exalted religious position in the world, the office of the pope—says that you don’t have to keep His commands, *God says that he is a liar!* That’s what it says.

That’s why I ask, **‘By whose authority?’** If you’re ‘religious’ and you believe in Jesus Christ, supposedly, *by whose authority do you do what you do:*

- By the Word of God?

or

- The traditions and teachings of men?
- What is it?

If they pick and choose and keep *some* of the commandments, they’re liars. It’s just that simple. Here’s also how you judge:

Verse 5: “On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is being perfected....” Why? *Because he’s loving God with all his heart, mind, soul and being, the first four commandments!* We’re going to see a little later that

all the Holy Days are sanctified by the fourth commandment, the Sabbath Day.

“...By this *means* we know that we are in Him. Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked” (vs 5-6). Those are very plain, simple and straight forward statements.

Now let’s look at some of the Words of Jesus Christ. Again, very simple, very basic, and this is how you judge everything. It is very profound, when you understand about the Holy Days of God, that the words that Jesus spoke in John 14 were spoken on the Passover night. There is a Christian Passover which Christ expects us to keep, for all of those who are baptized and have the Holy Spirit of God!

This is why you must also understand that not only do the Holy Days of God help define what love is and show our love because we do it, but you also have to know that the teachings on these Holy Days and on the Passover, shows the reason for it. We’ll learn that as we go along.

- Do you claim that you love God?
- If you go to a Sunday-keeping Church—Protestant or Catholic—do the ministers and priest claim to love Jesus Christ?
- Do they claim to teach the teachings of God?

Let’s put them to the test, because God tells us to ‘prove all things.’ He doesn’t expect us to be mindless, emotional dodos about God, religion and His Word:

- we are to know
- we are to understand
- we are to prove
- we’re also to do, as a way of life, by:
 - ✓ living by His commandments
 - ✓ living in His grace
 - ✓ living by faith

It takes faith to keep the commandments of God. It doesn’t take any faith to go to Church on Sunday. You can find thousands of Churches doing that. It takes faith to keep the Sabbath. It takes faith to keep the Holy Days.

Here, we have on the Passover night the most important day in all of the Feasts of God, the Passover. We’ll learn that as we go along, why it is.

John 14:15: “**If** you love Me...”

- Do you love God?
- Do you really?
- Who was Jesus Christ?
 - ✓ **He** was God manifested in the flesh
 - ✓ **He** was the One Who gave the Ten Commandments to Moses

- ✓ **He** was the One Who talked to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- ✓ **He** was the One Who was with Abel, Seth, Enoch and Noah
- ✓ **He** is the One Who became Jesus Christ

I say that before I read the rest of this verse because it makes the rest of the verse far more important.

“...keep the commandments—namely, **My** commandments” (v 15). The reason this is important, as we going to see, is because it is the very Words of God that judges us. We’re going to see, just like every man and woman, every day is judging God, one way or the other, so God is judging every man or every woman, one way or the other by their thoughts and by their conduct.

Remember what Jesus Christ said at the resurrection, He told the Pharisees that you’re going to give account for every idle word that you have spoken. We need to understand that. That’s going to make some people very squeamish. If you have any conscience at all, it ought to make you very squeamish. God’s Word intends that, so that you can repent and change your life. That’s what it’s all about.

These are the teachings of Jesus. If you profess Jesus or believe in Jesus, then you have to agree with this. There are some people that don’t even agree with the Gospels. They say Paul gave ‘a higher and greater interpretation of the Word of God and all we do is take the Epistles of the Apostle Paul and we weed out everything having to do with commandment-keeping and we live by grace and faith and that’s all there is to it.’

What have they just done? We’re going to see a little later that’s *their own* authority. **Who gave them that authority to do away with the Word of God?** Remember what Jesus said, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. That’s what ‘all Scripture is God-breathed.’

(go to the next track)

I want you to think about this in relationship to your own life.

- Are you a professing Christian?
- Do you belong to a Protestant Church?
- Do you consider yourself a full bona fide, faithful Christian?

I challenge you to go onto the website for *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants*. I ask you:

- to read it
- to pray about it
- to think about it
- to ask yourself:

How can I be a true Christian when:

- every Sunday I violate the Sabbath?

- every Saturday, since I don’t keep the Sabbath, I violate the Sabbath?
- every Sunday when I go to Church, I’m following the commandments of men rather than the commandments of God?

I want you to think about that. Do not assume that since we are saved by grace, which we are; and we’re justified and forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins, which we are...

- do not forget that *sin is the transgression of the Law*.
- do not forget this that cannot be Christ’s and live in a state of sin

—which is what Sunday-keeping keeps you in, regardless of all the nice, purry, soft things, even bombastic things, that are preached from the Sunday pulpit, because they pick and choose.

Are you keeping the commandments of God? That’s very important. Here are those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus Christ (Rev. 14:17_[transcriber’s correction]).

Commandment-keeping and faith go hand-in-hand or hand-in-glove; you cannot have one without the other. You cannot have commandment-keeping without faith in Jesus Christ, and you cannot have faith in Jesus Christ without commandment-keeping. Both go together.

Verse 21: “The one... [anyone] ...who has My commandments...”—all Ten Commandments and the rest of the commandments as defined by Jesus Christ and how He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets, which is very important to understand. You need to read that also. As you read it, you need to ask yourselves:

- What am I doing?
- Where am I going?
- What do I believe?
- Do I even understand God?
- Do I even understand Jesus Christ?
- Why do I believe what I believe and am so convinced that I am right?
- Why do I find myself in violation of what the Word of God says.

Remember that all the Word of God is God-breathed. What we’re reading here in John 14 is Christ-spoken, His very words on the Passover night.

“...and is keeping them...” (v 21). That means in the way of practicing them. You live by them:

- Do you do that?
- Does your Church do that?

- Do those who profess to be Christians do that?

“...that is the one **who loves Me...**” (v 21). You can turn this around the other way and you can say this: The one who does not have My commandments—which includes all My commandments, all the Word of God—and who is not keeping them, he does not love Me. We’ll see that Jesus says that in just a minute.

Do you think and believe that Christ is with you? that God the Father is with you? You can’t have the second part of this verse without doing the first part of the verse because they’re connected:

Verse 21: “The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me...” As we’ve seen, ‘this is the love of God that we keep His commandments and they’re not burdensome.’

“...and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him” (v 21).

We need to understand something important here, too, which I will just mention. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life.”

People think that God loves you the way that you are. Well, He does to a certain extent, in that He ‘sends the rain and the sunshine on the just and on the unjust.’ That is true, but the love through salvation is **a special calling and a special love** that is not granted to the whole world! You need to understand that!

Here we have it. Here is the contract, the covenant, if you please, with God: If you love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being, you’re going to keep the commandments of God:

John 14:21: “...and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.” That is a *special* love, a *special* relationship that cannot come by anything that you do or by your works. **It comes by faith in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of God to do it!**

How’s God going to manifest Himself to anyone and no one see it? It’s like this professor, this has to do with Psalms 14:1, a little clipping.

Psalm 14:1 Proved, which says: “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” {found on Facebook: Christian Stories: Logic 101}

A college student was in a philosophy class, which had a discussion about God’s existence. The professor presented the following logic:

“Has anyone in this class heard God?”
Nobody spoke.
“Has anyone in this class touched God?”
Again, nobody spoke.
“Has anyone in this class seen God?”
When nobody spoke for the third time, he simply stated, “Then there is no God.”

One student thought for a second, and then asked for permission to reply. Curious to hear this bold student’s response, the professor granted it, and the student stood up and asked the following questions of his classmates:

“Has anyone in this class heard our professor’s brain?”
Silence.
“Has anyone in this class touched our professor’s brain?”
Absolute silence.
“Has anyone in this class seen our professor’s brain?”

When nobody in the class dared to speak, the student concluded, “Then, according to our professor’s logic, it must be true that our professor has no brain!”

(...The student received an “A” in the class.)
author unknown

How is God going to manifest Himself to you and not to the rest of the world? *By opening your mind to the Truth, which is an invisible, spiritual operation of the Spirit of God!* Now is not the time for the world to be called. This is a special thing that God does. That is why being a true Christian is *a calling*:

- it’s not a joining of the Church
- it’s not a joining of a club
- it’s not because people get together and agree on certain precepts of God’s Word and say, ‘This is what we believe.’

No! The only Truth is that you have to hold up the whole Bible and say, ‘This is what *God tells us* to believe.’ What people believe and what God tells us to believe are two entirely different things. We’re going to see this in just a minute and see what this gets into concerning **by whose authority?**

- **By whose authority** do people take certain precepts of the Bible and say:
 - ✓ we agree to this?
 - ✓ we don’t agree to this?
- What does that really do?

Let’s continue on because this gets profound. Here’s how Jesus said that it is manifest, meaning that you:

- can seek God
- can find God

- can seek Jesus Christ
- can find Jesus Christ

If you understand that you are a deep sinner and you must repent of your sins and accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the payment of those sins; *in that repentance*:

- you turn
- you love God
- you keep His commandments

That's how God does it!

Verse 23: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word...'" That's a very interesting translation here—"word." That means *the whole message*. In the first few verses of the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ is called *the Word of God!*

"...and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him" (vs 23). That's a *spiritual* thing. We'll get into that a little bit later and define it a little more, except to say this: If you have the Spirit of God through baptism, the laying on of hands, having faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ through the grace of God and are keeping His commandments, then you are loved by the two greatest Beings in the universe: God the Father and Jesus Christ. Ask yourself:

- Do I believe and live by these verses?
- Do I believe Jesus Christ?
- If you profess Him to be your Savior, do you believe these words?

or

- Do you believe something else?
- How can you believe them if you go to Church every Sunday and are violating the very Words of God?

Think about that!

That's like saying, 'Turn on the lights by turning them off.' That's like saying, 'Keep this frozen in a 10,000 degree oven.' They're absolute contradictory things and impossible things and cannot be. As I said, **by whose authority** are you judging God? That reaps terrible consequences.

Verse 24: "The one who does **not love Me...** [because he's not keeping 'My commandments'] ...**does not keep My words...**" Which words of Jesus do you want to eliminate? Which words of the Old Testament which He spoke and inspired? Remember, most of the Prophets begin, '*And the Word of the Lord came to me saying...*' It's all God-breathed!

"...and the **Word...** [the whole message] ...that you hear is not Mine, but the Father's, Who sent Me" (v 24). In reality, Who are you rejecting?

You're rejecting the Great Sovereign of the universe, God the Father!

- Have you ever thought about that?
- How important are these things?
- How high are these stakes?

God did not create us in vain; He created us for a purpose.

I'm going through this because it's very important to understand that you cannot have the love of God without keeping His commandments. You cannot receive the grace of God in a state of lawlessness. If you believe that, then you believe the *mystery of iniquity* or the *mystery of lawlessness* which is nearly 100% of the Christendom of this world. You need to think about that. You need to understand that.

Jesus said, John 15:9: "As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; live in My love." That means keeping the commandments of God in spirit and in Truth.

Verse 10: "If you keep My commandments, you shall live in My love..." That's what it says.

- Can anything be more plain?
- Can anything be more simple?
- Yet, how is it that some ministers would dare:
 - ✓ stand in the pulpit
 - ✓ write in books
 - ✓ preach
 - ✓ teach
 - ✓ mislead people into a false sense of security with:
 - a false grace?
 - false commandment-keeping?
 - sanctifying things which are evil?
 - saying it's from God?
 - claiming they love God?

You have to live in it! It's not just something you do piecemeal one in a while. God is not a lucky charm in your hip pocket or hanging from the rearview mirror in your car or a rabbit's foot that you may have. *No!* It is living God's way.

"...just as I have kept My Father's commandments..." (v 10)

- Did Jesus ever sin? *No!*
- Did He love the Father? *Yes!*
- Did the Father love Him? *Yes!*
- Do they love all of mankind? *Yes!*

You have to show your love back to God by:

- doing the things that He says
- believing in His Word
- living and walking in faith

- living in love

“...and live in His love” (v 10). There we have it again.

Let’s see how important and profound that this really is, and understand what we are dealing with. Let’s also remind ourselves that everything that was created was created *by and through Jesus Christ*. He is God manifest in the flesh and was the Lord God of the Old Testament. How many times have you heard preachers say, ‘The God of the New Testament is a God of love but the God of the Old Testament is harsh, evil, mean and judgmental’? We’re going to see that God still judges today, because people judge Him.

Let’s look at a particular attitude here. Let’s understand how people judge God. I found it very interesting that when they were interviewing this atheist in California who filed at least three major lawsuits trying to get God out of school, the Ten Commandments out of the courthouses, and to get all references to God out of the inauguration of the Presidency.

When he was interviewed on television, he says, ‘I have moral standards. My atheism is my religion. I’m a good man. I don’t murder, I don’t lie.’ *Oh, but you believe a lie!* ‘I don’t steal, but I don’t need God.’ I wonder if anyone has seen his brain?

Let’s have everyone stand up and measure themselves by this and ask a question of these great men who profess these things, of all of those who judge God, which we’re going to see in just a little bit, that’s what people are doing.

Isaiah 40:12: “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand...” Have you looked at the globe of the earth recently? Nearly three quarters of it is ocean water. You don’t even know anything about it except what you may see on the Discovery Channel or read in a book. God says, ‘I can hold those in the hollow of My hand.’

“...and meted out the heavens with a span? And who has comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?” (v 12).

We’re not looking at a man. ***We’re looking at God!*** That becomes important when we ask: ***By whose authority?*** We can just say that ***if it’s not by the authority of God, it’s not of God!*** It’s just that simple.

Verse 13: “Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, and who was His counselor that he might instruct Him?” For all those who are the know-it-alls, all of those who say that there is no God:

- Who gave you the wisdom?

- Who created you?
- How did you come into existence?
- Do you want to know how dependent you are?

All you have to do is reach down in the middle of your abdomen and *you’re going to find a bellybutton!*

- What does that mean? *It means you were born of your mother and father!*
- How did you come into this world?
- Why were you created the way that you were?

It didn’t come from nothing. That’s why it’s there, to keep us humble, to know that we’re not unto ourselves.

Verse 14: “With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him and taught Him in the path of judgment, and taught Him knowledge, and made known the way of understanding to Him?”

Has anyone done that? Has any man dared down through history to say, ‘I taught God’? A lot of men do it today. How do they do it? If nations, peoples, powers and governmental officials think that they’re something, notice how God looks at the earth and He rules in heaven above:

Verse 15: “Behold, the nations *are* like a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the scales; behold, He takes up the isles as **a very little thing.**”

Yet, what did Satan tell Jesus during His temptation. He says, ‘I’m going to show you all the world—nations and powers—in a moment of time and if you bow down and worship me, all of these I will give to You because they’ve been delivered to me and whomsoever I desire, I give it to them.’ Quite a statement! How did Satan have it delivered to him? *By everyone who does not believe in God and rejects His commandments and His Word!* You deliver yourself into the hands of Satan, the devil.

Verse 17: “All nations before Him **are as nothing**; and they are counted by Him as **less than nothing, and vanity**.... [because God is so great and this is so, then he asks the next logical question]: **...To whom then will you compare God?...**” (vs 17-18). Yet, we’re made in His image. Isn’t that profound? Isn’t that something?

“...Or what likeness will you compare to Him? The workman melts a graven image, and the goldsmith spreads it over with gold, and casts silver chains. He who is too poor for *that* offering chooses a tree that will not rot; he seeks for a skillful workman for himself to prepare a graven image that will not totter” (vs 18-20). None of those things honor God.

- What idol in the world honors God? *Not one!*

- How can you honor God with idols made of the hands of men?

So, He challenges again:

Verse 21: “Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood *from* the foundations of the earth? **It is He who sits above the circle of the earth...**” (vs 21-22).

God is a whole lot closer to the earth than people think. Although you can't see where He is, because He is spirit and His heavenly kingdom is unseen by the human eye, but it exists. God is there and looking down upon the earth.

“...and its people are like grasshoppers; *it is* He who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in; **Who brings the rulers to nothing...**” (vs 22-23).

What has happened to the great dictators of the world? Where are they? They cause death, destruction, misery and they all died.

“...He makes the judges of the earth as vanity” (v 23). Yes, especially those who declare that you cannot teach about God.

Verse 24: “No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground...” Everything they do comes to nothing, even the rich men.

At a funeral the man asked the other one of this great, rich man, he said, ‘How much did he leave?’ The answer was, ‘***All of it.***’ God brings them to nothing.

“...then He shall blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away like stubble. **To whom then will you compare Me, or who is My equal?**” says the Holy One.... [this is Jesus Christ talking] ...Lift up your eyes on high, and behold, Who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number? He calls them all by names by **the greatness of His might, for He is strong in power; not one fails**” (vs 24-26). God upholds it. Christ upholds the universe by the Word of His power.

Just to give you an example of how small and little that man is: God has given him a window into the solar system and the universe from the earth, unlike any place else in the universe. The very first pictures of Saturn that were taken from the earth, were taken with an infra-ray camera. Guess what they discovered of Saturn? *The poles are hotter than the rest of the planet, which is the exact opposite of what we have on earth!* They were flabbergasted! God created the heavens and earth. This is why God created the heavens and the earth in the way that He did:

- to glorify Him
- to bring Him honor
- to bring us to conversion through awe and understanding of the Word of God

Any man anywhere on earth can do this, Psalm 19:1: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. Day after day they pour forth speech...” (vs 1-2). There are sounds out there in the universe that they can pick up here on earth. It's because of the motion and things that God has put into the planets, stars and galaxies.

“...and night after night they reveal knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard” (vs 2-3). Meaning that there is no speech or language in the world where you can't see the heavens and look up there and stand in awe and think, ‘Ah! How did these things get here?’ ***God says, ‘I made them!’*** That's why I want you to understand Who God is, so we can answer the question: **By whose authority?**

Verse 4: “Their line has gone out through all the earth and their words to the ends of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man *set* to run a race, its going forth is from one end of heaven, and its circuit is to the other end.... [showing that the sun is available on the earth as it turns on its axis] ...And there is nothing hidden from its heat” (vs 4-6).

We bring this into the laws and commandments of God. How does the universe run? *By laws!* Man has been able to discover some of them. Just enough so they think they know everything, but just enough to prove they know *nothing if they reject God.*

I'll have to say this. I saw a special on the solar system and the universe by an astronomer who said he does not know one astronomer who does not believe in God. That's quite a profound statement!

Verse 7: “The Law of the LORD is perfect...”

- Why would you want to throw away anything that's perfect?
- What if you had a perfect 2000 karat diamond?
- Would you want to throw it away? *Of course not!*

“...restoring the soul... (v 7). It's to change your heart and mind and with the Spirit of God, convert you.

“...the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes” (vs 7-8).

Quite a Psalm! That ties right in with what we're talking about.

- Do you believe God?
- Do you love God?
- Do you live by every Word of God?
- What is your life?
- What are you doing?
- Where are you going?
- If you're religious, why are you religious?
- Why do you believe the things that you believe?

We're going to answer all these questions as we go along in this series.

Verse 9: "...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether, more to be desired than gold, yea, much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned; **in keeping them there is great reward**" (vs 9-11).

Are not Christians to be rewarded according to their works? Not only commandment-keeping, but of love, of faith, of joy, and all the fruits of the Holy Spirit that go with it? What you need to understand is this: ***The Bible—Old and New Testaments—is one unified book, being the Word of God to mankind!***

Verse 11: "Moreover, by them Your servant is warned..." If you read in the Bible that 'You shall not murder,' you're warned by that. You read in the New Testament that if you have hatred in your heart you're in a murderer in your heart already. You ask God for forgiveness, which He will forgive, then you have been warned and you have taken the right step in keeping the commandments of God. Isn't that true? You can take that with all the commandments of God.

Verse 12: "Who can understand his errors? Oh, cleanse me from *my* secret faults." Quite a Psalm and how that ties in with the nature of God.

Isaiah 40:26: "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold, Who has created these *things*..." If you happened to live on Mercury, you couldn't do that. The heat is too intense and there are too many clouds there. The sun never shines on the planet Mercury; likewise, if you lived on Venus. If you lived on Mars, you could see a few things, but if you lived on Saturn and Jupiter, you'd be so encompassed with the gases and things there, you couldn't see it. So, ***the Earth is unique*** so that you can fulfill this command by going out and:

Verse 26: "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold, Who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number? He calls them all by names **by the greatness of His might, for He is**

strong in power; not one fails. Why do you say, O Jacob, and O Israel you speak..." (vs 26-27). You put your name there. Whatever your name is, put it right here. If you say:

"...My way is hidden from the LORD..." (v 27).

- I'll go my own way
- I'll decide what I'll do
- I'll pick and choose what I will do with the commandments of God

"...and my cause is disregarded by my God?" (v 27). God doesn't know. "...There is no God..."—in relationship to Psalms 14:1, have you checked your brain lately?

Verse 28: "Have you not known? Have you not heard, that **the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not grow weak nor weary?** And His understanding no one can fathom"—***except through His Word by His Spirit!***

Let's understand something very profound: **By whose authority?** James 4:11 fulfills another commandment of God, in other words, correction from another commandment of Christ that 'we're to love each other as Christ loved us,' the brethren.

James 4:11: "Brethren, do not talk against one another. The one who talks against a brother, and judges his brother, is speaking against *the* Law, and is judging the Law..." That's what's very profound and important! Understand this: ***Every human being judges the Law of God every single day!***

- whether you will do right or whether you will do wrong
- whether you will keep the commandments of God or whether you won't

Just to give you one little minute example: Today, in the corporate offices of the United States, 40% of those surveyed have adulterous affairs. Every time one of those affairs are committed, every single man and woman has to justify in his or her mind why they're going to do it, which means that they're judging the Law that says, 'You shall not commit adultery.' As we're going to see, 'religionists' go this:

- concerning the Sabbath
- concerning the Passover
- concerning the Holy Days of God:
 - ✓ The Days of Unleavened Bread
 - ✓ Pentecost
 - ✓ Trumpets
 - ✓ Atonement
 - ✓ Tabernacles
 - ✓ The Last Great Day

If you've never heard of those words or terms, please understand that those are the commanded Feast of God which we will get to in due time. We have to establish first **by whose authority?** and **by whose judgment?**

"...But if you judge *the* Law, you are not a doer of *the* Law..." (v 11). Everyone who judges the law and does not keep it and is not a 'doer of the Law' ***sits in the judgment seat of God!***

- Where do *you* sit?
- How do *you* view God's Word?

Your opinion, unless it's in accord with the Word of God, is not relevant to the Truth, but is relevant to lies, and you make yourself a judge.

"...rather, **you are a judge**" (v 11). God is the One Who judges. As we already read, He's ready to 'judge the living and the dead.' Didn't Jesus say that 'all judgment is given unto Me?'

We're going to see in part two, how absolutely horrendous that it is to judge God and His Law. There is one whole book in the Bible devoted to that very thing. This is for everyone to understand. It doesn't matter:

- how smart you are
- how powerful you are
- how much education you have
- how many seminaries you've gone to
- how many Sunday sermons you have preached
- how many Sunday School classes you have taught
- how many churches you have attended
- how many times you've done the rosary
- how many times you've done 'our father's' or 'hail Marys'
- how many times you have paid the priest to pray a prayer to get your relatives out of purgatory, according to the false traditions of men to keep people in bondage

This is what James says, v 12: "**But there is only one Lawgiver...**" ***Only God!***

- not man
- not a religions denomination
- not any of the religions of the world
- not the pope
- not the cardinals
- not any evangelist
- not any shaman
- not any Buddhist priest
- not any Hindu priest

"...there's ***only one Lawgiver...***":

- Who created heavens and earth
- Who made all laws, all commandments
- Who created every human being that there is on the earth

—and yea, *created you through the power of procreation* that He gave to your mother and father to recreate themselves in their own image. ***One Lawgiver!***

"...**Who has power to save and to destroy...**" (v 12). No one else has! What man has kept himself alive? *None!* There is either going to be salvation or destruction.

There has to be repentance first. The first place to begin to get right with God is ***you go to Him in a private place, get on your knees, confess your sins, ask for forgiveness and begin to study and know the Word of God!*** When you really come to a deep repentance then you need to be baptized so you can receive the Holy Spirit of God.

That's the way the New Testament teaches it!

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Timothy 3:15-17
- 2) 2-Timothy 4:1-4
- 3) John 17:17
- 4) 2-Timothy 4:4
- 5) Matthew 22:35-40
- 6) 1-John 5:2-3
- 7) 1-John 2:3-6
- 8) John 14:15, 21
- 9) John 3:16
- 10) John 14:21, 23-24
- 11) John 15:9-10
- 12) Isaiah 40:12-15, 17-26
- 13) Psalm 19:1-12
- 14) Isaiah 40:26-28
- 15) James 4:11-12

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 119
- Revelation 14:17
- Psalm 14:1

Also referenced:

- Sermon: *Laws of Moses Without the Veil* #s 1 & 2
- from: *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:
 - ✓ Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?
 - ✓ Appendix M: Beliefs and Doctrines of the New Testament Church
 - ✓ Appendix N: Rome's Challenge to the Protestants
 - ✓ from: *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter: Twenty-eight Prophecies Fulfilled on the Crucifixion Day

Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority? II

Fred R. Coulter

Why do people keep the holidays of this world, and yet, claim that they get their authority from the Bible? They readily admit that Christmas and Easter are of pagan origin, but they say because it does so much good and gets so many people involved that, therefore:

- it's good to do
- it's okay to do
- it's okay to teach your children lies
- it's okay to play make believe

One of the biggest so-called Christian Churches in the world has taken almost every pagan holiday and christened it with 'Christian' meaning.

We're going to see today exactly what kind of attitude this is. We're also going to see that every person in the world is judging God all the time and that God is also judging every person all the time. Here's an important and profound principle: *When you judge the Law of God:*

- Whose seat are you sitting in?
- Whose position are you taking?
- **God's!**

That's what most people do, because it looks good, because it feels good and even there's 'pleasure in sin for a season.' Therefore, people judge that what they are doing, though it's contrary to the Word of God, is okay.

Let me give you a famous, recent quotation by Ted Turner. In an interview he said, 'You know, they should remove the commandment, *you shall not commit adultery* from the Ten Commandments.' Let's see what James says, and let's see what Turner is doing. There are hundred of millions of people in the world that agree with him. All you have to do is just look at the morality of the world to understand that that is so.

James 4:11: "...But **if you judge the law**, you are not a doer of *the* law; rather, **you are a judge**. But there is *only one Lawgiver*, Who has power to save and to destroy" (vs 11-12). Let's analyze that for just a minute because this becomes very important and is the heart and core of human reasoning vs the Word of God and God.

We also have to understand that human reasoning is guided by not only carnality and self-will, but 'the god of this world' who is Satan the devil. He is 'deceiving the whole world' (Rev. 12:9). He is the one who first taught human beings to judge God, *because he judged God*. So, when you judge the Law you're judging the Lawgiver. If you make a substitutionary law for yourself, whatever that may

be, you are making *yourself* a lawgiver and you are making yourself to be *sitting in the seat of God*. Very few people think of it that way because today *lies pour forth from the pulpit*, judging the Word of God concerning everything, especially the Sabbath and the Holy Days. One of the very first things that people are told when they go to church on Sunday is that the Sabbath has been done away. *Nothing could be further from the truth!* What's important to understand is this:

- the Word of God is eternal
- the Word of God is True
- the Word of God is righteous
- God is the One Who does the commanding

Anyone who usurps the Word of God or changes the Word of God or who makes claims in the name of God and Jesus Christ that thus and such is so, is a liar. We've already seen that. This is quite something. Let me give you an example of judging God:

Psalm 14:1 Proved, which says: "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" {found on Facebook: Christian Stories: Logic 101}

A college student was in a philosophy class, which had a discussion about God's existence. The professor presented the following logic:

All truth is logical, but not all logic is truth. Here's what the professor said:

"Has anyone in this class heard God?"

Nobody spoke.

"Has anyone in this class touched God?"

Again, nobody spoke.

"Has anyone in this class seen God?"

When nobody spoke for the third time, he simply stated, "Then there is no God."

One student thought for a second, and then asked for permission to reply. Curious to hear this bold student's response, the professor granted it, and the student stood up and asked the following questions of his classmates:

"Has anyone in this class heard our professor's brain?"

Silence.

"Has anyone in this class touched our professor's brain?"

Absolute silence.

"Has anyone in this class seen our professor's brain?"

When nobody in the class dared to speak, the student concluded, "Then, according to

our professor's logic, it must be true that our professor has no brain!"

(...The student received an "A" in the class.)
author unknown

A perfect example of how men judge God.

Romans 3:1: "What then *is* the advantage of the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision? Much in every way...." (vs 1-2). Of course, that is dependant upon the fact of whether they believe God, love God and have circumcision of the heart.

"...Primarily, in that they were entrusted with the oracles of God... [here's a basic, fundamental question]: ...For what if some did not believe?" (vs 2-3). Let's understand that they had the Old Testament. They preserved the Old Testament. God had the power and made sure that it was preserved accurately. To this very day, we have the accurate Hebrew text preserved in the *Ben Asher Masoretic Text*. That backs up the statement that Jesus said, 'Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall never pass away.'

You need to think about that and you need to understand that, especially in light of the fact that the One Who is the Lord God of the Old Testament was the One Who became the Lord of the New Testament: Jesus Christ. That's important to understand.

Having the Word of God is one thing. *Believing* the Word of God and *believing* God is an entirely different matter. Judging the Word of God and judging God as if you were God is the great fault of humanity. Everyone does it one way or the other.

Verse 3: "For what if some did not believe?" Do we have that today? *Yes, indeed!* You can probably go into any Sunday-keeping church, maybe even some Sabbath-keeping churches and they either ignore the Bible for ritual—mumbo jumbo as they bow down to idols and little wafer breads—or the preacher stands up there and says, 'We've been given liberty, we don't have to keep the commandments of God.'

- if there are no commandments then there's no sin
- if there's no sin you don't need a Savior
- if there's no sin you're perfect as you are

To ask those questions is insane, because that's not true! So, 'what if some did not believe' while:

- holding the Bible
- having the Word of God
- preaching from the Word of God

—but twisting and turning it to their own destruction—does that annul the faithfulness of God? *No!* That's what Paul says.

"...Shall their unbelief nullify the faithfulness of God? **MAY IT NEVER BE!**" (vs 3-4). The *King James* says, 'God forbid,' which is an interpretation. The Greek here is 'me genoito,' meaning: *may that thought never come into existence, may it never be.*

"...Rather, let God be true but every man a liar, exactly as it is written: 'That You [God] might be justified in Your words... [because God always is] ...and might overcome **when You are being judged by men**'" (v 4). That's what the sense of it is.

Men always judge God. Do you judge God? If you don't believe the Bible and are willing to follow it and keep what is taught in the Bible, whatever excuse you may have, *you are judging God!* Whatever:

- minister
- rabbi
- priest
- imam
- shaman
- guru

says against the Word of God, is judging the Word of God and is rejecting it. Maybe you've never heard it put that way, but we'll see that that's a fact.

Verse 5: "But if our unrighteousness brings to reality God's righteousness..." It always does. God will judge you back according to what you have done.

"...what shall we say? *Is* God unrighteous to inflict His wrath?..." (v 5). When we had the tsunami come up and everyone was talking about it and you have all of these television news commentators, Larry King and his panel of five 'religious' experts, the first thing they said was, '*God didn't do this. God is a God of love.*' Well, why did it happen? *Time and chance happen to everyone!* That's true, but the fact is, **God did it!**

What you have to do is listen to the sermon that we did on it, about how God did the judgment and the four things that God uses for judgment. The reasons why judgments comes upon men is because *they judge God* and judge His Word and His commandments as unworthy.

Paul says, "...*Is* God unrighteous to inflict His wrath?..." (v 5). **No!** We're going to look at Job in just a minute. Job is an interesting case because he judged God unrighteous in His wrath against him.

Paul says: "...(I am speaking according to man's view.) **MAY IT NEVER BE! Otherwise,**

how shall God judge the world?" (vs 5-6). When he says, 'judge the world,' He judges the whole world.

To show you how the laws of God work, v 19: "Now then, we know that whatever the law says, **it speaks to those who are under the law...** [Who's under the law? *Everyone!*] ...so that **every mouth** may be stopped...":

- in judging God
- in speaking against God
- in setting up your own self-righteous:
 - ✓ rules
 - ✓ regulations
 - ✓ dogmas
 - ✓ traditions

"...and all the world may become guilty before God." (v 19). The whole lesson of the book of Job is this:

- yes, Job was righteous in the letter of the law
- yes, he was sincere in what he was doing
- yes, God did use Satan to come against him to try and test him

The reason that was is because God knew the heart of Job. All that appeared on the surface did not reveal the heart of Job.

Let's see how Job's great sin was *judging God*. How did he judge God? *He said, 'God is unfair! I've done all these good things. Why would God bring this trial upon me?'* Job learned a lesson.

Job 31:33: "If I covered my transgressions like Adam... [he knew about the account of Adam and Eve] ...by hiding my iniquity in my bosom." The greatest sin is the sin of self-righteousness and judging God. He's saying, 'I've always confessed my sins—haven't I?' He didn't see his sin.

If you want to know how that works, you go up to any Sunday-keeping preacher and tell him that he is sinning against God:

- by keeping Sunday
- by commanding people to do so
- by telling them that God says that it's okay

You'll get exactly the same answer in principle that Job gave. 'That's not so!' It's like Job, he was judging God; he didn't see his own sin.

Verse 34: "Then let me tremble before a great multitude, and be terrified by the scorn of families; *and* I will be silent *and* not go out the door. **Oh, that I had one to hear me!**.... [he's going to get his answer here pretty quick] ...**Behold, my desire is that the Almighty would answer me,** and the indictment *that* my adversary had written" (vs 34-35). God fulfilled both!

Verse 36: "Surely I would carry it on my shoulder, *and* bind it **like a crown upon my head**. I would declare to Him the number of my steps; **like a prince I would come before Him**.... [not as a humble, repentant sinner] ...If my land cry against me, or its furrows weep together; if I have eaten its strength without paying for it, or have caused its owners to lose their life, let thorns come forth instead of wheat, and weeds instead of barley.' The words of Job are ended" (vs 36-40).

There was a young man there named Elihu. Elihu was young. He was sitting there listening to Job and his three friends and he was astonished that they had no wisdom. He was astonished that they couldn't answer Job. Just like today, a lot of people cannot answer the judging of God that ministers, priests and religious leaders give when they reject the commandments of God.

Job 32:1: "And these three men ceased to answer Job, **because he was righteous in his own eyes**. Then was kindled the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram. His wrath burned against Job, **because he had justified himself rather than God**" (vs 1-2). Whenever you judge the commandments of God, whenever you judge God you are justifying yourself rather than God.

Verse 3: "Also his wrath was kindled against his three friends, because they had found no answer and *yet* had condemned Job."

Elihu stood up and said, 'I'm young. I've observed you men here and I thought that the aged would have wisdom so I let you speak all this time, but now I understand that the aged don't necessarily have wisdom.'

Elihu says, v 18: "For I am full of the matter; the spirit within me constrains me. Behold, my inner being *is* as wine, which has no vent; it is ready to burst like new wineskins. I will speak so that I may be refreshed; I will open my lips and answer. **Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man**" (vs 18-21). Wow! What a condemnation of religious organizations! You can take these things and apply them in principle.

Verse 22: "**For I do not know how to give flattering titles to any man**, else my Maker would soon take me away." When you do, what are you doing? *You're exalting the human rather than God!*

Elihu asked, v 13: "Why do you fight against Him?..."

Job 34:1: "And Elihu answered and said, 'Hear my words, O you wise men; and give ear to me, you who have knowledge; for the ear tries words, *as* the palate tastes food. Let us choose for ourselves what is right; let us know among ourselves what *is*

good. For **Job has said, ‘I am righteous; but God has denied me justice’**” (vs 1-5).

- What in fact is that?
- Is that not a judgment against God?

In spite of all the judgments of men—anywhere, anytime—God is always righteous. What you will find in the book of Job is every religious philosophical argument that men have ever come up with concerning:

- the nature of man
- the nature of God
- the creation of God
- the order of things

In all of them, *they leave out God!*

Verse 35: “‘Job has spoken without knowledge, and his words *were* without wisdom.’ My desire *is that* Job may be tried unto the end... [there would be no cure for Job unless he were] ...because **his answers are like those of wicked men. For he adds rebellion to his sin...**” (vs 35-37). Self-righteousness is the sin and rebellion when you demand. At one point Job said, ‘I just wish that there was an umpire between me and God.’ Well, he got his wish. Elihu was, but not in the way that he thought.

“...‘he claps *his* hands among us, and **multiplies his words against God**” (v 37).

Job 35:1: “And Elihu answered and said, ‘**Do you think this to be right, you that say, “My righteousness is more than God’s?”**’” (vs 1-2). That’s what people do when they reject the Word of God. When they judge the Word of God and especially when they judge the Word of God to say that they can:

- sanctify Christmas
- sanctify Easter
- sanctify all of the pagan holidays, contrary to the Word of God

They’re declaring their righteousness greater than God’s, because they are judging God’s Word unholy!

We’re going to talk about Christmas, Easter and those things a little later on, as shown from the Old Testament and it’s not going to put it in a very pleasant light. God does have an awful lot to say about those things. But the Holy Days of God—beginning with the weekly Sabbath, which is Saturday today...

Appendix N in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version: Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants*. You will see that just as Job bragged of his righteousness, the Roman Catholic Church brags of its righteousness, that it

has the authority from God to change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, likewise to change all the Holy Days of God. ***God never gave that authority to anyone, anywhere, at any time—period!***

We need to understand that. Maybe you’ve never heard it put that way before. Maybe you’ve never understood that that way before. You think about in your life:

- Are you judging God?
- Are you proclaiming these things to be unrighteous when God says they are?
- Are you proclaiming these things unworthy of your consideration and obedience when God commands that you do so?
- How about the Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day?

This may be the first time that some of you have ever heard those words. ***Those are the only things that God has commanded you to keep!*** We’re in a time of great religious confusion. The only way to come out of the confusion is to have:

- straight talk
- plain talk
- true talk
- Biblical talk

—and to understand the Word of God the way that God wants us to have.

Job 35:1: “And Elihu answered and said, ‘Do you think this to *be* right, you *that* say, “My righteousness *is* more than God’s”? For you say, “What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than *if* I had sinned?” I will answer your words, and your companions with you” (vs 1-4)...

- if you think you’re so almighty smart
- if you think you’re so almighty righteous
- if you think you’re so almighty good and right

Verse 5: “Look to the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds; they are higher than you.... [start with the creation of God] ...If you sin, what do you do against Him? Or *if* your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to Him? If you are righteous, what do you give Him? Or what does He receive from your hand?” (vs 5-7).

Let’s see what happens to the world, and it’s still ongoing. It’s very interesting that if you really talk to true astronomers they all believe in God as Creator because they’ve seen the universe. It’s very interesting. Not everyone who sees the universe believes in God. This is what Elihu is saying the you “...look to the heavens...”

Let's see how men have reacted instead of coming to repentance, to where today they cannot even put an attached label to the front of a science book that there is an alternative theory of Intelligent Design. That is unconstitutional! Know for sure that *God's judgment is coming because of that*. Here's the condemnation already given.

Romans 1:18: "Indeed, *the* wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress the Truth in unrighteousness.**"

- Isn't that what they have done with the Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Atonement, Trumpets, Tabernacles and Last Great Day?
- Have they not *suppressed* it?
- Have they not exchanged it for the holidays of this world in their judgment against God?

So, God's judgment comes upon them.

Verse 19: "Because that which may be known of God is manifest among them, for God has manifested *it* to them; **for the invisible things of Him are perceived from the creation of the world, being understood by the things that were made—both His eternal power and Godhead—so that they are without excuse**" (vs 19-20). A witness from God is *a witness from God* and:

- if you reject that witness
- if you reject that testimony
- if you reject the Word of God

You are rejecting God and you "...are without excuse."

Verse 21: "Because when they knew God..." This comes clear back to the time of even before the Flood, but after the Flood. We have an example of it with Job and his three friends.

"...**they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful**; but they became vain in their own reasonings, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **While professing themselves to be the wise ones, they became fools**" (vs 21-22). I submit to you, all you have to do is look at the religious and education systems of this world and you see this fulfilled in its 'nth degree' today.

Verse 23: "And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into *the* likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed creatures, and creeping things.... [Look at all the religions of the world, is that not what they worship? *Yes, indeed!*] ...**For this cause...**" (vs 23-24). There's an automatic judgment and penalty that comes. I want you to ask:

- Is this true?

- Has this happened?

"...God also abandoned them to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts, to disgrace their own bodies between themselves, **who exchanged the Truth of God for the lie**; and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the One Who is Creator, Who is blessed into the ages. Amen" (vs 24-25).

- Has that happened?
- Do we have that today?

Read the rest of Rom. 1, it is true!

What everyone needs to understand is that the Word of God is 'living, powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword' and is always active everywhere, all the time, for all people anywhere in the world, just exactly like the law of gravity and the physical earth. Like it says:

- Where are you going to run and hide from God?
- You going to go into the heavens? *He's there!*
- You going to go into the depths of the earth? *He's there!*
- Where are you going to go?

Because God has given free moral agency and choice and has given His laws, which are effective all the time, those actions of yours are automatically judged of God and you receive accordingly. It's what God says and God is no respecter of persons.

Let's understand another principle that God has, which is true: Not only does God judge the world but ***'judgment begins with the house of God' and He always judges His people first!*** That's the whole lesson of the Prophets.

Job 35:10—this is in all their sin: "**But none says, 'Where is God my Maker...'**" The New Testament says, 'Seek and you will find. Knock and it shall be opened. Ask and it shall be given.' If you're sitting there and you're trying to decide what you're going to do, that's the promise to claim, and God will answer you.

"...Who gives songs in the night; Who teaches us more than the animals of the earth, and makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?' There they cry, but He gives no answer, because of the pride of evildoers" (vs 10-12). God judges the evil, as we have seen—four sore judgments of God are false prophets, famine, sword, pestilence and evil beasts.

Verse 13: "Surely God will not hear vanity..." Let's understand something about men. The Bible says, 'Man at his very best state is altogether vanity.' God can rescue us from that vanity. God can forgive us and bring us out of it. By

ourselves we're nothing but just a breath away from death. Like Solomon said, 'What if you live a thousand years twice over and die with no hope, is that not vanity?' *Yes, it is!* What I'm trying to say here is:

- What is your life?
- What do you want out of your life?
- How do you find God?
- How do you get your life squared around?

We'll see with the lesson of Job, it begins by:

1. stop judging God
2. believing in God
3. deep and profound repentance

"...neither will the Almighty regard it. How *much less* when you say you do not see Him! The cause *is* before Him; you must wait for Him. And now because it is not so, He has visited in anger yet he does not understand even his great extremity" (vs 13-15). He's saying this of Job:

- Wasn't he in the great extremity of trial?
- Covered from head to toe with boils?

So much so that the flies were coming and swarming around him. He had to take a broken potshard and scrape the pussy boils so that the puss would ooze out and the flies would gather around to devour it. So, he had to take ashes and throw on himself. Yet, he's sitting there maintaining his own righteousness. He's the epitome of hardhearted carnality, human stupidity and vanity against God. A great lesson!

Verse 16: "Therefore, does Job open his mouth in vain; he **multiplies his words without knowledge.**" You can read the rest of the chapters up to Job 40.

Let's see what God said to Job. Why was he in that extreme condition? *We'll see it was because he judged God and when he judged God he blinded his own mind and heart so he couldn't see the reality of his own problems!*

- Is that not where the world is today?
- Haven't they said that our theory of evolution is greater than the creation of God?
- Haven't they said that our knowledge is greater and wiser than what God has put in His Holy Word?
 - ✓ we are wise
 - ✓ we are intelligent
 - ✓ we reject everything that is in the Bible

Know for sure, ***God's judgment is coming!***

I like this part in the movie *Shawshank Redemption*, which they show over and over again. When the warden was finally caught. One of the first

things he did when the prisoners came in was to bring them into his office, talk to them and show them the sign on the wall which says: His [the Lord's] Judgment Cometh and That Right Soon. He would always tell the prisoners, 'Being here is God's judgment on you.'

So, after it was revealed—through one of the prisoners—there he is in his office, the District Attorney for the state and the police are coming up to arrest him and he gets out his gun as if he's going to shoot at them for coming into his office. Instead, he takes the gun, puts it in his mouth and blows off the top of his head. Then the camera goes right to the sign: His [the Lord's] Judgment Cometh and That Right Soon. That was God's judgment against him.

(go to the next track)

His way greater than God's? What happened to Job with God coming to speak to him in a whirlwind is also going to happen to this whole world when Jesus Christ comes back to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. You can read of His judgments in the book of Revelation. It's going to make the judgment against Job look like a little, teeny corner of a little teeny sandbox.

When Christ returns it's going to affect the whole world. The question for all of us is this: **What are we going to do with our lives in relationship to God between now and then?** We don't know how far down the road the second return of Christ is. Let me just assure you one thing, it is absolutely on schedule according to the timetable of God the Father. What happened here with Job is very important.

Job 40:1: "And the LORD answered Job and said, '**Shall he who contends with the Almighty instruct Him?...**'" (vs 1-2).

- Are you going to say that your authority in changing **My** days, is greater than Mine?

Think about it!

- Are you going to instruct Him?
- Are you going to tell God that your way is greater and more righteous than His?

That's what all religionists do when they change the Word of God. When they exchange the Truth for a lie.

"...**He who reproves God**, let him answer it" (v 2).

- Do not people who declare that the law has been abolished, are they not reproving God?
- Do they not say, 'We don't have to keep those days'?

- Are they not reproving God when God absolutely commands that we should keep those days?

Verse 3: “And Job answered the LORD and said, ‘**Behold, I am vile!**...’” (vs 3-4). Here’s the beginning of his repentance. That’s where it has to begin with all of us. We have to repent to God for:

- our way
- our thoughts
- the way we have lived our lives
- the way that we have chosen:
 - ✓ the way of the world
 - ✓ the way of sin
 - ✓ to judge God

He finally says:

“...What shall I answer You? I will lay my hand on my mouth.... [you could say that it’s about time] ...Once I have spoken... [very great underestimation] ...but I will not answer; yea, twice, but I will proceed no further” (vs 4-5). Here’s God’s answer to everyone who says, ‘Our authority is greater than God’s.’ They are judging God. Here’s God’s answer.

Verse 6: “And the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ‘Gird up your loins now like a man. **I will demand of you, and you declare unto Me.**’” (vs 6-7). God says, ‘All right, if you believe that and teach that, stand up and be counted and show Me where you’re right.’

- Can any man be more righteous than God?
- Can anything that men devise be greater than what God has planned, created and devised?

God forbid! May it never be!

Verse 8: “Will you even **annul My judgment?**...” That means *set aside, abolish* My judgment. God is Judge and Lawgiver. If you judge God, you’re annulling God’s judgment. If man, by his own authority usurp from God—we’ll soon find out where that rebellious authority comes from—are you not annulling God’s judgment?

“...Will you condemn Me so that **you may be righteous?**” (v 8). Is that not what everyone does when they look in the Bible and say, ‘Oh well, you don’t have to keep these things. These are all done away.’ Oh, really? Jesus said, ‘Heaven and earth will pass away but my Word shall not pass away.’

- Who are you going to believe, a man or God?
- Whose authority are you going to follow?
- A man’s?

or

- God’s?

Then He says, ‘All right:

- let’s see if you really have any power
- let’s see if you really have any authority
- let’s see if you are as great as God

Verse 9: “And *have* you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His? Deck yourself now with majesty and excellency, and array yourself with glory and beauty. Cast abroad the rage of your wrath; and behold everyone who is proud, and abase him” (vs 9-11). ‘Let’s see your authority; let’s see your power, Job. You say you’re more righteous than Me.’

Let’s say this of every religious leader in the world, beginning with the Dalai Lama and the pope. Is your authority greater than God’s? **No!** You can’t deck yourself with majesty and glory. You’re going to die just like every other man. How can a man who is filled with vanity and sin ever produce anything that is righteous? Furthermore, righteous or not, to do away with the righteousness of God? It’s just like the fool, *he has no brain!*

Verse 12: “Look on everyone *who is* proud, *and* bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; *and* bind their faces in darkness. Then I will also confess to you that **your own** right hand can save you” (vs 12-14). There’s no greater authority than the authority of God.

Matthew 28:18—Jesus said: “...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” That’s why I ask the question:

- **By whose authority**, Job, do you say that you’re more righteous than God?
- **By whose authority** do you keep the holidays—and Sunday, or if you’re Muslim, Friday—of this world?
- Can their decrees nullify the judgment of God? **Absolutely not!**

What needs to be done is they all need to take the same course as Job. This is what you need to do in your life, especially if you are a ‘religious hobbyist’ and you hop:

- from one radio program to another
- from one television program to another
- from one website to another website

You’re just like Job. What you have to do is to do like Job. God says, ‘**Repent.**’ Jesus says, ‘**Repent and believe the Gospel.**’ Isn’t it interesting that He says ‘repent’ *first*? True belief cannot happen unless you repent *first*. You have to repent of your sins, which are the transgressions of Gods Holy, righteous and perfect laws. You have to repent of your vanity in choosing the way of the world and following Satan the devil.

Job said, Job 42:1: “And Job answered the LORD and said... [Job’s answer after all of this]: ...‘I know that You can do all things, and **that no thought can be withheld from You**’” (vs 1-2). Pretty profound!

You see, the One Who is the Creator, the One, Jesus Christ, Who is our Savior—Who is the Lord God of the Old Testament before He became Jesus Christ of the New Testament—is called the **‘heart-knowing God.’**

- Does not God say, in the person of Jesus Christ, that at the resurrection everyone is going to ‘give account for every idle word that he has spoken?’
- Yes, *He does, that is unless you repent!*
- Does He not say that we are ‘worth far more than many sparrows’ and that ‘every hair on our head is numbered?’

The great Creator God Who spanned out with His command the heavens and ‘calls all the stars and galaxies by name and knows them by number,’ is it any great thing that He knows the thoughts of any human being at any time?

Just because God is gracious and merciful and does not execute the death penalty, but gives us space and time to choose His way or the way of the world, do not think that God doesn’t know your heart; “...**no thought can be withheld from You.**”

Verse 3: “*You asked, ‘Who is he who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore, **I have spoken that which I did not understand...**” In other words, he uttered things that he understood not:*

1. he didn’t understand his own human nature
2. he didn’t understand that his righteousness could never be greater than God’s

God is eternal! God is glorified! And Jesus Christ upholds the power of the universe by His very Word! We are dealing with a God:

- Who is wholly righteous!
- Who cannot lie!
- Who dwells in eternity!

“...*things* too wonderful for me; yea, which I did not know.... [part of his repentance]: ...Hear, I beseech You, and I will speak; *You said, ‘I will ask of you, and you will declare to Me.’ **I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You***” (vs 3-5). This is the point where God wants every human being to come in relationship to Him.

Everyone has heard about God, one way or the other, whether in truth or in error. You’ve got to come to know the true God through the study of His Word and the power of His Holy Spirit being with you so that you can come to understand the Truth

and that you follow God and be led to repentance. Then you can be baptized and receive the power of the Holy Spirit *within* you. “...**now my eye sees...**” God is the One Who opens our understanding.

Verse 6: “Therefore, I abhor *myself*, **and repent** in dust and ashes.” God is merciful and kind and will forgive you upon true repentance, not the repentance of just being the sorrow of this world. God will forgive you and put those sins behind. Then you have to do as Jesus said, ‘Walk in newness of life and go and sin no more.’

- How did all this get started?
- How did we end up in such a place?
- How did we end up in such a condition?

Gen. 1—This part of the Bible is not a myth or a fairy tale, as some people say. It’s the actual account of what God did in creation in making man and giving him choice. God made man *a little lower than Himself*. He created him with such great abilities. He gave mankind—beginning with Adam and his wife Eve—*choice!* God doesn’t want mindless robots. Let’s see the uniqueness of man.

A lot of evolutionists look at the chimpanzees, gorillas, and genetic analysts can look at the genes and say, ‘Ooo! They have as much as 95% of the same genes as human beings. Therefore, we must have come from them.’ They’re drawing the exact wrong conclusion.

Let me put it to you this way: What if you had to jump 100 feet across a 4,000-foot chasm? You reared back and had enough strength and you ran, you leaped and you made it 95%. Did you cross the chasm? *No!* You failed and crashed at the bottom! So, God made them similar to man to prove that man is unique and without the *spirit of man*, which God forms in every human being, he’d be just like the apes. They’re run by instinct:

- yes, they have enough intelligence to do some things
- yes, they can recognize many things in sign language and so forth
- yes, they can have those communications, but:
 - ✓ they can’t speak
 - ✓ they can’t write
 - ✓ they can’t give history
 - ✓ they have not been made in the image of God

That’s what’s unique about human beings.

Genesis 1:26: “And God said, ‘Let **Us** make man in **Our** image... [God the Father and Jesus Christ] ...after **Our likeness...**’” That’s why we can:

- think

- choose
- build
- construct
- devise
- love
- create

God gave us the greatest power to share in His creation by being able to reproduce ourselves, by making us male and female, and creating the institution of marriage. God made us to be loving creatures and to receive love and that love directly from God.

“...and let them have dominion...” God gave dominion, rulership. He gave the whole world to Adam and Eve and subsequently to all mankind. What a great gift! What a tremendous thing!

“...over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth.’ **And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female.** And God blessed them.... [they started out in a state of blessing] ...And God said to them, ‘**Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...**’” (vs 26-28).

You talk about a fantastic mission goal that God gave. We’re going to see that not only did He create them this way, but here’s something that’s far more important in relationship to all the other animals and things that were created compared to man.

God wants to have an intimate relationship with His finest creation, man and woman. He did not *command*, and man came into being. He commanded and the apes came into being, *but man is different!*

Genesis 2:7: “Then the LORD God **formed** man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**” Not only did God *form and make* Adam, the first man, but He put within him the reproductive power to recreate himself through his wife, who was made from his rib, and Eve became the mother of all living. Amazing!

However, since God did not want robots He made two trees: One the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the other the Tree of Life. He put man in the Garden of Eden where there was everything that he needed and all the trees that were good for fruit and so forth.

Verse 15: “And the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it.” That’s all a part of subduing, controlling, working. That’s why God gave us things so that there’s work, so that there are things that we

can do and produce and work with the creation of God and enjoy the blessings of it.

Verse 16: “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may freely eat of every tree in the garden.’” That’s God’s judgment. Is that not God’s command? *Yes, it is!*

When men judge God, *they think* they can command God, but God is the One Who commands men, because He’s Creator and we are His creation. Then He gives this warning:

Verse 17: “But you shall not eat of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for in the day that you eat of it in dying **you shall surely die.**” That doesn’t mean that he would die instantly that day. Just like sin and transgress today, even though ‘the wages of sin is death’ they don’t instantly die because of it. The Hebrew here means that ‘*in dying you shall die,*’ because he lived to be 830-years-old.

When God created him, He had Adam name all the animals. This tells us that He created Adam with a language already programmed into his mind:

- he could think
- he could talk
- he could make decisions

That’s why God gave him the choices. If you’re going to create a full mature man, and from one of the ribs, create a full mature woman, then you have to give them the ability:

- to think
- to talk
- to speak
- to communicate

That’s what God did!

Here enters the serpent, Satan the devil. Here comes the counter or anti-authority of God. You go back and study that Satan originally fell. He was the first sinner. He was cast down from heaven and one-third of the angels followed him and became demons for their rebellion.

Adam and Eve were told, they were instructed and they lived in the Garden with God. God was there with them all the time:

- there was no question as to Who was God
- there we no question as to Who their Creator was
- there was no one around to tell them about the theory of evolution

They knew that God had created and formed them. Here comes the counter authority.

Genesis 3:1: “Now, **the serpent** was more cunning than any creature of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘*Is it true that God has said, “You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?”*’” A direct lie! God said, ‘You may freely eat of *all* the trees of the Garden *but* of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you shall not eat.’

Was that not a judgment against God by Satan the devil? *Yes, it was!* Now he’s going to begin to exert *his* authority. Let’s see how that happened:

Verse 2: “And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may freely eat the fruit of the trees of the garden... [she didn’t say *all*] ...but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the middle of the garden, **God has indeed said, “You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die”**’” (vs 2-3).

- Did they understand?
- Did they know what God had taught them?
- *Yes, indeed! Without a doubt!*

Verse 4: “And the **serpent said** to the woman, ‘In dying, **you shall not surely die!**’” You can take this same principle: God said, ‘*You shall have no other god’s before Me.*’ Go write down the Ten Commandments and in this, *Holidays vs Holy Days*, God said, ‘Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.’ All through the Bible you find, beginning with the Passover, all the Holy Days of God are to be kept. But man comes along and says, ‘Oh, no, no, no! By the authority of my ecclesiastical position and teacher, I decree that you don’t have to keep those things. I decree that you’re obligated to keep these things:

- Christmas
- Easter
- Lent
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday

Whatever other holiday that they claim to be ‘holy.’

That kind of judgment and usurpation of authority does not come from God. It comes from Satan the devil. That’s why I ask: **By whose authority do you keep the holidays? Not by God’s!**

That’s why religions of the world, which were connived to replace the Truth of God, all believe in the ‘immortality of the soul’ because when the body dies, your soul goes to heaven. ***That is not from God! That’s a lie from Satan the devil!***

You’re getting down to the truth of **by whose authority?** Either God’s authority and His Word through His ministers or Satan’s authority, his word through his ministers. *That’s a choice!*

Verse 5: “For God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened...” Actually,

closed, but *you think* they are open because *you make the decision* to decide what is good and evil, ***rather than looking at the Word of God to know what is good and evil!*** Adam and Eve, being in the Garden could ask God directly what is good and evil. They had first person authority!

“...and you shall be **like God, deciding good and evil**” (v 5). Here is the slight of hand that is a lie. The ultimate destiny of human beings is to be born from the resurrection into the Kingdom of God to be a spirit being, to be in the likeness of God. That is *after living a life in faithfulness*.

Satan always does this; he says, ‘You can have it now. You can have it all right now. You, if you eat of this fruit, will become gods now and *you* decide what is good and what is evil.’ That’s what the word *knowing* means; not just to be acquainted with it, ***you decide what is good and evil!*** They take that authority to themselves.

Verse 6: “And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it was pleasing to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **And the eyes of both of them were opened...** [to see evil, *closed* to understanding righteousness] ...and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves...” (vs 6-7).

An atheist wrote of this—when God was coming in the Garden, Adam and Eve hid themselves and God said, ‘Adam, where are you?’—‘Well, if God is all powerful and all knowledgeable, why didn’t He know where Adam and Eve were, that they were hiding?’

Of course, He knew where they were. He wanted to find out what their answer would be. He said, ‘Where are you?’ When Adam said, ‘I was afraid.’ ***He ought to be afraid because he sinned against God!*** Was he afraid before? *No!*

We’ll just summarize the rest of it: The penalty and judgment against Adam and Eve—because *they rejected the authority of God* and accepted the authority of Satan the devil—is a profound sin that has affected all mankind ***unto this very day!***

Remember, whenever there is sin there is judgment. Did they not judge God and say that God was not right in forbidding them to eat of this tree and followed the authority of Satan the devil? *Yes, indeed!* The judgment of God comes upon them because anyone who judges God is going to be judged. So, here’s the judgment:

Verse 11: “And He said, ‘Who told you that you *were* naked? **Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded you that you should not eat?**’ And

the man said..." (vs 11-12). This is the way that it happens with all human beings. This the heart and core of liberalism and the heart and core of evolution: *someone else made me do it; it just happened.*

"...**The woman whom You gave to be with me...** [God, it's Your fault!] ...she gave me of the tree, and I ate" (vs 12).

- Did he have to eat?
- Could he not have refused?
- Could he not have taken the fruit out of her hand, thrown it on the ground, run to God, repent and ask for God's help?

Yes, he could have, but he didn't! He wanted the vanity of being as God, *now* to decide what is good and evil. Is that not a judgment against God? *Yes, it is!*

Verse 13: "And the LORD God said to the woman, 'What *is* this you have done?'... [Oh, Lord!] ...And the woman said, '**The serpent deceived me, and I ate.**'" It's not my fault, that serpent You let go here in the Garden.

Verse 14: "And the LORD God said to the serpent... [whenever there is sin, there is judgment] ...'Because you have done this you *are* cursed above all livestock, and above every animal of the field. You shall go upon your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed...**'" (vs 14-15)—a prophecy of Jesus Christ and redemption to come to mankind. Right here with the very first sin, a prophecy of it.

"...**He...** [the 'Seed of the woman,' being Christ] ...**will bruise your head,** and you [Satan] shall **bruise His heel**" (v 15)—a prophecy of the crucifixion.

Notice the judgment, v 16: "To the woman He said, '**I will greatly increase your sorrow and your conception—in sorrow shall you bring forth children...**'" That goes beyond just childbearing. That goes into the emotional attachment as your children grow into adults and as they make right and wrong decisions, and the emotional involvement that brings sorrow to women greater than it does to men because of how their children behave.

"...**Your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you**" (v 16). God never made woman equal to rule with man. I don't care about all of the satanic doctrine to the contrary, that is a living fact, rule and Law of God.

Verse 17: "And to Adam He said, '**Because you have hearkened to the voice of your wife...**'"—who hearkened unto Satan the devil. Whose voice was he to follow? Go through with a

concordance study of the Bible and look up every word where it is:

- the voice of the Lord
- they are to obey My voice
- they did not obey My voice

What happened was that Adam obeyed the voice of his wife and Satan the devil instead of God. That's what the whole world does. That's what all human beings are doing.

Other than the few that God calls, God has given the world over to Satan the devil and he is called the 'god of this world'! That's why you do the things under his authority! That's why Satan has his way, and God has His way!

"...and have eaten of the tree—of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat *of* it!'—**the ground is cursed** for your sake. In sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of your life. It shall also bring forth thorns and thistles to you, and *thus* you shall eat the herbs of the field; **in the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return**" (vs 17-19).

That tells us an awful lot. Right at the very beginning Adam and Eve chose:

- *to reject* the authority of God
- *to reject* the Word of God, in the person of God
- to follow the deceiver, the 'rebelor,' the father of lies

By whose authority? Now we've learned there are two authorities in the world:

1. God and His Word and Truth
 2. Satan and his lies, his own religions and society
- Who is your God?
 - **By whose authority** do you do the things that you do?

John 8:42: "Therefore, Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I proceeded forth and came from God. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. **Why don't you understand My speech? Because you cannot bear to hear My words**'" (vs 42-43). I know that what I'm saying here is going to make some people upset, angry and hostile.

That's because you cannot bear to hear the Words of God. Yet, you want to be 'religious.' So, the question is: **By whose authority?**

Verse 44: "You are of *your* father the devil, and the **lusts of your father you desire to practice...**" He's speaking this to the very Jews who held the Old Testament and the prophecies that

He was the Messiah. Just like Satan wormed his way into the Garden of Eden, he also wormed his way in and controlled the religion of Judaism, just like he controlled the pagan religions of the world.

“...He was a murderer from *the* beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because **there is no Truth in him**. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*...” (v 44)—of his own authority.

God cannot lie and will not lie and His Word is Truth! His commandments are true! Everything that God says and does is true, and done in love!

“...for he is a liar, and the father of it. **And because I speak the Truth, you do not believe Me**” (vs 44-45). I have spoken to you the Truth. Do you believe God?

Verse 46: **“Which one of you can convict Me of sin?”** But if I speak *the* Truth, why don’t you believe Me?” That’s the goal we are to shoot for in our learning and understanding of the Word of God. Here’s something very profound. I’ll let this be a judgment you can bring upon yourself.

Verse 47: “The one who is of God hears the words of God...”

- Are you of God?
- **By whose authority** do you do what you do?

“...For this reason you do not hear, **because you are not of God**” (v 47). If it’s not of the authority of God and the Word of God, it’s of the authority of Satan the devil and human beings! The practices that they have which they claim that God gave, *are the lying traditions of men*, which reject the commandments of God!

- **By whose authority** do you live your life?
- Satan’s?

or

- ***God’s?***

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) James 4:11-12
- 2) Romans 3:1-6, 19
- 3) Job 31:33-40
- 4) Job 32:1-3, 18-22, 13
- 5) Job 34:1-5, 35-37
- 6) Job 35:1-7
- 7) Romans 1:18-25
- 8) Job 35:10-16
- 9) Job 40:1-14

- 10) Matthew 28:18
- 11) Job 42:1-6
- 12) Genesis 1:26-28
- 13) Genesis 2:7, 15-17
- 14) Genesis 3: 1-7, 11-19
- 15) John 8:42-47

Scripture referenced, not quoted: Revelation 12:9

Also referenced:
from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, Appendix N: **Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants**

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Holiday vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority? III

Fred R. Coulter

As we learned last time and we will see how it functions this time, you are under one of two authorities:

- 1) you're under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ

or:

- 2) you're under the authority of Satan the devil and his demons

—one or the other. Any middle ground puts you in trouble and difficulty with God and puts you eventually in the camp of Satan the devil. It's defined in the New Testament that if you love God *you will* keep His commandments.

Let's look at something else because some people say, 'Well, I'll never listen to another man because I've been deceived by them. They told me lies.' In today's world, you're probably right. There are many people out there preaching many lies mixed in with some Truth. One of the most profound things that is happening today is the corruption of the New Testament and the Bible by Bible translators; who by changing the Word of God are changing the meaning of the inspired text. Some people may say, 'Oh! Why does God allow it?' *He allows it for this reason:*

- to see whether you love Him or not
- to see whether you believe Him or not
- to see whether you are willing to come under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ or not
- to see whether you are willing to accept a corrupted, satanically influenced, debauched, blasphemous, translation of the Bible

Remember the instruction of God: *You shall not add to or take away from the Word of God!* John gave them a final warning at the end of the book of Revelation that if anyone adds to this book of the prophecy, which means the whole Bible, God will add to him the plagues of the *seven last plagues*. If anyone takes away from it, God will take his or her name out of the Book of Life. So, the Word of God is a salvation issue, fundamental and basic.

2-Timothy 3:13 is a very basic Scripture and something that you need to know and understand: "But wicked men and imposters shall become worse and worse, **deceiving others and being deceived themselves.**"

That's exactly what's happening today. Paul wrote this saying, 'Yet, in the last days...' Ask yourself: Where is the Truth? The real Truth? *Not only just in the things going on in the world!*

You have many different versions filtered through many different political lenses to give you a version of the news. In the field of God's Word: where is the Truth? They're continually being deceived and most people who go to church, especially Sunday-keepers. They are in a constant state of deception. If that makes you mad, then:

1. you don't know the Word of God
2. you don't believe the Word of God
3. you go to church so you can 'feel good' and be with others and have numbers of people who agree with you

Do you agree with God? It doesn't matter how many people agree with you in a watered-down, perverted, Gospel being preached from the pulpits of the land in the world today. It doesn't make any difference how many hundreds of thousands or millions of those that are there, ***if they don't agree with the Word of God it's because there's no light in them!*** Jesus said that 'many would come in My name saying *I am the Christ* and deceive many.'

- Do you fit into verse 13?
- Are you being deceived and continuously having that deception reinforced?
- Whose authority are you under?
 - ✓ God the Father and Jesus Christ?

or:

- ✓ Satan and his demons?

Those are the only two authorities that rule in this world. For those who are under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ, Paul writes:

Verse 14: "But *as for* you, **continue in the things that you did learn** and were assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them.*" Today we have all 14 Epistles of the Apostle Paul, the inspired Word of God.

Even though men can pervert it, it is up to each individual to **prove** the true text of the Word of God. That's why in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* we show:

- what is the New Testament
- when was it written
- who wrote it
- why was it written
- who canonized it
- why was it canonized
- how it is the Truth of God
- how you can know it is the Truth of God

to combat these deceivers out there!

Verse 15: "And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings..." That's the Old

Testament. Notice what it says right after that. This is very important, because too many people who claim to be Christian say that the Old Testament has been done away.

- Do you know why they say that?
which is a bald-faced lie, a satanic lie
- Do you know why they claim that?
- *So they can preach their own lawless grace and not have to obey the commandments of God!*

So they can keep their:

- Sunday
- Christmas
- Easter
- Good Friday
- Lent
- all of the pagan holidays

—instead of keeping the Holy Days of God!

“...which are able to make you **wise unto salvation**...” (v 15). We have a companion series that is going right along with this one, which is entitled *Laws of Moses Without the Veil* #s 1 & 2.

“...**through faith**...” (v 15). This is telling us you have to believe the Old Testament. That’s why it’s important and that’s why we have on our website **cbcg.org** and also in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*: Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets? That’s very important for you to understand. We go through and show according to the Word of God how Jesus did it. Then in the two sermons *The Law of Moses Without the Veil* you will understand the spiritual significance of the Laws in the Old Testament.

I want you to understand something very important concerning the Old Testament and New Testament. Guess how many men wrote it? Old and New? *A total of forty, that’s it!* Guess how many men wrote the New Testament? *A total of eight!* If God can make a false prophet—Balaam—speak the Truth, don’t you think that God can surely control eight men to write the Truth? *Yes, indeed!*

Here’s what we need to understand because this is the authority that we need to follow today, not the authority of a man. I can say for those people who never want to hear a man again—because they were deceived—shame on you because you didn’t prove things. God is going to hold you accountable because you failed in your responsibility. God did not create us with a funnel cap in the top of our skulls so someone can come along a pour into our brains whatever we need to know:

- He expects us to use our minds
- He expects to prove things
- He expects us to be able to understand the problems and deceptions

I’ll tell you one thing in particular that is true, you will never, *never, never* understand the Word of God the way it needs to be by keeping Sunday and going to a Sunday-keeping church. They are meeting on the wrong day and that is the wrong place to learn, though they do quote some Scriptures.

Also, we have on our website **cbcg.org** Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants, concerning Sunday. Read that, then ask yourself:

- What does God expect from me?
 - Do I really want the Truth of God
- or*
- Do I want to stay deceived?
 - Do I really want to cling to a lot of social friends in a feel-good social church?
- or*
- Do I want to have a person relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ and stand for the Truth and live in the Truth?

Those are the choices that are set before us today.

Verse 16: “**All Scripture**...” What does that mean? Every word, syllable, genealogy, every Word of God, each and every one:

“...*is God-breathed*...” (v 16). God’s Spirit moved these men much like wind in a sailboat. Of course, God was guiding them where He wanted to take them. You stop and think; after all the experiences that the apostles went through in the writing of the New Testament:

- Do you think that any of them would *dare* to even conceive of writing something that is not true?
- If they did, do you think that God would have inspired it to be included in the New Testament or in the Old Testament?
- Why do people view God as weak and far off some place? *Because you’re all steeped in the theory of evolution!*

If you’re ‘religious,’ you have to believe *all the Word of God*. Then you’re living in the ‘*way of God*’ rather than being ‘religious.’

As Judge Roy Moore defined, which is good, they had the two lawsuits before the Supreme Court concerning the Ten Commandments monument, and they didn’t take Judge Roy Moore’s lawsuit because the basis of his lawsuit was this: Can government acknowledge God without the establishment of ‘religion’? *Yes!* Religion is defined by rules and regulations. The first four commandments, which I thought that he understood very well, he said, ‘These are the spiritual understanding, not establishing religion.’ Very clear!

Verse 16: “**All Scripture is God-breathed**...”

- Do you believe that?
- Have you proved that?
- Do you understand that?
- Do you live by that?

“...and is profitable for **doctrine**...” (v 16). Instead of fairy tales and nice stories, doctrine means *teaching, teaching of the Word of God.*

“...for **conviction**...” (v 16). If you not only believe but you stand for the Truth and have conviction in it. Most people today are not convicted of anything. Most people today—in postmodernist thinking—how do they believe? *If I believe it, it's true and the only conviction you have is of yourself and your own thoughts!* This is to give you conviction with God's Spirit and God's Truth.

“...for **correction**...” (v 16). We need correction; human beings, the way we are!

“...for **instruction in righteousness**” (v 16). Instruction in righteousness has to do with having the Word of God taught, keeping the Holy Days and the Sabbath of God. That's instruction in righteousness.

Verse 17: “So that the **man of God**...” This applies to Timothy, who was the minister there that succeeded Paul in Ephesus, Paul was giving him these instructions. Also, it applies to everyone who reads the Bible.

That every man or woman “...may be complete... [perfected in Christ] ...fully equipped for every good work” (v 17). We are to walk in the ways of God and those are the *good works* we are to do.

Let's see the authority that the Apostle Paul passed on. This is how you judge *by whose authority you're under*. If you do as Jesus Christ said, ‘Live by every Word of God,’ then, you are under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ. What is every minister to do? *and* Every person to study? *The Word of God!* Here's a solemn charge that he gave to Timothy. This is a solemn charge that every minister, every teacher should take as a direct command from God the Father and Jesus Christ. They're both mentioned, here.

2-Timothy 4:1: “I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the* living and *the* dead at His appearing and His kingdom” We're closer than ever to the return of Jesus Christ. We are being judged every day. That's why you need to be under the true grace of God, not a false, lawless grace.

Verse 2: “**Preach the Word!**...” That's God's revelation. If you preach anything else, then you're a false preacher. Which Word? *All Scripture is God-breathed!* That's what needs to be taught.

- Do you believe that?
- Are you willing to live by it?

If you believe it, then you have to act upon it because God is calling you! If God is calling you and you don't act upon it, then you will be fulfilling the Scripture, which says that ‘many are called but few are chosen,’ because you choose to refuse to repent and live God's way. Living in the end-time, God is calling us to stand for Him in a world ruled and deceived by Satan the devil. So, “**Preach the Word!...**” How is it to be preached?

“...Be urgent in season and out of season...” (v 2). Since we're talking about *Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority?*, what does it mean, “...in season and out of season...”? *The command of God concerning the Holy Days is: ‘These are My Feasts which you shall proclaim in their seasons.’* What does this tell us? *The early New Testament Church was keeping the Holy Days of God!* That's what it's telling us. We will see that later.

“...**convict, rebuke, encourage**...” (v 2) so that you can be:

- built up in Christ
- built up in love
- built up in faith

But you have to have conviction first before that's possible. You have to have the inner desire by that conviction that you will love God with:

- all your heart
- all you mind
- all your soul
- all your being

Otherwise, what are you doing?

We live in what the New Testament, from Rev. 3 calls the Laodicean Age. We are rich and increased with goods. We do everything in a ‘ho-hum’ manner, *lukewarm*. *God isn't going to accept that!* He calls on all of those ‘ho-hummers’ and ‘lukewarmers’ *to repent*. We need to ask ourselves:

- How do we approach God?
- How do you approach God?
- Do you:
 - ✓ go to church on Sunday?
 - ✓ sing a few songs?
 - ✓ walk back and forth?
 - ✓ listen to a preacher give a nice, smooth, sermon?
 - ✓ throw your money in the collection box?
 - ✓ walk out and think you've done good?
 - ✓ run out to a football game or basketball game?
 - ✓ go shopping?

—or whatever it is. *That's no conviction!*

“...with all patience and **doctrine**” (v 2). People don’t like doctrine today because of the influence of Eastern religion within Christianity, which is part of the infiltration of the authority of Satan within churches that claim to be Christian, but they’re not. If they were, that would never be allowed, because it would be understood for what it is.

Not only did it happen then, but it’s happening right now. You can judge. You can judge your reaction to what you’re hearing me speak by v 3:

- Do you agree with it?
- Do you think it’s right?
- Do you think what I’m saying is outrageous?
- Do you think: Who is he to say that?
- What do you think?

Or do you fit into v 3?: “For there shall come a time when **they will not tolerate sound doctrine**...” That is the true teachings of Jesus Christ in the Bible. They don’t that. They want the good words. ‘Oh, Christ died to forgive us our sins.’ *But not to continue in sin!*

Do you know the song that they play at every Protestant revival, which Billy Graham and his evangelistic campaign has probably played tens of thousands of times in his career? *Just As I Am!* Well, **God does not accept you just as you are unless you repent and you’re willing to change!** That’s the truth of the matter. We’ll get into repentance and things like that later.

“...but according to their own lusts...” (v 3). You stop and think about some of these big, mega, mega churches. They maybe have some very bombastic preachers. They may even preach from parts of the Bible on Sunday, which is not the Lord’s Day. God didn’t send them; *they’re stealing the Words of God!*

“...they shall accumulate to themselves a *great number of teachers, having ears itching to hear what satisfies their cravings*” (v 3). People want to hear good words—don’t they? God has the best Word of all! What is the biggest myth that they hear every Sunday? *Jesus has done it all for you! There’s nothing you have to do!* There’s nothing you can do. If that’s true, why do they keep insisting that you come to church and put money in the offering box?

There’s plenty you have to do. God shows that if you are not practicing and living by His Word then you belong into this group that rejects Truth and follows myths. If you hear anyone preach and say, ‘Jesus did it all for you. You have nothing to do,’ part of it is this: Jesus did do it all for you so that you can repent and have His sacrifice applied to

you personally for the forgiveness of your sins, but then, you have to get up out of that watery grave of baptism and ‘walk in newness of life’ and keep the commandments of God.

Verse 4: “And they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth; and **they shall be turned aside unto myths**.” That’s the heart and core of *Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority?*

We will again see what God says about the Word of God, what Peter wrote about it *and by what authority* that he wrote.

2-Peter 1:12: “Therefore, I will not neglect to make you always mindful of these things, although you *already* know them and have been established in the present Truth.... [not in myths, but the Truth of God] ...For I consider it my duty, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by causing you to remember *these things*” (vs 12-13).

How quickly do people forget? *We’ll see how quickly people forget!* That’s why it had to be written down. That’s why it had to be written by the apostles.

Verse 14: “Knowing that shortly the putting off of my tabernacle *will come*, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has signified to me. But I will make every effort *that*, after my departure, you may always have **a written remembrance**...” (vs 14-15)—and actually has the meaning that it is *a saying chiseled in a rock monument or written as a memorial*.

“...of these things **in order to practice them for yourselves**” (v 15). How long do you think that people would remember the things in the New Testament without it being written down? This old lie that it was passed on by word of mouth for 300 years is a blasphemous and satanic lie! *It was written by the apostles while they were still alive, by them!*

Verse 16: “For we did not follow cleverly concocted myths *as our authority*...” That’s what it means. See how that ties in with 2-Tim. 4; people will follow myths?

Just take for example the thing concerning Halloween, Christmas and Easter. ‘Oh, we know that these things are based on pagan myths, but it’s so good, we will do it.’ What we’re going to see is that you’re not going to honor God with anything that comes from Satan the devil. It just will not happen! Maybe you’ll retort, ‘Well, God knows my heart and my intention is good and if my intention is good and I feel good, therefore, God has to accept it.’ What is the old saying? What paves the way to hell? *Good intentions!*

Verse 16: “For we did not follow cleverly concocted myths **as our authority**... [Do you?]

...when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His magnificent glory.” That’s the vision of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration^[transcriber’s correction]. You go back and read that account. He goes on saying here and explaining it. After having that experience, you need to ask the question:

- Would Peter have ever written anything other than the Truth?
- Would the Apostle John have written anything other than the Truth?

Verse 17: “Because He received glory and honor from God *the* Father when *the* voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My Son, the Beloved, in Whom I am well pleased.’ And this *is the* voice from heaven that we heard when we were with Him on the Holy mountain. **We also possess the confirmed prophetic Word**” (vs 17-19).

What does that mean? *The inspired Word of the Old Testament and what they were writing—the confirmed New Covenant by Jesus Christ!* “...the confirmed **prophetic**...” meaning that it didn’t come from a man, but *inspired of God!* That what it means.

“...to which you do well to **pay attention**...” (v 19). Rather than have a lukewarm, ho-hum attitude toward it:

- Do you believe the Word of God?
- Do you pay attention to the Word of God?
- Do you let the Word of God guide you in what you need to do?
- Do you let the Word of God guide you in how you need to live?

Those are questions that *you* have to ask and answer.

“...as to a light shining in a dark place...” (v 19). This world is under darkness and the only light we’re going to have to find your way in this world is the light of the Word of God and the light of Jesus Christ Who is the Savior of mankind and you personal Savior. He is your personal Savior *when you repent and accept His sacrifice and walk in the way of God*. That puts you under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ and takes you out from under the authority of Satan the devil and his demons. That puts you into walking in the Truth of the Scriptures rather than a mixture of Truth and lies, which Satan the devil has given to counterfeit.

“...until the day dawns...” (v 19)—the return of Christ, continually. He said, ‘I’m going to write this for you so you can have it until the return of Christ.’ That applies to us!

Isn’t it interesting when you really understand about the return of Christ? How is the first sign going to appear that it’s Christ coming? *The heavens will be rolled back as a scroll and all of a sudden there will be a big powerful sun that has never been seen before!* That’s what it means, “...the day dawns...”

“...and *the* morning star arises in your hearts” (v 19). What does that mean? *At that time you will be resurrected!* Because of all of this and based on what he says:

Verse 20: “**Knowing this first**...” You have to understand this first: *One of the biggest lies that has been perpetrated on the so-called Christian community today and Christian churches today is that the New Testament, as well as the Old Testament, was not written by the men that have their names on the books, but it was transmitted orally for anywhere from 100 to 300 years and was written down later. So, this is a mythical creation of a mythical Jesus out of the minds of men. ‘Therefore, what we can do is say that since a man wrote it, we can ignore it. We then can create our own.’*

That’s how people think but that’s not the truth of how things are. That’s how you have to be very careful which translation you have. That’s why this translation *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* is written in the same spirit and attitude that we have just covered here, and it being the translation of it. It was done to:

- love God
- fear God
- uphold His Truth
- make sure that every word from the translation agreed with the original Byzantine Text for the New Testament

So that the true inspiration of the original would be manifest in the translation as much as possible. There are two theories of translation:

1. the one I just said
2. the one when you go in and change it and water it down

That’s why it’s such a dilemma today. Who would ever have thought that the coup de grâce of Satan the devil would worm his way into the Bible so much that he would pervert it, change it and rewrite it.

Originally the New Testament was entrusted to the New Testament Church. They gave up that trust. ***God never failed to preserve the Greek New Testament text!***

Notice how this ties in with what we read in 2-Tim. 3; “...that no prophecy of Scripture... [nothing that has been written] ...**originated as anyone’s own private interpretation**” (v 20). That

is the true and accurate translation. It's not the ideas of men. Besides, when you understand the Truth of the Bible you will see that it all fits together, Old Testament and New Testament agree with each other completely. This is why.

What do people have today? 'Oh! I've got an idea!' ***If it's not according to the Truth of God, who cares!*** Maybe you can impress human beings but you're not impressing God that you have anything special. I take it back. Yes, you're impressing God. You're impressing God with your spiritual stupidity!

The term 'private interpretation' means *I have an idea*—coming from yourself, originating in your own mind—not with the Spirit of God but *your own thoughts*. That's what it means. You can read a lot of religious tracts out there like that. That's what it means.

Verse 21: "Because prophecy was not brought at any time by human will, but **the Holy men of God spoke as they were moved...** [God-breathed] **...by the Holy Spirit.**" That's important to understand. When we get back and start examining ***by whose authority?*** it began back in the Garden of Eden.

- Did Jesus bring something that was different than what God the Father wanted Him to bring?
- Did Jesus speak of Himself?
- Was He just a man as a lot of people think today, or was He 'God manifested in the flesh' as the Bible teaches?

John 5:30: "I have no power to do anything of Myself; but as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father, Who sent Me."

Verse 19: "Therefore, Jesus answered and said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, the Son has no power to do anything of Himself, but only what He sees the Father do. For whatever He does, these things the Son also does in the same manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him everything that He Himself is doing. And He will show Him greater works than these, so that you may be filled with wonder'" (vs 19-20). *Even Jesus Christ did not do His own will, as God manifested in the flesh. The apostles knew that:*

- How much more do you think that they understood, profoundly and with God's Spirit in them, having been taught personally by Jesus Christ?
- How much more do you think that they understood having seen Him after the resurrection form the dead?

- How much more do you think that the apostles would also be guided by the Truth of God and not entertain a single lie, or to write anything that would be of their own ideas?

The answer is: Nada, zilch, zip, not a thing!

That's why when we go to the Old Testament, we understand that Jesus Christ, before He was manifested in the flesh, was the Lord God of the Old Testament.

- He is the One Who spoke to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- He is the One Who spoke the Ten Commandments from the top of Mt. Sinai
- He is the One Who gave the Holy Days

That's important to understand. Without that, all of your conjectures and all of the things that you do in a 'religious' sense is worthless. That's why it demands repentance. You scrap all of it and you begin again with repentance to God the Father and Jesus Christ. That's what the New Testament is all about.

(go to the next track)

Adam and Eve ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which when you eat of that tree you put yourself under the authority of Satan the devil. That's why *the world is filled with the knowledge of good and evil*, because it's under the authority of Satan the devil. When you do that, you cut yourself off from God. Therefore, Adam and Eve were removed or exiled from the Garden of Eden. This is very interesting and very few people have ever figured this out. A lot of people have never been able to answer, 'Why would God do this?'

Genesis 3:22: "And the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to **decide** good and evil...'—not just to **know**, but to **...decide** good and evil..." That's the only way that they were like God. They took the prerogative and the authority of God, under Satan's direction—it was under Satan's authority—to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and to **decide** what was good and what was evil, rather than their Creator.

"...and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the Tree of Life, and eat, and live forever—" (v 22). Why did God keep them from going to the Tree of Life? Why did He do that? One answer is *that they would have eternal life!* That's possibly an answer.

- the truth is you cannot have eternal life with a sinful nature.
- the truth is you cannot mix the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil under the

authority of Satan with the Truth of God and expect to get eternal life

That's why He cut them off from the Tree of Life. Did they not have the opportunity for it when they were in the garden? He said, 'Of every tree in the garden you may freely eat *except* the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.' That meant that they could have eaten of the Tree of Life.

I put out a sermon *What Would the World Be Like if Adam and Even Had Not Sinned?* Basically, the long and short of it is that it would have been more like what the Bible shows and describes as the Millennial kingdom reign of Christ and the saints.

That's why you cannot mix the authority of Satan with the authority of God. You cannot take the pagan holidays or pagan practices, and we'll see how that works and how that is condemned by God. Unless you understand that condemnation, you're not going anywhere as a Christian. In fact, we need to understand that the truth is *you're not a Christian*. You're a *fake* Christian. That's what Paul wrote as *false brethren*. You're following *false apostles* who are inspired of Satan the devil. You can't mix the two. What did God do?

Verse 23: "Therefore, the LORD God sent him out from the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he had been taken. And He drove out the man, and He placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden..." (vs 23-24). The Garden of Eden existed until the Flood about 1565 years later.

God continued to live there in the Garden of Eden. They could come to the east entrance where the cherubim were. When you study about the temple and the tabernacle what do you have over the throne of God? *Cherubim, showing where God dwells!* That's why it was put into the temple, because that connects right back with Adam and Eve. They could come a commune with God at the east entrance.

One thing that's very important is that *nowhere* does it show that Adam and Eve repented. You don't receive salvation without repentance. That's another reason why the Tree of Life was cut off from them.

"...and a flaming sword, which turned every way to guard the way to the Tree of Life" (v 24). In order for there to be eternal life given, God has to do the choosing and calling.

It's not going to be a matter that you're living with the literal bodily presence of God as Adam and Eve were after they were created and living in the Garden of Eden. Now you're cut off from God and you have to come to God by His calling, by repentance and by following *God's way*.

They have figured that given the longevity of the people—beginning with Adam and Eve living into 100s of years—*Josephus* records that Adam and Eve had 56 children. If each of their descendants had 56 children, by the time you get to Gen. 6 when they were multiplying, they could have had as many as 2+-billion people in 1500 years. That's an amazing number.

Let's talk about what happened here in Gen. 4, because this shows something very profound, important and prophetic. We'll just summarize it this way:

Genesis 4:3: "It came to pass that Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground." God does require that you give firstfruits and offerings to God of the things that grow out of the ground. However, those were not sin offerings. What we're going to see is that Cain decided to mix *his way* with the *way of God*, which the very act of cutting off from the Tree of Life shows that you can't mix. We will see that that's the problem of Cain. We will see that it's talked about in the New Testament. What he did, he brought any old thing that *he* desired.

Every time I see the Hindus in India bring all of their fruit and food offerings to the 'monkey temples' that they have and think their giving it to God because He is in the monkeys, I think of Cain. Some of the Hindus give 10% to the 'monkey temples.' Amazing!

It's not what *you think* that's a good idea for you to do to please God, *it's what God says that you do to please Him!* After all, Who is the Lawgiver? *God is!*

Verse 4: "And Abel... [who is called righteous] ...also brought of the firstlings of his flock..." You go read in the laws that God gave to the children of Israel—God's laws were always the same concerning offerings—the firstlings belonged to God. What was Abel doing? *He was bringing that which God commanded!* Also, if they're the firstlings then there's also the thing of tithing, there's also the things of all the laws that you find that God gave to Israel, because God is the 'same yesterday, today and forever.'

"...and of the fat of it. And the LORD had regard unto Abel and his offering, but He did not have regard unto Cain and his offering..." (vs 4-5). A lot of people will look at that and they say, 'Well, Cain was sincere. Why would God not accept his? His heart was right.' Just like a lot of people say today, 'I know that Saturday is the Sabbath. I go to church on Sunday and God knows my heart.' Yes, it's 'deceitful above all things' and all your good intentions are worthless. That's what we have here.

Rather than repent, notice what Cain did. It's exactly the same thing that you'll have if you go

up to any Sunday preacher and tell him, 'If you're commanding people to come here to your church on Sunday and say that God has endorsed it:

- when God never endorsed it
- when God never endorsed the Mass, *but the Passover*
- God never endorsed Easter, *but Unleavened Bread*

What are they going to do? *They're going to get mad just like Cain!*. The same reaction! Why? *Because they're trying to work out salvation with their own works rather than the way of God!* There you have it!

Here's the principle right back here, which we'll see carries clear over into the New Testament and is written about by the Apostle Jude, the brother of Jesus. Because God is merciful and gracious, said this:

Verse 6: "And the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you so angry? And why has your countenance fallen?'" *In other words, 'Why are you so angry and depressed?'* As we could say today in modern terminology, 'Your chin is hanging on the ground.'

Verse 7: "If you do well... [according to My commandments] ...shall you not be accepted?..." In other words, there is a right way to come to God: the right attitude, the right offering, the right day.

"...**But if you do not do well...** [if you don't do it according to My instructions, then]: ...**sin lies at the door...**" (v 7). In other words, what Cain was doing was sin.

You need to equate that with: **Under whose authority are you?** God is saying to Cain, 'You cannot come here in My presence and make an offering to Me while you are still acting under the authority of Satan the devil, and you are not following My instructions.' In other words, He's saying that *you cannot mix the authority of Satan the devil with God's authority* and be accepted of God. Why? *Satan is a liar and has been from the beginning!*

You cannot worship the God of Truth with lies! You cannot come before the God of Truth with a combination of error and some of the Bible and expect to be accepted of God. You're either:

- under the authority of God
 - you keep His commandments
 - live by every Word of God
- or you're:**
- under the authority of Satan the devil
 - which is a mixture of:
 - ✓ truth and error
 - ✓ good and evil

- ✓ even some of the Words of God mixed in there for a clever counterfeit

But God does not accept it!

- it doesn't matter how righteous it is
- it doesn't matter how much pageantry there is
- it doesn't matter what the ceremony is

If God did not command it, God will not accept it!

In the New Testament we are told by Jesus that God is spirit and those who come to worship the Father 'must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.' How can you mix the myths and lies of men and think that you're ever going to be accepted of God and stand and say that we are delivered to do these things? *No, you're not!* God never gave permission for that. Any person or minister who tells you that *is a liar!* It's just that simple. Right here Gen. 4 shows it.

"...But if you do not do well sin lies at the door..." (v 7). What was the door or the entrance? What was that? *The east of the Garden of Eden where the cherubim were and there was probably an altar for burnt offerings!* That's how Abel offered his firstlings.

"...Its desire *is* for you... [sin is going to take its pound of flesh out of you if you let it] ...but **you must rule over it!**" (v 7). In other words, God expects you to overcome and stop sinning. When you do that, you begin keeping *God's way*.

All of this is right there in Gen. 4. *Amazing!* Notice what else happened. Cain never got over it. *Josephus* records that this happened when they were about 130-years-old, this over a process of time.

Verse 8: "And Cain talked with his brother Abel. And it came to pass that when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him." *Murdered him! Slew him!* Cain killed righteous Abel. The one under the authority of Satan the devil, killed the one who was under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ. Let's see how God handled it here.

Verse 9: "And the LORD said unto Cain, 'Where *is* your brother Abel?' And he said, 'I do not know... [just like all murderers, they lie] ...*Am I my brother's keeper?*'" Going against what God said to love your neighbor as yourself.

When this murder took place, did this not also fulfill what God said to Eve, 'In sorrow shall you bring forth children?' Right in your own family, your own flesh and blood, killed your other flesh and blood Abel. ***Sorrow! Pain! Misery!*** I wonder how many sleepless nights that Eve had because of that. No one figures that.

Verse 10: “And He said, ‘What have you done?...’” **God knows!** He knows every hair on your head. He knows when even a sparrow falls.

“...The voice of your brother’s blood cries to Me from the ground” (v 10). Some people read that and say, ‘How can blood cry from the ground?’ Scientifically they can prove that it does have a reaction and God, being Creator, knew that it was crying from the ground.

Rather than execute the death penalty, what God did was, He gave this judgment, v 11: “And now you **are cursed from the earth**... [a sentence to life without parole] ...which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you, and **you shall be a wanderer and a fugitive upon the earth**” (vs 11-12). Wandering people! Yes, he built a city, that is true, but what kind of city? Was it more like thatched coverings of people who wander in the desert, or buildings made of mud brick, because he was cast out?

Verse 13: “And Cain said to the LORD, ‘My punishment *is* greater than I can bear. Behold, You have driven me out from the face of the earth today, and **I shall be hidden from Your face**’” (vs 13-14).

What does this tell us? **When you try and mix the authority of Satan the devil with the authority of God and come to God, you have no contact with God!** That’s what it’s telling us.

“...And I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth, and it shall be *that* anyone who finds me shall kill me” (v 14). So, God said, ‘All right, I’m going to put a mark on you.’

I’ve often thought that that was probably a little mark right on his forehead. I don’t know if it was a cross. I don’t know if it was a dot, but whenever those who looked at Cain they knew that he had a mark on him as a sign of his sin for the rest of his life.

Sidebar: Where did Cain get his wife? *Out of the 56 children that Adam and Eve had!* Since the genetics were very diverse at that time, he married one of his own sisters.

Let’s come to the New Testament; Jude is very instructive. As I said previously, when you put the Old Testament and New Testament together they agree in toto. Absolutely! That’s what you need to understand. You cannot pick and choose and take your favorite little Scriptural trail and run down the road and demand salvation from God. It’s either going to be His way or no way. That’s what people don’t seem to understand because they’re steeped in the modern thing—‘If I believe it, it’s true.’—have an opinion. Just like they say on the news, ‘We give you the right and left and you decide!’

This is important because this has happened. That’s why we’re in such a wilderness of ‘religion’ today. That’s why there’s so much confusion today and so many lies preached in the name of Christ. I’ll guarantee you, at the resurrection Jesus is going to say to all these great, famous preachers in the world who preached a lawless grace in the name of Christ, they’re going to say, ‘Lord, Lord, we did this, we did that, we did the other thing. Millions were converted to you because of me.’ Christ is going to say, ‘Who are you? I never knew you. Depart from Me you that work lawlessness.’

Jude wrote of them to the true brethren, saying, Jude 3: “Beloved, when personally exerting all *my* diligence to write to you concerning the common salvation, **I was compelled to write to you, exhorting you to fervently fight for the faith, which once for all time has been delivered to the saints.**”

That is a key verse because it means that the faith that Jesus delivered and inspired His apostles to write when John canonized the New Testament, there was nothing to be added to it. What does that mean? *That means every myth and tradition that men have added to the Word of God to create their own religion is null and void before God!* Men may love it. The world may accept it, but God has made it null and void. What we’re dealing with, with the Word of God is this:

- God is absolute
- God is sole Sovereign
- Jesus Christ is sole High Priest—*no man*
- His Word of God is absolute, sovereign and *will judge you in the last day*

That’s how you need to think of it. If you think of it any other way, you’re going to be deluded and deceived.

Verse 4: “For certain men have **stealthily crept in**...” They sneak in to subvert! Whose authority are they under? *Under the authority of Satan the devil!* You’re either under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ or you’re under the authority of Satan the devil. If you sneak in stealthily to bring in blasphemies and speak evil against the Truth, *you’re an agent of Satan the devil.*

“...those who long ago have been written about, condemning *them* to this judgment...” (v 4). God gave the warnings over and over and over again.

“...*They are* ungodly men...” (v 4). They’re not from God. They don’t know any Truth. They may appear to be pious. They may appear to be righteous. They may wear long robes and have great titles, but they’re ungodly men.

“...who are perverting the grace of our God, *turning it* into licentiousness, and are personally **denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ**” (v 4).

This may be a short epistle, but it’s a pretty powerful epistle! When he was writing this, in the days that he wrote it, they were having something very similar to what we are facing today in the end-time. That’s why it’s prophetic for us today. Then he talks about saving the children of Israel out of Egypt, the angels who rebelled and Sodom and Gomorrah. Then he talks about how he equates what Cain did:

Verse 11: “Woe to them! For they have walked in the **way of Cain**...” That is a ‘religious’ system based on the same philosophy as Cain: *whatever we devise in our hearts*—which are pagan, satanic, myths—*we sanctify*. The greatest church that has done that did exactly the same as Cain. They killed those who were righteous before God and it’s called the Roman Catholic Inquisition. That’s the *way of Cain*, under the authority of Satan the devil and killing those who are righteous. That’s the way the world is!

“...and for gain... [yes, they charge for everything] ...they have wholly given themselves up to Balaam’s delusion... [that has to do with the Holy Days of God and the holidays of this world] ...and have perished in the rebellion of Korah. **These are subversive stains in your love feasts**... [they snuck unto the church] **...feasting in person together with you**; fearlessly they are feeding themselves....” (vs 11-12).

I personally experienced this within the Church of God, myself. I have seen it happen within the Church of God today. That’s why this is prophetic.

What does that prove? *That proves that God is ‘the same yesterday, today and forever’ and what Cain did has followed right down unto our day!* There are people who have a ‘way of Cain,’ which is wholly under the authority of Satan the devil even though they take the name of God.

“...*They are* clouds without water, being driven by the winds; trees of late autumn, without any fruit, uprooted, twice dead; raging waves of the sea, casting up like foam their own *ignominious* shame; **wandering stars**... [showing it’s the satanic powers behind it] **...for whom has been reserved the blackest darkness forever!**” (vs 12-13). Those are pretty strong words.

What we need to understand is that **God means business!** God has a plan that He’s carrying out. That plan is preserved in His Holy Days, which everyone rejects and that’s why they don’t understand what God is doing. They say, ‘Oh, what

is God doing?’ They don’t know. They can guess. They may have a step or two right.

- What is God doing?
- How is He doing it?
- What is His plan?
- How is He going to carry it out?

You can only know if you come under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Let’s see the end result of the *way of Cain*, with a few righteous in there. Let’s understand something, Jesus said that ‘as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.’ *Exactly!*

Here is the end result. When you have all the population that they had then and you think about the population we have now; we’re approaching 8 or 9-billion people. By the time Christ returns, how many will there be? Remember, when you reach a multiplicity and things begin to multiply on an expedient level, within 15 years we could have 12-billion people on the earth, in spite of how many ever are killed by war, plague, sickness and disease. If you don’t believe that this is true, channel surf all 200 channels on your direct television.

Genesis 6:5: “And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man **was great** on the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil **continually**.” In the Hebrew, that means *the whole imagination*, which means that *the imagination but also the purposes and intent*.

Man is so mixed up about Who and what God is, about who and what government is—which is the heart and core of the message of the Kingdom of God—that *they’re going to destroy themselves*. Unless Christ returns it says that ‘all flesh would be exterminated.’ Just like here in Genesis.

What did God do because of what they did? Yes, there was Noah who found grace. He and his family and the animals that God sent to him to go in the ark.

Verse 11: “Now the earth also was corrupt before God, and **the earth was filled with violence**.” I turned on the news and what did I find? *At least six new murders that made the network news!* That doesn’t tell you how many murders occurred just in the United States or anywhere else in the world:

- the corruption
- the thievery
- the adultery
- the fornication
- the homosexuality
- the cast away babies

When Christ returns, He's going to 'shake the heaven, the earth, the seas and everything.'

Just stop and think about if for a minute. When I heard the news that the Iranians are digging huge tunnels, as much as a half-mile beneath the surface of the earth, I thought to myself, 'I wonder what they're going to do when God cause the great earthquake and they're stuck a half-mile below the surface of the earth. How smart, intelligent and powerful will they think themselves to be at that point? No one is going to mock God and get away with it.

Verse 12: "And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt—for **all flesh had corrupted its way**... [God's way] ...upon the earth." That's what they're doing today.

The movement is running afoot in the United States, as well as other countries, to get rid of any mention of God. Why would God allow that to be? **Because no one stood for the Truth! That's why!**

Do you stand for the Truth? **or** Do you stand for a cause? If you stand for a cause—like trying to retain the Ten Commandment monuments, but you don't believe them and you don't live by them—God is going to take it away from you. If you don't honor God in your heart, in your mind and in your thoughts, God is going to take away any ability to publicly acknowledge Him, because it's hypocritical since you won't obey Him.

That's where we are today. That's what the world is like today. That's why, just like God saved Noah and his family, **God is calling you out of this world!**

- Will you come out of this world?
- Will you come out of the Babylon the Great? (Rev. 17 and 18)
- What will you do?
- Will you repent of you sins and follow God?

or

- Are you going to ignore God, like the song for the fool?

That's the way that most people conduct their lives in the world today.

- Will you be wise in Christ and repent?
- What is it that you want in your life?

Just like it was then, v 13: "And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them. And, behold, I will destroy them *with* the earth.'" God made a promise and covenant to Noah that He would never do it with a flood. Let me guarantee you, when

Christ returns what is going to happen is going to make the Flood look like tiddlywinks.

If you believe in a weak 'sycophant' long-haired Jesus Who couldn't even fight His way out of a broken, open, wet, paper bag and you think that that kind of a Savior is going to return, you got another thought coming. He is the Almighty God, and He's going to come in power and glory. **If it weren't for God's mercy, He would destroy the whole earth**, all because people put themselves under the authority of Satan rather than God. Those are the choices that God gives every one of us:

- What will you do?
 - Will you continue in your deception?
- or**
- Will you allow the scales of your eyes to be lifted **to see**:
 - ✓ the Truth?
 - ✓ repent?
 - ✓ put yourself under the authority of God?
 - ✓ bury your old life in baptism?
 - ✓ receive the Spirit of God to 'walk in newness of life'?

The whole Bible is filled with this question: **Whose authority are you under: Satan's? or God's?**

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Timothy 3:13-17
- 2) 2-Timothy 4:1-4
- 3) 2-Peter 1:12-21
- 4) John 5:30, 19-20
- 5) Genesis 3:22-24
- 6) Genesis 4:3-14
- 7) Jude 3-4, 11-13
- 8) Genesis 6:5, 11-13

Scriptures referenced, not quoted: Rev. 3; 17; 18

Also referenced:

Sermons:

- *Laws of Moses Without the Veil* #s 1 & 2
- *What Would the World Be Like if Adam and Eve Had Not Sinned?*

From: *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

- Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?
- Appendix N: Rome's Challenge to the Protestants

Book: *Josephus*

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Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority? IV

Fred R. Coulter

Every human being in the world is under one of two authorities; you're either:

1. under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ, live by the Bible and keep His Holy Days

or

2. under the authority of Satan the devil and his demons, you're part of the world and keep the holidays of this world

There are a few folks in between, but one way or the other they're going to have to choose as time goes on.

Let's understand something very important concerning the holidays and Holy Days question. Many people do not understand why God did all the plagues that He did in Egypt, before He brought the children of Israel out from captivity.

Here's something that most people fail to recognize or understand: **God will choose your judgment!** God chose pharaoh and raised him up in great power. Remember that pharaoh represented 'god in the flesh,' the representative of the sun-god, symbolized by the serpent as you see on the crowns of many of the mummies of the kings of Egypt. By the way, they're still dead.

Romans 9:17: "For the Scripture said to Pharaoh, '**For this very purpose I raised you up in order that I might show in you My power...**'" That's why God lets the wicked *prosper*. That's why God lets the wicked *conquer*. So *they can think and Satan can believe* that eventually he'll overthrow God.

"**...so that My name may be declared in all the earth**" (v 17). The only way that's going to be done is in the written Word of God. Has that happened? *Of course it did!* Every year guess what we do? *We go back and we review the battle between Moses and Aaron and Pharaoh and the magicians of Egypt and all the plagues that took place there!*

We won't go through all of them except to say, every one of these plagues or signs had to do with some of the gods of Egypt, even the three days of darkness. Remember that the three days of darkness was so heavy and thick that they could feel it; they couldn't see. One of their gods was the 'god of darkness.' Of course, the firstborn was the one that went into the elite hierarchy of the government and religion of Egypt. Plus, they had all:

- the statues
- the idols
- the writings

- the drawings
- the murals
- the temples everywhere

—serving and worshipping Satan and his demons. They were totally under the authority of Satan the devil. This is why God says throughout the Bible through the Prophets and even clear into Rev. 11, don't go back to Egypt. Rev. 11 says that 'Jerusalem is like Egypt and Sodom.' So, I'm not going to visit Jerusalem until I come down with Christ. You read the book of Luke it says, 'those without, don't go in.' I'm not going in! Why did God do this? **To show that He's God! To show that He is over every god!**

The first lesson of the Passover, and this is why Christians are to keep the Christian Passover... {note book: *The Christian Passover*} I want you to know something about the Passover, because **the Passover is the most important Feast day of God!**

Satan the devil has tried to confuse it with so many contradicting beliefs and lies to discourage people from doing so. Because the Jews are not in covenant with God, they do not keep a 14th Passover. They cannot keep a 14th Passover until they accept Jesus Christ.

Let's understand something concerning the Passover and why it's so important. Exo. 12 is the instructions on the lamb:

- what to do with it
- where to put the blood
- how to cook it
- roast it

Exodus 12:11—here is the summary of it: "And this is the way you shall eat it: *with* your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in trepidation. It is the LORD'S Passover, For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast... [primary reason]: ...And **I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt...**" (vs 11-12)—which had all the known pagan gods of the world represented there. This is a judgment against *every*:

- religion
- false god
- idol
- statue
- image
- picture
- temple
- priesthood

God has already executed His judgment against it.

“...**I am the LORD**... [then He says that the way that you’re going to escape is]: ...And the **blood shall be a sign** to you upon the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will **pass over** you. And the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be a memorial to you. And you shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it a feast as a law forever” (vs 12-14).

The long and the short of it is that God has judged all the gods of this world who are under the authority of Satan the devil or any newly created gods from that time down to this, under the authority of Satan the devil, **He has already judged them!**

We’re going to see today some important things concerning it. We’re going to see why God *will not and cannot at any time anywhere* in history accept any of the practices of the gods of this world as part of worship toward Him. Satan comes along and makes it all:

- nice
- glitzy
- glamour
- fun
- excitement

and you get the opportunity:

- to lie to your children
- to lie to yourself
- to have ceremonies
- to have rituals
- to have pageantry
- to have popes
- to have cardinals
- to have Dahlia Lamas
- to have imams
- to have whatever you want to heap to yourself

God allows you to do that and *you are under the authority of Satan the devil* and not under the authority of God. That’s why He judged it this way. That’s why He took His time judging Pharaoh and Egypt. Pharaoh being a type of Satan could not repent. Pharaoh would harden his heart and then God would harden it.

What is the first, foremost and primary command of God? As we have already covered, **if you judge the Law of God, you are judging God and you are sitting in the seat of God!** When people come along and bring a false Christianity with a false Christ and have all kinds of ideas and things about how to worship God, guess what? *They never have the right God and they never do it on the right day because God will not allow it!* Maybe for a while, but God’s judgment is coming unless they

repent. We’ve all seen the experience of that. This is why most people, when they look at religion, get so confused.

Exodus 20:1: “And God spoke all these words, saying.” Remember, He was on top of Mt. Sinai and He had come down there in person to speak to the children of Israel and these are the Words of God.

Verse 2: “I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **You shall have no other gods before Me**” (vs 2-3). There it is, it can’t be any clearer.

What we’re going to do today is we’re going to see how that God judges all of those who change the true worship of God, which the religion of Moses is not Judaism, never has been. Judaism has its own peculiar problems; their idol is *the law*. In order to support their idol, they create thousands and thousands of laws. You need the *Code of Jewish Law* by Solomon Ganzfried and Hyman E. Goldin {amazon.com}

You cannot understand the Epistles of Paul unless you understand the *Code of Jewish Law*. You cannot understand Jesus’ statements that *their traditions* have rejected and nullified the commandments of God. In the name of law **they have buried the Law of God, because they have rejected Jesus Christ!** Some people don’t like that. Some people may say that’s anti-Semitism, but it is a fact that that occurred to the majority of Jews. However, the first ones that Jesus will save are the very ones that crucified Him. If anybody wants to get all ‘hoity-toity’ about anti-Judaism, you cannot use that phrase to take away a fact of history.

Let’s go on with the next commandment. We won’t go through all of them, but just this one here.

Verse 4: “You shall not make for yourselves any graven image, or any likeness of *anything* that is in the heavens above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the waters under the earth. **You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them**, for I, the LORD your God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments” (vs 4-6).

This whole second commandment is profound and important. Remember the last sentence here: “...showing mercy to thousands of those who live Me and keep My commandments.” That is New Testament doctrine.

John 14:15: “If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments”—New Testament doctrine.

How did it happen that the greatest ‘Christian religion’ on earth today that calls itself ‘Christian’ can be so filled with idols? *Because it’s not Christian!* It is totally pagan and is filled with other gods. The whole hierarchal structure of that church centered in Rome is not of God, though they claim that it is. You need to understand it.

Here’s the principle: ***God defines the terms on how you come to Him and how you worship Him!*** No man defines the terms on how they’re going to approach God. What did Jesus say? *No one can come to Me unless the Father draw him! No one can come to the Father except through Me!* This is why, brethren, it is good to memorize certain basic Scriptures:

- Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever
- I, the Lord, do not change

When we go back to the Old Testament, see what happened there and see God’s reaction to it, we’ll understand that God is the same today as He was then; only it’s far more particular than it ever was in the Old Testament because you cannot approach God in a relationship way without the Spirit of God. You cannot receive the Spirit of God until you repent and are baptized; *‘if you don’t have the Spirit of God, you’re none of His.’*

All the false preachers like to have the ‘fudge factor’ on that and say, ‘God is love and God loves me. I take His grace. I appropriate the name of Christ. I appropriate the blood of Jesus Christ.’ I’m here to tell you one thing: ***No man can appropriate anything from God. He must impute it to you upon repentance!***

2-Corinthians 6:14: ***“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.*** For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common?...” Lawlessness may even have some law in it, but laws that are contrary to God. Lawlessness is against God’s Law. That’s why those who are against Sabbath-keeping have some of God’s Law, but remember, since they only take some of it they don’t have all of it; so, even using the Law of God, they have created their own version of lawlessness and it is not of God.

{note book: *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight, and understand the message about lawlessness}. ‘What do righteousness and lawlessness have in common?’ *Nothing!* What is the righteousness that we have had imputed to us? *The righteousness of God!*

“...And what fellowship *does* light have with darkness? And what union *does* Christ have with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer have with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols?... [it is a temple of God, being you and idols] ...***For you are a temple of the living God...***” (vs 14-16). God has something

greater than any idols, statues and works of art that men can do; *His Spirit in you!* That’s greater! That’s a greater work!

“...exactly as God said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ***Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate...***” (vs 16-17). Is that what did with Israel? *Yes, He took them out of Egypt!* The only problem that we’ll see is, they took Egypt *in their hearts* with them. That’s why we need to come out.

How many people who have been in the Church of God sat there and listened to sermons which were not sermons—I don’t know what you call them, because they never taught the Truth in the way that it should be taught—and then comes along someone with a false doctrine and they fall for it ‘hook, line and sinker’? In order for that to be done, there has to first be put confusion in the minds and hearts of the people. Those who know the Truth will stand for the Truth and they’re going to wonder what’s going on. Those who don’t know the Truth will say, ‘Well, we got to listen to both sides.’

Remember when the booklet came about the nature of God? Someone brought it to me and said, ‘What do you think?’ I said, ‘This is confusion so that you will choose the trinity.’ That’s exactly what it was. A lot of people couldn’t see through it because they weren’t grounded enough in the laws and commandments of God and they didn’t exercise the Spirit of God in them. So, God made a judgment and took them away, because God has already judged all the gods of this world. All the gods of this world are identified by:

- different days
- different laws
- idols
- statues

In the case of Judaism, they have half the story and reject the other half.

I tell you this, we’ll put it in simple terms: If you had a lotto ticket and you won the ‘hardball’ lotto of \$200-million, you went to claim it and you only presented half of the ticket, will they pay you? *Of course not!* You can’t have:

- half of God
- half of His Word
- some of His Word
- your own theology
- your own ideas

and come to God and say, ‘Here I am.’ God will say, ‘Who are you?’

This will help us understand more about the calling of God and why it’s important. There are too

many people that play religion and play the politics of religion.

Verse 17: “Therefore, **come out from the midst of them and be separate,**’ says *the* Lord, ‘and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; and I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says *the* Lord Almighty” (vs 17-18).

- Isn’t that better than having a religion?
- Isn’t that better and having a church building filled with idols and burning candles?

Christ in you, there can’t be anything greater than that.

Exo. 23—here is the Sabbath and the Sabbath is a test commandment. There are two test commandments:

1. the Sabbath
2. idols

Exodus 23:12: “Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your handmaid, and **the stranger**, may be rejuvenated.” When Gentiles come along and say, ‘Oh, we don’t have to keep the Sabbath. That’s Jewish.’

- What did God say?
- Who is ‘the stranger?’

Then you read Isa. 58 and 56, they keep the Sabbath.

Verse 13: “And be watchful in all that I have said to you. And make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of your mouth.” He knew that they were in Egypt long enough that that’s all they knew.

Then He gives the Feast Days—‘holidays’ *or* Holy Days. Here are **the Holy Days of God**. Just a brief summary, which is before the institution of the tabernacle and the animal sacrifices therewith.

Verse 14: “You shall keep a Feast unto **Me** three times 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. And no one shall appear before Me empty. Also, the **Feast of the Harvest of the Firstfruits**... [another name of the Feast of Pentecost] ...of your labors, which you have sown in the field. And the **Feast of Ingathering**... [the Feast Tabernacles and Last Great Day] ...in the end of the year, when you have gathered in your labors out of the field. Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD” (vs 14-17).

Come on down and it talks a little bit about some of the sacrifices there. If you have a concordance or you have a computer, look up all the places where it says *gods*—little ‘g.’

Verse 24: “You shall not bow down to **their gods**...” Every time you go into a cathedral and do the genuflect, you’re bowing down to their gods. Every time you bow down when the priest gives his ‘mumbo-jumbo,’ you’re bowing down to other gods.

“...nor serve them. And you shall not do according to their works. But **you shall surely tear them down, and surely you shall smash their standing images**. And you shall serve the LORD your God, and He shall bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you” (vs 24-25). Why is there a lot of sickness in the world. It’s not just what they eat alone, but what they worship and who they serve. It’s very important.

Living at the end of the age we have a lot of weaknesses and sicknesses because of weak bodies, lack of knowledge, poor food, etc., and because we lived in the world and served other gods. God has called us out of that.

Here’s a covenant that God made with them, Exodus 24:3: “And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the words which the LORD has said, **we will do.**’”

This is when they entered into covenant with God. This was the marriage ceremony that took place. They had the burnt offerings, peace offerings and Moses took the blood and sprinkled some on the people and some on the Book of the Law and after that they said:

Verse 7: “...All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.”

Let’s understand something about a covenant: When you make a covenant with God, it cannot be broken without severe penalty. A covenant with God cannot be reneged. In the New Testament, if you go back on God and commit the unpardonable sin, you have no recourse. With this covenant that He made with the people, He gave them the blessings for obedience and the cursing for disobedience. The covenant was established. It was made.

Exo. 31 becomes a very important sequence of events. The way the Bible is laid out is that’s it’s laid out with lessons for us and the order in which things have been laid out also show the lessons for us in the order of the events. This becomes very, very important and we’re going to see the comparison. A lot of this we already know.

Exodus 31:12: “And the LORD spoke to Moses saying.” Let’s just clear up one matter, here, too. The law that Moses gave *was not* Moses’ law. ***It was the Law of God that Moses gave!*** Everywhere that Moses spoke, *God spoke*.

Verse 13: “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, ‘Truly you shall keep **My Sabbaths**...’” That’s His Holy Days, *plural*. Not one Sabbath; it includes *all* of them:

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Atonement
- Tabernacles
- Last Great Day

If you haven’t heard those words before and that sounds strange to you, please understand that the holidays you keep sound strange to those who keep the *true* Holy Days of God.

He said, “...Truly you shall keep **My Sabbaths**...” What does God require? *His authority and His way!*

“...for **it**... [refers to the keeping of the Sabbaths; the act of keeping the Sabbaths...]: ...*is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations to know that I am the LORD Who sanctifies you*” (v 13).

1-John 2:3: “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.” God is the same in the book of Exodus as He is in the Epistle of 1-John, written by the apostle of love: John. *No question about it! If you don’t keep His days, guess what? You don’t know God!* You may use His name, you may even use the Bible, but ***you don’t know God!***

Matthew 7:22: “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?’ And then I will confess to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness’” (vs 22-23).

That’s what people don’t understand, that the Bible—Old Testament and New Testament—is one unit. If you want to get rid of the Old Testament, then you have to also cut out up to one-third or one-half of the New Testament, because those are quotes from the Old Testament. How would your Bible look after that? *It would be ‘holey’ in a different way—filled with holes!* Also, it tells you that you are not sanctified by God.

The truth is if you have not repented, have been baptized, received the Holy Spirit of God and

keep the Christian Passover, you are not sanctified by God. Stop and think, those of you who have: When people quit keeping the Passover and Holy Days of God, what happens? *They lose all knowledge!* A living testimony that God’s way is always true.

Then He says, keep the Sabbath. Why do we need the Sabbath every week? *Because we’re being taught of God and that’s the appointed time that He has set!* Yes, we do rest, we don’t do our labors, but with God’s Spirit and God’s Word *He teaches us*. You’re being taught of God by studying His Word. Every minister who teaches and preaches needs to understand that he’s just like Moses. *You better preach the Word of God because God is going to hold him accountable for teaching anything else!* Those who hear and listen are accountable to God to prove and make sure that what is being taught is right. That’s why when we have services, we have our Bibles in front of us.

Verse 16: “Therefore, the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations **as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever;** for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed” (vs 16-17)

Exo. 32 is a great instructive chapter. There are many, many things we can get out of it. What I think is profound is the contents of it; right after giving the commandment here, concerning the Sabbath, to end everything that God instructed Moses when he was up there on the mountain: all about how to make the tabernacle, how to do all the priest things, etc. He ended it with the Sabbath, the sign, and so forth. *We have what most people do with the Word of God!*

(go to the next track)

With the background of what we’ve covered so far, and especially what we just read in Exo. 31, let’s read major parts of Exo. 32. Right here at the very beginning God makes it abundantly clear that ***you shall not combine*** the worship of God with the worship of other gods. It’s very important that if God accepted the worship of other gods in worshipping Him, then He would be a hypocrite because He said, ‘You shall have no other gods before Me.’ He would be joining them and they would be god and not Him.

The reason people can’t understand it is because they don’t have their spiritual thinking caps on right, if we can use that as an analogy.

Exodus 32:1: “And when the people saw that **Moses delayed to come down from the mountain**... [they couldn’t wait] ...then the people

gathered themselves to Aaron...” Who is Aaron? *The priest of God!* The priestly family would only come through the line of Aaron.

Who does Satan want to corrupt if he can? *The leaders and to placate the people!* I don’t know how much this was akin to a riot or akin to just a meeting, but notice what they said.

“...and they said to him... [came to Aaron] ...‘Up! **Make us gods...**’” (v 1); breaking the first commandment immediately and the second one. They came out of Egypt, but Egypt had not yet come out of them. It’s just like with us. We may come out of the world but how much of the world has come out of you? Same thing! This is so loaded with things and so instructive for us.

“...‘Up! **Make us gods**, which shall go before us, for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him’” (v 1). He was up there 40 days. They couldn’t wait. What was Aaron’s responsibility? *He should have said, ‘Moses is up there and undoubtedly he has a lot of business and writings with God, and he will be here shortly. Wait on God!’* He didn’t do that.

This is also a prophecy of the corruption that the Aaronic priesthood would exhibit down through history. This was also a prophecy as to why the Aaronic priesthood had to be replaced with the priesthood of Christ. To have a true priesthood you need someone who is incorruptible. That’s why Christ is our High Priest, no one else. That’s why God does not allow a man between you and Him. Carnal nature always wants to have a man between them and God, so that when the going gets tough, you can blame the man. A lot of lessons here!

Verse 2: “And Aaron said to them... [he said the wrong thing] ...‘Break off the golden earrings which *are* in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring *them* to me.’ And all the people broke off the golden earrings, which were in their ears, and brought *them* to Aaron...” (vs 2-3).

Of course, they were loaded down because the Egyptians said, ‘Here, take it! Get out of here!’ They got rid of all of the idols, the little trinkets and idols and good luck charms that were made out of gold, and so forth and gave it to them. They were loaded down. They brought them.

Verse 4: “And he took *them* from their hand, and fashioned it with an engraving tool, and **made a molten calf**. And they said, ‘These *are* your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.’” We’re going to see a repeat of this about 500 years later. Were those the gods that brought the children of Israel out of Egypt? *No!*

What did they have to lead them by day? *A cloud and a pillar of fire by night!* **God was there!**

Verse 5: “And when Aaron saw *the calf*, he built an altar before it.... [we need to understand something very profound in this lesson]: ...And Aaron made a proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow is a **Feast to the LORD**.’” The combining of the worship of God with the gods of Egypt that God had already judged and *say* that it’s ‘unto the Lord.’

- Can you think of some things today that people say and do?
- What do they call it? *The Lord’s Day, Sunday!*

That’s an invention of men and serving other gods. Sunday is the worship of the sun-god. If you go to church on Sunday—it doesn’t matter if you’re Catholic, Protestant or otherwise—and say, ‘This is a feast unto the Lord,’ you’re doing exactly the same sin that Aaron did when he made the molten calf and said, ‘This is a feast unto the Lord.’ ***It’s not a feast unto the Lord because God didn’t say it was a feast unto the Lord.*** Most people, because:

- they have a good idea
- they feel good
- it looks good
- it sounds good
- it please the majority of people

Then they go along with it.

Verse 6: “And they rose up early on the next morning, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play”—having a sex orgy.

If you want a modern day equivalent of this, think of Woodstock. Didn’t they do that to *other gods*? We are free! Every time you see a rock concert, you’re looking at what this was. You know what happened. This is interesting. Whenever the people do well, they are God’s people. Whenever they don’t do well, they’re Moses’ people.

Verse 7: “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go! Get you down, for **your people**, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*. They have turned aside quickly out of the way, which **I commanded them...**’” (v 7-8). Here’s a feast day that God didn’t command.

- What did God command?
- What did we already see?
- *Sabbath!*

If you keep the Sabbath, you’re under God’s authority!

- Holy Days

If you keep the Holy Days the way God wants them kept, you’re under the authority of God!

“...They have made them a **molten calf**...” (v 8). That is a bull and the bull had two horns. In between the two horns was a round golden disc—in this case pure gold—signifying the sun-god.

I don't know what day this was on. I don't know if it was on a Sunday that it happened to be, or whatever. Whenever you go to church on Sunday, you're worshipping the sun-god. Though it has the name Jesus Christ on there, it has no compatibility with God or the Bible, even though they may read some things of the Bible. We'll see this a little later concerning even false prophets that God didn't send.

“...and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, “These *are* your gods, O Israel, who have brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” And the LORD said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, and behold, **it is a stiff-necked people**’” (vs 8-9)—rebellious!

It says, ‘a disobedient and contradicting people’ (Rom. 10:21). What does that mean? *We want the Lord. We want the name of the Lord but Lord, we're going to do it our way.* Didn't that happen with 9/11? ‘Oh! Why did this happen?’ All patriotic, God bless America and that's all you heard and they continued right on the way that they were doing: “...a stiff-necked people.”

Verse 10: “And now leave Me alone, so that My wrath may burn hot against them and that I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.” God can still do it with one man if He wanted to.

Moses intervened. Moses told God, ‘Please don't do this. Remember Your promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Please don't do it.’ So, the Lord said He wouldn't do it (v 14). Moses came down carrying the Ten Commandments and he heard all this noise. Joshua was there with him.

Verse 19: “And it came to pass, as soon as he came near to the camp and saw the calf and dancing, then Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands, and broke them at the bottom of the mountain.” That is also symbolic from this point of view: ***You cannot combine the worship of God and the Ten Commandments with the worship of pagan gods.***

Verse 20: “And he took the calf, which they had made and burned *it* in the fire, and pulverized *it* to powder, and scattered *it* upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink *of it*. And Moses said to Aaron, ‘**What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?**’” (vs 20-21).

Let's stop and think about this a minute. Most people don't understand that it's sin if you try and combine a pagan worship, do it in the name of

God and say you're worshipping God, ***it is sin! No doubt about it!***

Aaron had his excuse. While I'm reading this, I want you to think about what happened in the Garden of Eden. God said to Adam, ‘Why'd you do this?’ Adam said, ‘The woman you gave me.’ The woman said, ‘It was the serpent that got in the Garden.’ Notice the same rationale here.

Verse 22: “And Aaron said, ‘Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. **You know the people, that they are set on mischief**, for they said to me, “Make us gods who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” And I said to them, “Whoever has any gold, let them break *it* off.” And they gave it to me, and **I threw it into the fire, and there came out this calf**’” (vs 22-24). I didn't have anything to do with it. It just leaped out here. A miracle!

Verse 25: “And when Moses saw that the people were naked (for Aaron had made them naked to *their* shame among their enemies).”

We'll summarize this story: Moses said, ‘Everyone who is on God's side get over here.’ Then he told the Levites, ‘You get your sword and you go out and you utterly slay everyone.’ So, 3,000 people fell that day.

Verse 30: “And it came to pass on the next day, Moses said to the people, ‘**You have sinned a great sin.**’” Let me just be very straightforward. If you keep:

- Halloween
- Christmas
- Easter
- New Years
- any of the other feast of Christendom

You are sinning a great sin!

- If you bow down to any idol, ***you're sinning a great sin!***
- If you go into a cathedral filled with idols, you are surrounded with sin, ***you're under the authority of Satan the devil and his demons!***

You're not under the authority of God, regardless of what the priest, pastor, pope, cardinal, bishop or imam may say; ***it's a great sin!*** We're going to see some other things, here, as we go along. What we need to understand is that nowhere in the Bible does is sanctify:

- Sunday worship
- Christmas worship
- Easter sunrise services
- any of the pagan days

Period!

If God desired to change the day from Sabbath to Sunday, that is, from Saturday to Sunday in today's modern lingo, He would have to have a command that would have to go something like this:

You have heard it said in old time, 'You shall remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy,' but **I** say to you, 'You shall not keep the seventh day, but you shall keep the first day.'

I will offer anyone a million dollar reward if they can show me that command, that way in the Bible. I have no fear that I will have to pay it, because it's not there.

All the other excuses and things that people use, the first thing that's going to happen, you run up to your minister and say, 'Oh! Did you know that the seventh-day Sabbath, Saturday, is the day we ought to worship on?' He says, 'Yes, but we do it on Sunday; God knows my heart.' *Yes, it's **deceitful above all things!** Keep every day holy. God didn't make every day Holy; He commanded you to work six days.*

The Jehovah Witnesses say, 'We keep every day holy.' *Nonsense!* You can't do it, because God didn't make them Holy. There's only one day that God made Holy and the annual Holy Days He gave, He made those Holy. He didn't make six days of the week Holy. You cannot keep them Holy. You:

- sit in the seat of God
- judge God
- condemn God
- make yourself more righteous than Him
- say that you know more than God

Some people are not going to like what I have to say. I'm not here to entertain people and please people. If you want to find God and know about His Word, I'll tell you about it. If you don't want that, then you can go to another website. It's that simple.

Let's see what else happens. The way that you introduce heresy is through a feast. How is the forty days of the fast of Lent introduced? *With Mardi Gras!* So, you can debauch and be licentious in every one of your activities, that is on 'Fat' Tuesday. Then on Wednesday, which is 'Ash Wednesday,' people go into their cathedrals—I saw this on John Kerry's forehead during the election. He had the ashes put on his forehead in the form of a cross. *That's not from God! It's nowhere in the Bible, nowhere in the Bible!* You have to have a feast. Why? *Because there's music, there's dancing and it's fun and it appeals to carnal nature!*

Num. 25—this is the council of Balaam, who couldn't curse the children of Israel, but he taught Balak to teach the children of Israel to

commit fornication, sexual immorality. So, they had a 'religious feast.'

Numbers 25:1: "And Israel dwelt in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab." The first thing that people do to get you compromised is to bring illicit sex. I want you to think about what has been done in the societies in the Western culture—sex education in school down to the kindergarten level where they're even teaching acceptance of homosexual behavior. Satan knows that when you introduce sex at an early age you corrupt the mind, emotion and the psyche of that individual *permanently!* Only the true forgiveness of God through the blood of Jesus Christ can clean that up. This is why Satan does it.

Verse 2: "And they called the people to the **sacrifices of their gods...**" 'Oh, don't worry about it. These gods won't hurt you. They're fine. We've been doing this for a long time. Besides, smell the food, look at the women; what more would you want?' You put that on ESPN and you have everybody filling the stadium.

"...And the people ate and **bowed down to their gods.** And Israel joined himself to Baal Peor" (vs 2-3). Now, Baal is the sun-god. We're going to see a lot about Baal as we go along. The sun-god has all of *his feast days*: spring feast days, winter feast days, fall feast days.

"...And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Take all the heads of the people and impale them before the LORD facing the sun...'" (vs 3-4).

- Who was involved?
- Who was leading the charge?
- *The leaders!*

I'll give you an example: former President Bill Clinton said that oral sex is not sex, and he created a plague of oral sex and sexually transmitted diseases among teenagers in America. 'If the President can do it, I can do it.' That's why corrupt the leaders. When a church is infiltrated, corrupted and taken down, what happens? *You get the leaders!* Satan's tactics never change. That's what we need to learn in this. It never changes.

"...so that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.' And Moses said to the judges of Israel, 'Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal Peor'" (vs 4-5).

God will not tolerate of the mixture of pagan religion and pagan gods with His name. That's all they have done with the name of Jesus Christ. Those of us who know the Truth and preach the Truth will be counted as heretics and it will be said that we're preaching heresy. *So be it!*

Verse 6: “And behold, a man of the children of Israel came and brought to his brethren a woman of Midian, in the sight of Moses...” You talk about gall! You talk about absolutely just throwing it in Moses’ face!

“...and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who *were* weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw *it*, he rose up from among the congregation and took a spear in his hand. And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman, through her belly. So, the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. And those that died in the plague were twenty-four thousand” (vs 6-9).

Because God does not come down and bring those kinds of punishments today, people do not take it seriously. He has other punishments that come; they are called sexually transmitted diseases of which there are 60 known. The most recent is an HIV that is resistant to 19 of the 20 drugs and it goes from HIV to full blown AIDS in two to three months. God has another way of handling it.

There’s a blessing for serving God! At that point it was the death penalty. So, God executed them.

Verse 10: “And the LORD spoke to Moses saying, ‘Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned My wrath away from the children of Israel in that he was zealous for My sake among them, so that I did not destroy the children of Israel in My jealousy. Therefore, say, “Behold, I give him My covenant of peace”’” (vs 10-12). A special blessing. Wherever the descendants of Eleazar are today, this blessing is upon them and probably the same characteristic of zeal.

Verse 13: “And he shall have it, and his seed after him, the covenant of an everlasting priesthood because he was zealous for his God and made an atonement for the children of Israel.” That shows you how God honors those who honor Him and are zealous for Him. This shows that *you cannot combine the worship of the true God with the gods of this world.*

We will take sort of a historical overview as we go through. Judges 2 is very instructive. This also is reflective of what happens to people in the second and third generations. I want you to think of this in relationship to the founding of America and all that, as we’re doing this.

Judges 2:1: “And the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, ‘I made you go up out of Egypt, and have brought you into the land which I swore to your fathers. And I said, “I will never break My covenant with you.”’”

Because He won’t break the covenant, there are blessings and cursing. Remember that *half of the promises of God are blessings and half of the promises of God the cursing, or correction for sin!*

Verse 2: “And you shall make no treaty with those who live in this land. You shall throw down their altars.” But **you have not obeyed My voice.** What *is* this that you have done? And I also said, “I will not drive them out from before you, but they shall be thorns in your sides, and **their gods shall be a snare to you**” (vs 2-3). They had to be on watch all the time.

Verse 5: “And they called the name of that place The Place of Weeping. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.”

They all went back to their inheritance and Joshua died at 110 years old (v 8) and they buried him (v 9).

Verse 10: “And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD...” We’ve seen that even within the Church. They grew up in the Church but they don’t know God.

“...nor even the works which He had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim” (vs 10-11). Baal is the sun-god and Baalim is many gods of Baalim:

- How does God view sun-worship?
- What does He say?
- *It’s evil!*

Verse 12: “**And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers,** Who brought them out of the land of Egypt. And they followed other gods, even the gods of the people who were around them, and bowed themselves to them, and provoked the LORD to anger. **And they forsook the LORD and served Baal and Ashtaroth**” (vs 12-13). Now we’re introduced with another god. Ashtaroth is a goddess, the female god.

What is being touted today among the feminist movement? *To worship a goddess—Diana, Ashtaroth, Cybele—all the different names of them!* We have on the website—**cbcg.org**—*The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop and you can draw down from any of the chapters, any of the information regarding the origin of these things.

What happens when people do that? We’re going to face the same thing today. We can be guaranteed this: ***Unless there is a mass, nationwide repentance*** by those who call themselves Christian to forsake Sunday-keeping, Christmas, Easter—all the pagan days—and:

- they repent to God
- accept the true Jesus Christ
- worship God on His day
- repent of their adultery
- repent of all the things that they have done:
 - ✓ their lying
 - ✓ their cheating
 - ✓ their stealing
 - ✓ their gambling
 - ✓ their divorce
 - ✓ their remarriage

This nation is going to go down! That's how serious it is.

This is not a theological argument. The handwriting is already on the wall. The only thing that is holding back the judgment of God is that there is not enough warning messages out there for the people who are sinning to hear it and to understand what's going to happen when it comes. That's the only reason.

Every minister, every elder and every teacher who names the name of Christ, ***had better repent and had better preach repentance*** to their people, to their flock, to those that follow them, that ***God's hand of judgment is coming, and it is going to be swift, powerful and sure, because we have forsaken the God Who:***

- gave us this country
- gave us His laws
- gave us His Bible

Just like the generation here in Judges, that turned its back on God to serve Baalim, this younger generation is going to be called into judgment for:

- all of their fornication
- all of their idolatry
- all of the things that they have committed
 - ✓ rejecting God
 - ✓ worshipping Satan the devil

It is coming and it needs to be said! Some people don't like to hear it because, 'we're all good Americans.' ***Tell that to God! See if He will accept you.***

Brethren, we are living in desperate and terrible times, because most of this nation is under the authority of Satan the devil and not God! **Whose authority are you under?**

Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 9:17
- 2) Exodus 12:11-14
- 3) Exodus 20:1-6
- 4) John 14:15
- 5) 2-Corinthians 6:14-18
- 6) Exodus 23:12-17, 24-25
- 7) Exodus 24:3, 7
- 8) Exodus 31:12-13
- 9) 1-John 2:3
- 10) Matthew 7:22-23
- 11) Exodus 31:16-17
- 12) Exodus 32:1-10, 19-25, 30
- 13) Numbers 25:1-13
- 14) Judges 2:1-3, 5, 10-13

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 11
- Isaiah 58; 56
- Romans 10:21
- Exodus 32:14
- Judges 1:8-9

Also referenced: Books:

- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Solomon Ganzfried and Hyman E. Goldin
- *Primitive Christianity In Crisis* by Alan Knight
- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop

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Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority? V

Fred R. Coulter

Let's continue on where we left off, which is this: *Everyone in the world is under one of two authorities!*

1. you're under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ
—and of course, the angels are there to protect us as ministering spirits, and so forth through the Holy Spirit of God. **OR:**
2. you're under the authority of Satan the devil and his demons who rule this world

There are some few people in between, that have a combination of some Truth and mixture of error. There's another way you can think of it.

What if you had a winning lotto ticket and you won the hardball, \$200-million prize? You scrambled and you found the winning lotto ticket, but unfortunately you only had half of it! You ran up to claim your prize and said: 'I have the number! I have the number!' *Okay, give me your ticket. Why, this is only half of it.* 'But I had all the numbers.' *We don't give the prize on the word of anyone. You either have to have all the numbers or you get nothing.*

Likewise with the Truth of God. If you have a mixture of Truth and error, you will fall into the category of those false prophets who said:

- Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name?
- Didn't we cast out demons in Your name?
- Didn't we, through Your name, do many wonderful works?

And Jesus will say, 'I never knew you! Depart from me you who work iniquity,' because you only had half of it.'

Jesus did not say, 'Man shall live by half the Words of God.' **No!** He said, 'Man shall live by *every* Word of God.' If there are any changes to the Word of God, that's why we have in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets., and Appendix I: A Comparison of the Old and New Covenants, everything that was fulfilled, such as:

- the sacrifices in the priestly ritual by Christ, and His sacrifice *is a superior application of it*
- circumcision of the flesh is superseded by circumcision of the heart, *which is superior to circumcision of the flesh*
- keeping the laws and commandments of God without adding anything to it as defined by God and Jesus Christ, and living

by every Word of God that way *is superior to living by half of it*

The truth of it is that the 'mystery of lawlessness' in the Bible is satanic, and that lawlessness is called lawlessness, because they are against the laws of God in that they incorporate some of them, but again, it's less than half of what God requires. That's why it is the 'mystery of lawlessness.' Satan wants to deceive people into disobeying God, and what better way to deceive people into disobeying God but by having a false christ in the guise of a true Christ and then bring in all the pagan sun-worship doctrines and say it is Christian?

Remember the book that was published some years ago? *Babylon Mystery Religion: Ancient and Modern* by Ralph Woodrow_[transcriber's correction]. The Jesuits got to him and he recanted everything in there. That's why we have *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop on the website: **cbcg.org**

God will not let the Truth be stopped. It doesn't matter what agency of Satan the devil, stops it. If they stop one man, God will raise up another and He has. Richard Rives' book *Too Long in the Sun* shows clearly how everything that came to be known as Orthodox Christendom—I think it should be spelled at the end instead of 'dom,' it should be 'dumb'; or as someone said 'doom'—was wrong, because if you follow that you're not a Christian. A lot of people consider themselves to be Christian.

This book by Richard Rives is *Too Long in the Sun*. Not only does he give a warning about Sunday, Easter, Christmas, Lent and all of these things, but he also promotes the Sabbath **and** the Holy Days. I believe that there is a way for people and organizations to work together without having to worry about stealing disciples, one from another, or stealing the Truth, one from another—after all, doesn't all Truth belong to God?—so that the Gospel can be preached.

That's why you've heard me say and I'll say it again, 'We're happy when anyone anywhere uses any of our publications to teach the people, whether they are in other Churches of God or Sunday-keeping Churches of God. If there are Sunday-keeping Churches of God, I hope and pray that they'll repent!' After all, that's the whole purpose!

Here's a wonderful thing that Jesus did. He said, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.' That's a broad statement. Guess what? *If we're faithful to the Truth, God will lead us in how to do it!* We don't have to say, 'How Lord?'

He gives you the choice! He gives us the choice! You can preach the Gospel by giving different books and things to people you know. You may be surprised what will happen. That's preaching the Gospel.

I think Rives done a good job. He's simplified it. It's meant for brand new people. *The Two Babylons* is meant for people who want to get in and really study the historical details.

Let's look and see under whose authority that Israel put itself. They were under the authority of God after they received the Ten Commandments and were given all the laws and commandments and wandered in the wilderness for forty years because of their sin. They came into the land and the first thing they did was they fell away, and in the third generation they were worshipping Baalim, which is the sun-god, whose days are:

- Sunday
- Easter
- Christmas
- New Years
- Halloween

All of that! ***Those are not from God! Those are not in the Bible!*** You cannot find them there and God has said that He will not give His name to another. God has also said of Israel, ***'How long do you make Me to serve with your sins?'***

Just like we saw with Aaron, the people and the golden calf while Moses was on the Mount. What did they do when they made the bull with the sun-disk between the horns? Remember, the Passover—and that's why the Passover is so important—is ***an absolute judgment and condemnation of all the religion of Egypt, which means all the religions of the world!*** They're under the authority of Satan! *and* God has made that null and void! However, if people want to go out and start blending things together that's their choice, but *they will pay the price!*

Let's look and see what happened; Judges 2 tells us an awful lot. Today we have the same battle with our children, only even more so, because everything in—

- school
- television
- kids games
- cartoons
- movies
- friends
- teachings in school

—is all slated to indoctrinate them into the world of Satan and the world of the occult, whether they're in it a little bit or in it a lot.

{Note book: *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days: Which?*} When you read it, it's going to really blow your mind as to how Satan has really deceived this world.

The book *The Da Vinci Code* has sold over 7-million and the movie is based upon this lie, but it's put in such a way, 'Well, maybe this could be or maybe that could be'; just like every lie that Satan has. You think about all the Harry Potter stuff that is out there. The occult is paving the way for the open worship of Satan the devil, hence, it's paving the way for the coming antichrist. No doubt about it.

Just to give you a little example here: Several of the brethren told me that they live in Montana and they got a call from the local Sheriff's Department saying: 'We would like for you to contribute to our fund for children.' The answer probably is, by most people, 'Oh, yes. How about if I send you \$100?' *Thank you.* Instead of doing that, they said, 'How are you going to use this?' *We want to raise a fund so we can 'chip' all the children in Montana. Won't this be a wonderful thing? Go to cbcg.org and look up the sermons that I've done on the mark of the beast. I'm telling everyone that now's the time to change and repent; now's the time to turn to God because the day is going to come when it's going to be too late to turn to God and you're going to be stuck with no recourse. The people don't like to hear that. That's fear and hellfire and brimstone! Let me tell you something. When Jesus Christ returns and:*

- the heavens roll back as a scroll
- the sign of the Son of Man appears in heaven
- He shakes the heaven, the earth, the sea and everything in it

It's going to make these words that I am saying, though you may be offended in them, look like purring. *It is going to come!* Christ is going to return! Satan is yet to have his final day and it's all buried in the authority of Satan the devil and *his* religions, *his* holidays, *his* feasts that he has foisted off on this world as Christian.

Judges 2:11: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim." Baalim is plural for the singular of Baal—many Baals, because that's what it is. There are many names for the sun-god. You can look it up from our website **cbcg.org** or go to **toolong.com** and get the information from *Too Long in the Sun* by Richard Rives.

God is giving many, *many*, **many** warnings to many people from many different sources. Before Christ returns, not counting what the two witnesses are going to do, there is going to be a warning that God is going to have to give to this world. It's going

to depend basically on how the Churches of God respond to God and accept the responsibility of preaching the Gospel the way that it should be preached as a warning witness to this dying world, that is under the authority of Satan the devil, so that as many as possible can repent. That's what God is interested in!

He does not care about hierarchy. He does not care about ministerial authority. **He cares about the preaching of the Truth of God and the authority of His Word**, and He will prosper it wherever it goes. May it prosper in your life and the lives of those that you're involved in. Only in that way are you going to receive the love of God.

If you combine the Bible with pagan worship, *it is evil!* That's what the Bible says, but people feel good don't they? 'Oh! It's a feast,' as Aaron said as he presented the 'sun-disk bowl' to the children of Israel. 'It's a feast unto the Lord.' Satan always like to disguise himself. Oh, we have a so-called 'holy' pontiff, who sits ex cathedra and whatever he says is the Word of God.

Not if it doesn't agree with what's in the Bible, it's not the Word of God. **Christ has no compatibility with idols of any kind!** All you have to do is watch the ceremonies that go on at the Vatican and you know it is *filled* with idolatry. **Christ is not there!** If you're a dedicated Catholic and you think that what you're doing is good, please ask yourself:

- Have you been deceived by the priests just like the priests and their pedophilia activity deceived the Church for years and now it comes out in the open?
- Have there been other things that they have told me which has deceived me?

They claim to represent God, yet anyone who claims to represent God and does not follow the Words of God **is not from God!** Remember how we saw in 1-Kings 13 that a false prophet came out and talked to the true prophet of God and said, 'I am a prophet of the Lord, too' and enticed the true prophet of God to go against the commands of God? *God had to send a lion to eat him because he disobeyed God!*

We all need to understand that this is not anti-Catholicism; this is not anti-Judaism: Anyone, any organization, any church, any religion anywhere in the world **that does not follow the True Word of God**—as inspired in the *Masoretic Hebrew Text for the Old Testament* or in *The Byzantine Text* for the New Testament, if it does not agree with that and the translations do not agree with it—**they're not from God!** It doesn't matter what they tell you. It doesn't matter the amount of miracles that they may show you. The test is: **'to the Law and to the Testimony, if they speak not according to this Word it's**

because there is no light in them.' If there's no light in them, God didn't send them.

God makes *you* responsible to check and prove the Truth. So, don't get in an emotional angry response at what you hear and think that I am personally attacking you. **No!** I'm like one standing on the street corner and you're ready to step out in front of a speeding car and I tell you, 'Don't go!' and you do go and you're wiped out by the car. I did my part. I told you, 'Don't go!' You didn't do your part because you didn't listen.

- God *requires* you to prove
- God *requires* you to check
- God *requires* that as your own personal responsibility

You cannot palm it off on another man and say:

- the minister made me do it
- the priest made me do it
- the bishop made me do it
- I was just following the pope
- I was just following the Dalai Lama
- I was just following the Mullah

'Yes, I cut off the heads of those people because the Mullah said that in good faith should.' **That's not what God says in the Bible!** It all gets down to *Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority?*

(go to the next track)

What happens when you combine pagan worship with the worship of God?

Judges 2:12: "And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, Who brought them out of the land of Egypt. And **they followed other gods**, even the gods of the people who were around them, **and bowed themselves to them, and provoked the LORD to anger.**"

- Do you want the blessing of God
- or*
- Do you want the anger of God?

You have to choose! If you want the blessing of God, you'll obey Him and follow the true Jesus. **Any other way, you're provoking God!**

Verse 13: "And they forsook the LORD and served Baal and Ashtaroth." Now we're introduced to Ashtaroth to the queen of heaven, which comes by many, many names. You can see that out of the book *The Two Babylons*.

Then what happened? *God had to deliver them into the hands of their enemies!* God sent a judge and rescued them from it. They said, 'Okay, we'll serve God.' So, they did for a while, then they went right back to it. Soon as the judge died,

someone said, 'Hooray! We now have freedom and liberty,' and look what they did:

Verse 19: "And it came to pass when the judge was dead, they returned and made themselves more corrupt than their fathers in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down to them. **They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.**"

God gave them a choice. Just before they went into the 'promised land' God told them, 'See, I've set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore, *choose life that you and your seed may live*; that you may love the Lord, your God and cleave to Him. I give you warning, *if* you go after other gods and serve them, then you will not prolong your days on the land.' We're seeing the same thing here today. Stop and think! Because of sin, beginning with abortion, how many people's days have been cut short because of:

- sin
- death
- accidents
- murder
- suicide
- drugs
- illicit sex

and so forth, because they're under the authority of Satan and his demons and they're not under the authority of God.

We'll just do a quick survey of several verses in the book of Judges. What I want you to understand is that based upon the way that human nature is 'There is a way that seems right to a man and the ends thereof are the ways of death,' and 'all the ways of a man are just in his own eyes.' Therefore, when men come up with schemes to marry together *the way of God* and *the way of Satan*, God calls it evil.

Especially today, since we have the whole Word of God and we can study, know and prove, God holds us responsible for it. If you have a Bible in your house and you don't read it and you don't search for the Truth in it, that's not God's fault; *that's your fault* and God is going to hold you accountable. God is going to hold every man and every woman accountable for how they live their lives. All are going to come before the judgment seat of God. The best way to come before the judgment seat of God is now in repentance so that the judgment is mercy and not death, and that by grace you have forgiveness of your sins. You be baptized and walk in 'newness of life' in the way of God. That's a choice that God sets before you, for every human being.

We're living in a critical age and time especially in America and the time is coming when

God's judgment is going to come upon the whole nation because of the very things that I'm talking about here concerning **by whose authority?** Satan's? *or* God's? Every time the children of Israel combined the worship of the sun with the worship of God, here's what God says:

Judges 3:7: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the Asherim." This is a cycle over and over and over again.

Verse 12: "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD...." He's got to send correction. He's got to send the sword. He's got to send the famine, because those are God's judgments.

Judges 4:1: "And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD when Ehud was dead."

Judges 6:1: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years."

All the way through the book of Judges it is on again and off again, sinning against God, coming back to God, and when a judge would be raised up who was righteous and enforce it for the people. Judges 21:25 is exactly where we are in the world today. Especially with what is called 'post-modernist thinking': *If you have an opinion, it is true because you believe it!*

It's even reflected in the news. We give you the right and the left, and you decide. You can't apply that to God and His way. If you're going to be under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ, it is *God's way* because He's God. It is seeking the Truth, ***not opinions*** about what you read. It's quite different.

Judges 21:25: "In those days *there was* no king in Israel. **Every man did what was right in his own eyes.**"

Then you come to the time of Samuel. Here's a sad case. The Word of God had almost extinguished because of the corrupt priests under Eli, the high priest and his two sons: Phinehas and Hophni. Yes, there can be corrupt religious leaders. Today we have the option of choosing to get away from them.

Then Israel again rejected God and chose a kingship. Their first king was Saul. *Saul did not obey God!* Let's see what he did. God told them, because they had to fight against the enemy, 'Go against Amalek and slay everyone, spare not any; that's My judgment against them.'

Saul and the children of Israel were the army of judgment in God's hands. *They didn't do it!* They

saw the animals, 'My, These are good animals, let's sacrifice it to the Lord.' They didn't kill all of them as they should have, and they took Agag, king of Amalek, alive. He's the one responsible for all the evil that they were doing. That was the one that God said to kill!

When Samuel found out about it and Saul and the Israelites came back to where Samuel was, Samuel said, 'What's this I hear, the lowing of cattle and bleating of sheep.' Saul said, 'The people wanted to take these to offer them to the Lord.' God doesn't need that. Even though he disobeyed God and claimed, 'Oh! I've obeyed the voice of God. I did *almost all of it*—didn't I? Look! The people did this, and I brought Agag alive.'

1-Samuel 15:22: "And Samuel said, 'Does the LORD *have as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD?...'" The simplicity in Christ is to obey the voice of the Lord.

"...Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice! To hearken... [unto God] ...*is* better than the fat of rams, for rebellion... [against the Word of God] ...*is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.* Because you have rejected the Word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king!'" (vs 22-23). We need to make a judgment in our own lives. We need to ask ourselves:

- Will I believe God and His Word
- or**
- Will I reject God?
- if I reject God, God is going to reject me*
- Is that what you want in your life?
 - Whose authority are you under?

Now we come to the time of David. David was made king and 'a man after God's heart' even though he had all of his problems and difficulties that you can read of. His son Solomon was made king in great pomp and ceremony, and David gave charge to Solomon to serve the Lord God of his fathers and to do that which was right in His sight.

Solomon started out as a very young man as king. He sought the Lord so he could judge the people of God righteously and God appeared unto him twice. Because he wanted to make the right judgments concerning God and concerning the people of Israel, he didn't want wealth, riches, all of those things. God gave him wealth and riches. He was the richest man on the face of the earth that has ever been.

Solomon was blessed with the task of building the temple from the plans that God personally gave to his father David, and Solomon built the temple. God came and put His presence in

it. The priests and the Levites were there. God gave the sign of His presence by a cloud coming right into the temple on the day that it was dedicated. Solomon started out in Truth and in righteousness with God's blessing, with everything to make the kingdom of Israel the greatest kingdom on earth, and so it was. ***Then Solomon forsook God!***

Let's see how it happened. He had many choices before him. As king he didn't allow anyone to correct him. He did as he chose to do. Just like he wrote in the Proverbs, 'There is a way that seems right to a man but the ends thereof are the ways of death.' ***He was victim of his own proverb!***

1-Kings 11:1: "And King Solomon loved many foreign women, even the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites" ***Amazing!*** He didn't learn a thing from all of the history through the time of the judges and the time of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness—did he? ***Nope!***

Verse 2: "Of the nations which the LORD had said to the children of Israel, '**You shall not go in to them, and they shall not go in to you; surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.**' *But* Solomon clung to these in love."

With the sex mania that's in the world today, did you know that there are 32-million women who are addicted to online pornography in America? That's not to say the number of men. They teach in our schools sex education from kindergarten. All of that sexuality ***has turned this nation away from God!*** They become addicted to it. They are the slaves of Satan the devil. Just like Solomon was.

Notice what he did, v 3: "And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines.... [Solomon had a sex addiction] ...**And his wives turned away his heart,** for it came to pass when Solomon was old, his wives **turned away his heart after other gods.** And his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God as *was* the heart of David his father, for Solomon went after Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians..." (vs 3-5). That's the 'queen of heaven.'

Today we have that in 'Mary worship' the 'queen of heaven,' who is also called by men a 'co-redemptrix' with Christ and a 'co-mediator' with Christ. ***That's not so!*** The Bible says that 'there's one man Who is Mediator between God and men and that is Jesus Christ.'

- Have you believed lies?
- Do you practice lies?
- Do you do like Solomon and go after the 'queen of heaven'?

“...and after Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites; and **Solomon did evil...**” (vs 5-6). That’s what God thinks of it. Look at:

- all these cathedrals
- all of the ceremonies
- all the processions
- all of the candles
- all the ‘holy’ water and incense
- all of the Eucharists

that go on in there *under* all of the idols **that God describes as evil!** Maybe you’ve never heard it said that way because you’ve been taught from a youth that that is right.

As I told one Catholic woman one time, ‘You know, what a shame. There are millions of dedicated, devoted Catholics that don’t even understand what they’re devoted to. What a shame. What a waste of faith and dedication.’ You need to be devoted to God:

- not to a man
- not to a church
- not to a minister
- not to a priest
- not to a cardinal
- not to an archbishop
- not to a pope

They can’t save you! They’re all going to die. That’s the reality of the world. That’s the reality of life. That’s what we need to understand.

Verse 6: “**And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD** and did not *go* fully after the LORD like his father David.” He combined the worship. Since he knew about temple building, his wives also wanted temples for *their* gods, ecumenical.

- You build a temple for you God, Solomon, am I not your wife?
- Do I not believe in my god or goddess just like you supposedly believe in yours?
- Are you going to discriminate against me and build a temple for your God but none for my god?

What did he do?

Verse 7: “**Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh**, the abomination of Moab, in the hill which is before Jerusalem...”

Now, if you look at it this way, on your right hand looking north is the mount of the temple, where it was. There was a valley to the west that went down. That was the Tyropoeon Valley. Across, west of the Temple Mount on the eastside of the Tyropoeon Valley, was the Hill of Abomination, as it was later called, where Solomon built all the pagan

temples for his wives, the pagan temples and incense altars. Can you imagine that? The one that God had build His Holy temple in Jerusalem now turned his skill to building pagan temples. *That’s what he did!*

This is instructive so that you will know that ***the holidays of this world, the worship of other gods and the combining of it with the Word of God, is evil and an abomination to God!*** It’s just that way. We need to understand that the sin of Israel was sun-worship, and that that day of worship was on Sunday. The holidays were the different names concerning Christmas, Easter, and so forth; read it in *The Two Babylons*.

Verse 8: “**And likewise he did for all his foreign wives, and burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel** who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; and **he did not keep that which the LORD commanded**” (vs 8-10).

- What did God do?
- What was the punishment?

Remove the ten tribes from Solomon after he died!

The northern ten tribes were given to Jeroboam. Let’s see what Jeroboam did. God even sent a prophet to Jeroboam who said, ‘Jeroboam. If you’ll do that which is right in the sight of God and you’ll keep the commandments of God, God will build you a dynasty like He promised to David.’ Rather than Jeroboam saying, ‘Oh, man, that’s great! Yes, thank You, God! Thank You for Your mercy and kindness.’ **No!** What did he do? He made matters even worse. He was afraid that if he didn’t set up a counterfeit religion that the people of the ten tribes of Israel would go down to Jerusalem and they would join up with Rehoboam, the son of Solomon.

1-Kings 12:25: “And Jeroboam built Shechem on Mount Ephraim and lived on it, and went from there and built Penuel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, ‘Now, the kingdom may well return to the house of David! If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me and return again to Rehoboam king of Judah.’ Then the king took counsel...” (vs 25-28).

It is true, ‘in a multitude of counsel is wisdom,’ provided you get *good* counsel. In a multitude of counsel with evil counselors *you get sin*. He took counsel and here was the result:

“...and made two calves of gold...” (v 28). Recall what we covered in Exo. 32. What did the

children of Israel do? *They built a golden calf and Aaron himself did it! Yes!*

“...and said to them... [we’re going to make it convenient for you] ... ‘It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. **Behold your gods, O, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!**’” (v 28). *A blatant lie!* Do people believe lies? *Of course they do!* That’s why we are held responsible to ask ourselves in the light of God’s Word:

- How many lies have I believed?
- How many false practices do I accept as normal, natural and Christian and are labeled in the Bible by God as evil?

Maybe you never thought of it that way.

Verse 29: “And he set the one in Bethel... [House of God] ...and he put the other in Dan. **And this thing became a sin**, for the people went to worship before the one, even to Dan. And he made houses of worship on the high places and made priests of the lowest of the people, who were not the sons of Levi” (vs 29-31). The sons of Levi went back and joined the temple where they should have been. Here, you have priests that were not called of God.

Let’s understand something: ***No priest, no minister, no religious figure who teaches contrary to the Word of God, is serving God!*** All of this claims to the contrary, it’s not so. They may be nice; they may be sincere; they may be well intentioned, but they believe lies and they teach lies. Many of them know the Truth.

Give your minister, pastor or priest a test, ask them: ‘The Bible teaches the seventh day Sabbath, why do we meet on Sunday and not the Sabbath?’ I’ll guarantee you, everyone will say, ‘We know that the Sabbath is the day that God made, the seventh day, called Saturday today, **but** the church changed the day, and therefore, we meet on Sunday.’

We have an article written by Catholic Cardinal Gibbon, which is Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants (cbcg.org). They know and prove that nowhere in the Bible does it say anything about keeping the first day of the week holy—period! You have to decide what you want to do. The choices are:

- Are you going to love God and serve Him and be under His authority?

OR:

- Are you going to love the way of man and Satan and be under his authority?

That’s where we are.

Notice what Jeroboam did. You always have to have a feast; you always have to have something to celebrate.

Verse 32: “And Jeroboam ordered a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, **like the feast that is in Judah....**” This is very close to the day that we call Halloween. ***Halloween is the open worship of Satan! That is the highest ‘sabbot’ of the witches in the world!***

“...**And he offered upon the altar...**” (v 32). Oh! He was righteous! ‘I’m going to show no fear of God. I’m going to go up and offer on the altar myself so that all the people will have confidence that what is being done is accepted.’ You have to read what happened to him.

“...So, he did in Bethel, **sacrificing to the calves** that he had made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places, which he had made. And he offered upon the altar, which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month, **which he had devised out of his own heart...** [undoubtedly under the inspiration of Satan] ...And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel. And he offered upon the altar and burned incense (vs 32-33). You can read in 1-Kings 13 what happened.

1-Kings 13:33: “After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but turned and again made priests of the high places from the lowest of the people; anyone who desired *to be made a priest*, he consecrated him, and he became *one* of the priests of the high places. **And this thing became the sin of the house of Jeroboam, even to destroy it from the face of the earth** (vs 33-34).

All the way through here you read all of 1st-2nd Kings, 1st-2nd Chronicles and it’s like one graphic chart. They obey God for a while and then it’s just like you see the economic charts of depression, it goes right down to the bottom and it stays at the bottom and they worship Satan, worship in the groves, serve the evil spirits and do all of these things. It got so bad that when it came to the time of Ahab, king of Israel, guess who his wife was? *Jezebel!* She was the daughter of the priest of Baal in Sidon! Nice corrupt political alliance.

At that time God needed a prophet so He raised up Elijah. You’ve heard of Elijah the prophet? Here’s his famous confrontation between the priests of Baal and Elijah and the people of God. The children of Israel were out sinning and worshipping Baal and Ashtoreth and keeping all the holidays of the world. Trust me, they have not changed since the time of the Tower of Babel. Maybe the names have been changed, but the practice has not changed.

When Ahab saw Elijah, he was mad at Elijah because there was a drought for three and one half years, no rain.

1-Kings 18:17: “And it came to pass when Ahab saw Elijah... [rather than Ahab admitting what

he did that was wrong, he looked at Elijah and]: ...Ahab said to him, 'Are you he that troubles Israel?' You're causing trouble in Israel! You're speaking the Truth against all these things that we're doing. We hold these to be righteous. You say they're not. You're causing all the trouble in Israel.

Verse 18: "And he [Elijah] answered, 'I have not troubled Israel, **but you and your father's house have in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and you have followed Baalim...** [all the Baals] ...Now, therefore, send *and* gather to me all Israel to Mount Carmel, and four hundred and fifty of the prophets of Baal... [Sunday-keepers, sun-worshippers, holiday-keepers] ...and four hundred of the prophets of Asherah... [which practice witchcraft] ..who eat at Jezebel's table'" (vs 18-19). *State sponsored religion!* Amazing! You see so many parallels in this in history that it just 'blows your mind.'

Verse 20: "Then Ahab sent to all the children of Israel and gathered the prophets together to Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people and said, '**How long will you vacillate between two different opinions?**'" (vs 20-21).

Isn't that the way that most people are today? They have an opinion about religion. They have an opinion about God, but they don't know anything. Two opinions and you put the proposition to them:

"...**If the LORD is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, then follow him**" (v 21). That's the proposition that God puts to everyone today.

- Are you going to follow Him and be under His authority?
- Are you going to follow Baalim, and the sun-god and sun-worship and all the holidays of this world and be under the authority of Satan the devil?
- What are you going to do?
- Are you going to prove the Truth from the Word of God?
- Are you going to continue in your opinion whatever it is and you think, 'Oh! My opinion is of great worth because I believe it, it must be true before God'?

God could care less about anyone's opinion unless it agrees with the Word of God. That's the truth of the matter. In today's free speech society, people don't like to hear that—do they? *No, of course not!*

"...And the people did not answer him a word. And Elijah said to the people... [he wasn't alone, as he found out later, but he said]: ...**I, I alone, remain a prophet of the LORD. But Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men**'" (vs 21-22).

He said, 'All right, we're going to have a contest. We're going to prove who is the prophet of God, me or the 450 prophets of Baal. You get a bullock. One for you and the 450 prophets of Baal, and one for me. Since there are more of you, I'm going to let you go first. You offer your bullock on the altar here, which they built of stone, and the first one that answers by fire, that one is God.'

Verse 26: "So, they took the bull, which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon..." If you have *The Elijah* by Mendelsshon, that's quite a catchy tune.

"...saying, 'O Baal, hear us.' But there was no voice, nor any who answered. Then they leaped upon the altar... [the jumpers and leapers] ...which was made. Now, it came to pass at noon Elijah mocked them and said, 'Cry aloud with a great voice, for he *is* a god. Either he is meditating, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened!' And they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves with knives and lances until the blood gushed out upon them. So, it came to pass when midday was past, and when they prophesied until the offering of *Elijah's* oblation..." (vs 26-29).

This means the sacrifice of Elijah, not 'the time of the evening sacrifice,' because in the *KJV* you will see that those words are in italics and it completely misleads everyone.

"...there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor anyone who paid attention. And Elijah said to all the people, 'Come near to me.' And all the people came near him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob to whom the Word of the Lord came, saying, 'Israel shall be your name.' And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar big enough to contain two measures of seed. And he arranged the wood, and cut the bull in pieces, and placed *it* on the wood, and said, 'Fill four water jars with water and pour on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood'" (vs 29-33). In the middle of a drought, that was very precious water.

Verse 34: "And he said, 'Do *it* the second time.' And they did *it* the second time. And he said, 'Do *it* the third time.' And they did *it* the third time. And the water ran all around the altar. And he filled the trench also with water" (vs 34-35).

- Elijah did not have to use a chant
- he did not have to use a rosary
- he did not have to use an incense burner
- he did not do the sign of the cross

What did he do? *A humble prayer to God!* Listen to it:

Verse 36: “Now, it came to pass at the time of the offering of the oblation [sacrifice] Elijah the prophet came near and said, ‘LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that You *are* God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your Word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and that You have turned their heart back again.’ Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the burnt sacrifice and the wood, and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench. And when all the people saw, they fell on their faces. And they said, ‘**The LORD, He is the God! The LORD, He is the God!**’ And Elijah said to them, ‘Take the prophets of Baal...and kill them...’” (vs 36-40)—and they did.

When Christ returns, He’s going to do the same thing. All the prophets, ministers, priests and religious leaders of Babylon the Great are either going to repent or be destroyed. It’s not going to be like Elijah. It’s going to be the whole world! We’re getting closer and closer to that time. I ask you:

- What is your opinion?
- How long are you *not* going to believe that the Lord is God?
- How long are you going to remain under the authority of Satan?

Instead of under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ?!

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Judges 2:11-13, 19
- 2) Judges 3:7, 12
- 3) Judges 4:1
- 4) Judges 6:1
- 5) Judges 21:25
- 6) 1-Samuel 15:22-23
- 7) 1-Kings 11:1-10
- 8) 1-Kings 12:25-33
- 9) 1-Kings 13:33-34
- 10) 1-Kings 18:17-22, 26-40

Scripture referenced, not quoted: Exodus 32

Also referenced:

Books:

- *Babylon Mystery Religion: Ancient and Modern* by Ralph Woodrow
- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop {cbcg.org}

- *Too Long in the Sun* by Richard Rives {toolong.com}
- *Occult Holidays or God’s Holy Days: Which?* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown

Sermon: *The Mark of the Beast*

From: *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:

- Appendix H: *How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?*
- Appendix I: *A Comparison Between the Old and New Covenants*
- Appendix N: *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants*

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Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority? VI

Fred R. Coulter

We're going to look at some things in the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah had to bring some of the most harsh prophesies of any prophet except Ezekiel. Ezekiel had to bring some very difficult prophesies, but let's see what God says that:

- in spite of all the warnings that Israel would be punished for their sins
- in spite of all the warnings to obey His voice, but they didn't
- in spite of all the dire predictions

we find many, many points of mercy that God still extended to them.

I'd like you to read the whole book of Jeremiah; that will be very instructive. You will see that not only the people had their sins, but they had their sins because they were taught them by their ministers and pastors. That's what we need to ask ourselves today: Are our ministers and pastors teaching us lies? whether you go to church on Sunday or Sabbath? We know the Sabbath is the right day, but those who teach on Sunday are teaching a lot of lies mixed in with some Truth. Sooner or later, God is going to call His judgment because of:

- rejecting Him
- rejecting His voice
- rejecting His laws
- rejecting His commandments
- rejecting His statutes
- rejecting His judgments

All we have to do is just look around at the world today and see that that is true:

- God is living
- He's on His throne
- He is the One Who raises up nations
- He's the One Who pulls down nations

Here's something to always realize:

- God is the One Who judges all the nations,
- God is the One Who judges the hearts of all men and women
- God is the only One Who truly knows the heart so He alone can make that judgment

Here's what He says:

Jeremiah 18:6: "O house of Israel..." Let's understand. This is not just the Jews. This has to do also with the other ten tribes that were carried away into captivity. Though they had been lost, they never really were lost. This applies to all twelve tribes.

"...can I not do with you *even* as this potter?'.... [He told Jeremiah go in and watch this

potter make vessels] ...says the LORD. 'Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hands, *so are* you in My hand, O house of Israel. If at any time I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck it up and to pull it down, and to destroy *it*; **if** that nation, against whom I have spoken, will **turn from their evil**...' (vs 6-8).

If you want to know how God will do that, read the book of Jonah, because they repented at Jonah's preaching and God held back the invasion that He promised was coming.

"...**I will repent of the evil that I thought to do to them**. And if at any time I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build it and to plant *it*; if it does evil in My sight, that it not obey My voice..." (vs 8-10).

Why does God say this to nations? God certainly is not calling the nations to conversion at this point. That won't happen until the return of Jesus Christ. What He expects is *a level of obedience to His laws in the letter of the law!* This is what it's telling us. All they have to do is read the Ten Commandments; those were the words of the voice of God. God spoke all these words. This is what He's talking about, here—"...that it not obey My voice..." So, God judges all the nations.

"...then I will repent of the good with which I said I would do them good'" (vs 10). That's how God operates. Let's see how that even in the midst of:

- all the warnings against sin
- all the dire consequences that would happen because of the sin
- all of the warnings that a captivity was coming
- all of the cries for repentance

we're going to see that right here in the middle of it Jeremiah had two messages

1. repentance
2. catastrophe and disaster if they didn't repent

Let's see what he says here with the message of repentance. This is very similar to what we are living in here today. We're living in days where God's judgment is coming and it's going to come with more fury, with more power and with more devastation. *We also need to realize that God holds out hope!* Just like God said that He would 'turn' if the nation would 'turn,' and He would hold back the evil.

There are other examples of it in the Bible, too. One of the kings during the time of Jeremiah

and his prophetic ministry was Josiah. You can read about Josiah in 2-Chron. 34 and 35 where he repented, and because of his repentance and making all the people of Judah to serve God and throw away:

- all their idols
- all their statues
- everything to Baal

which is sun-worship, which includes:

- Sunday
- Christmas
- Easter
- New Years
- Halloween

God turned from the punishment He thought to do to them.

By the way, behind the Christian mask that has been put upon these, are occult practices. {note book: *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* (part 1)} You need to be aware of that. Just like we've been talking about—by whose authority?—***you're either under God's authority and Jesus Christ, or you're under Satan the devil and his world!*** If your ministers and teachers have been lying to you, just remember this: ***That's not from God!*** Satan the devil is the author of lies and is a liar.

Because of what the Jews were doing just before the destruction of the temple in 585_{B.C.}, God held out hope for them to repent, just like we read in Jer. 18.

Jeremiah 17:19: “Thus the LORD said to me... [here's what God told Jeremiah to do]: ...‘Go and stand in the gates of the children of the people, by which the kings of Judah come in, and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem. And say to them, “**Hear the Word of the LORD**, kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the people of Jerusalem who enter in by these gates! Thus says the LORD, “**Take heed to yourselves...**” (vs 19-21). That's what we need to do.

That's the reason for going through this. Every one of us need to examine what we are doing in the light of God's Word, *take heed to ourselves*. Is it really of God? ***or*** Is it of the world and Satan?

“...and carry no burden on the Sabbath Day...” (v 21). They're talking about the Sabbath. What I want you to understand is how God held out for them the hope of repentance so that they *would not* go into captivity. Going into captivity was not the will of a hostile God, but the will of the people who rejected the pleas of repentance by God so that they *wouldn't* go into captivity.

Verse 22: “Nor carry out a burden from your houses on the Sabbath Day...” You think about it today. Let's just stop and think about it today.

The seventh day and every Sunday-keeping minister will affirm that Saturday is the seventh day. The Bible affirms that it is the seventh day. It is the Sabbath of God. God does expect us to refrain from working and to refrain from doing those things that are related to business. It is a day that we assemble together:

- to learn of God's Word
- to hear it preached where we assemble together
- to fellowship with God with His Spirit and with each other through His Spirit

think about today:

- When do they have all the business sales?
- When do people carry out most of their work?
- When are these things done?
- What about Friday night, because the Sabbath begins Friday night?
- What is Friday night? *Friday night is a time to go out and:*
 - ✓ whoop it up
 - ✓ go to parties
 - ✓ go to dances
 - ✓ go to theatres
 - ✓ go to different things
 - ✓ all of the evil and sin that is done on Friday night

They're desecrating the Sabbath! They have been taught that it's okay to do so.

This applies to us today just as well as to them. God's prophesies are living prophecies and what caused those people difficulties and problems and to go into captivity back then, the same thing will happen today and, yes, it's prophesied to happen. We need to think about it.

“...nor do any work, but keep the Sabbath Day Holy, as I commanded your fathers” (v 22). God made the Sabbath Holy and the way we hallow the Sabbath is by our conduct:

- with not working
- with not seeking pleasure
- with not seeking our own

But to do the things that God wants us to do. Let's see what God said concerning the Sabbath, because it becomes very important. It shows us how we need to view the Sabbath.

Keeping the Sabbath was one of the great downfalls of the ten tribes of Israel because they instituted the golden calf worship and they had all the pagan religious practices, and so forth. They did exactly the same thing that the ministers of the world today do. They say this is done to the Lord. If we do it to the Lord it's all right, regardless of what the practice is, because if we do it to the Lord then God

has got to accept it. *That is false thinking! That is false reasoning!*

If you're going to do anything 'to God,' you have to do it His way because He's *God*. God will not accept our form of worshipping Him anyway that's contrary to what He's commanded. We're to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, which does not mean doing away with the laws and commandments of God by any means. Here's a prophecy.

Isaiah 58:13: "If you turn your foot away from the Sabbath, **from doing your own desires on My Holy day...**" The Sabbath is God's Holy Day. He made it Holy. That's why the true, fourth commandment is: 'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep *it* Holy,' because He made it Holy.

"...and call the Sabbath a delight, the Holy of the LORD, honorable... [not dishonorable] ...and shall honor Him..." (v 13).

- How do we honor Him?
- How do we honor God on the Sabbath?

"...**not doing your own ways, nor pursuing your own desires, nor speaking your own words**" (v 13). What does that mean? *It means exactly what it says!*

- you don't seek sports
- you don't seek work
- you don't seek your sales
- **you seek God on the Sabbath Day**

What does it mean by "...nor speaking your own words"? *You talk about the things of salvation, the Word of God and to hear the Word of God preached on the Sabbath!* You can hear it preached on any other day, that is true, but there's a special blessing for hearing it on the Sabbath because God's Spirit is there to give more understanding. God's Spirit is there to bless you because God has blessed the day; He has made it Holy.

Verse 14: "Then you shall **delight yourself in the LORD**; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed you with the inheritance of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it." God is saying that there are great blessings for keeping the Sabbath.

When you keep the days of Baal... That's one of the reasons that they were sent off into captivity—because they were following all the same days that the so-called 'Christian religious' organizations today follow:

- Sunday
- Easter
- Christmas
- New Years
- Groundhog's Day

- Valentine's Day
- May Day
- Halloween

All of those are of the world and Satan the devil and have deep profound occult connections and have nothing to do with God. That is all under the authority of Satan the devil. If you go strictly by the Bible, which God intends us to do, and reject the so-called traditions of men and the 'traditions of the fathers' of the church, so-called, and go by what the Bible says, you will find that:

- God condemns every one of them
- God does not sanction them
- God has not joined them

The God Who said, 'You shall have no other gods before Me,' is not going to cause His people to make an alliance with the gods of this world and to call it by 'God's way.'

This is very, very important to comprehend and understand. Most people *think* they know about God because they're 'religious,' supposedly. They do what their ministers or priests tell them to do, but they rarely read the Bible to understand what *God* tells them to do. The first thing you need to realize is that there are many, many lies coming from the pulpits. **You are held responsible before God to prove whether these things are so or not**, whether what they is saying is true or not. You can be guaranteed this:

- any minister who says that the laws of God have been abolished *is a liar*
- any minister who says that you don't have to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days *is a liar*
- any minister who says that Christ changed the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day *is a liar*

It doesn't matter how many sweet, purry, feel-good sermons that they give, **they're liars!** God calls them that.

When they tell you, 'Oh, well, the Gentiles don't have to keep it.' Christ came to save Gentiles, too. Let's see how He saves Gentiles and what He expects them to do when they are saved. Let's read this from the point of view that this is also talking about the end-times.

Isaiah 56:1: "Thus says the LORD, '**Keep justice and do righteousness**; for My salvation *is* near to come, and My righteousness to be revealed.'" You can go back and see where that righteousness is revealed (Rev. 6:12). It's going to be revealed in a mighty and a powerful way.

Verse 2: "**Blessed** *is* the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; **who keeps**

the Sabbath from profaning it; and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

I’ll tell you another lie that’s preached on Sunday: They say if you keep the Sabbath you’re cursed. *That’s a lie!* They say if you keep the Sabbath, that you’re trying to earn salvation. *That is a lie!* Christ said, through the prophet Isaiah, “Blessed!...” Do you want the blessing for keeping the Sabbath? **or** Do you want the curses for continuing in Sunday?

God lays before us life and death, good and evil, blessing and cursing and it’s up to us to choose. If we choose God, *He’s with us*. If we don’t choose God, *He’s not with us*. It’s that simple. So, **by whose authority do you do what you do?** He said that you’re blessed if you’re doing this and “...keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

- What does that mean?
- What defines evil?
- Do not the laws, commandments, statutes and judgments define evil?
- Did not Jesus Christ define evil?
- Did not Jesus Christ say that evil comes from within the heart—‘out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts?’ *Yes!*
- What about the Gentiles?

Verse 3: “And do not let the son of the stranger... [a Gentile] ...who has joined himself to the LORD... [salvation to the Gentiles] ...speak, saying, ‘The LORD has utterly separated me from His people.’ And do not let the eunuch say, ‘Behold, I am a dry tree.’ For thus says the LORD, ‘To the eunuchs who **keep My Sabbaths...**’” (vs 3-4).

I want you to look at that word *Sabbaths* very carefully, because we’ll come back to this a little later. That’s plural—isn’t it? That’s not *the weekly Sabbath* alone. That’s is “...My Sabbaths...” because:

- the First Day of Unleavened Bread *is a Sabbath*
- the Last Day of Unleavened Bread *is a Sabbath*
- Pentecost *is a Sabbath*
- Trumpets *is a Sabbath*
- Atonement *is a Sabbath of Sabbaths*
- the First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles *is a Sabbath*
- the Last Great Day *is a Sabbath*

As I’ve said before, if the names of those Holy Days of God sound strange to you it’s because you have never been taught the Truth concerning them. “...who **keep My Sabbaths...**” *not reject them.*

What we’re going to see is that we’re talking here about New Testament doctrine, as well. Never forget this: Jesus said that He is Lord even of the

Sabbath Day. Why? *Because as the Lord God of the Old Testament, He created that time Holy, blessed it and sanctified it!* Therefore, He is Lord of it. The *KJV* says that the ‘Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath Day,’ which people tend to read like this: ‘Yes, He’s the Lord of the Sabbath Day as well as Sunday.’ That’s not what it means. He is Lord *even of the Sabbath Day*, because He kept it. “...keep My Sabbaths...”

What does God mean by *keep* the Sabbath? *He means honor the Sabbath!* Keep it as He says. You have to study the Bible to know how to keep the Sabbath. That’s another whole topic. We’ll get to that later.

“...**and choose things that please Me...**” (v 4).

- What pleases God?
- Why was Jesus the beloved Son in Whom the Father had delight? *Because as Jesus said, ‘I always do the things that please My Father!’*
- What pleases God?
 - ✓ obedience **or** disobedience?
 - ✓ seeking the will of God **or** seeking your own opinion?
 - ✓ seeking to do God’s Way **or** seeking your way and coming to God and telling Him that He must accept your way because you feel good about it?

Frankly, God could care less how you feel about it if it’s not in conformity to what God says.

“...**and take hold of My covenant**” (v 4). That’s a prophesy of the New Covenant. What do you have here? *We have a prophesy of Sabbath and Holy Day-keeping as the things that please God in the prophesy of the New Covenant!*

Let’s understand what God is telling us in 1-John 3, how He is telling us, and what the Apostle John wrote. Of course, when you realize that the Apostle John was the one who did the final canonization of the New Testament, and when he writes this, it’s telling us a great deal.

1-John 3:18: “My little children, we should not love in word, nor with *our* tongues...” Too many people do that. Lot of nice words on Sunday, ‘Hello. How are you? Oh, it’s wonderful blah, blah, blah.’ Then they go live their lives in a different way.

“...rather, *we should love in deed and in Truth*” (v 18). What is Truth? *Jesus said of the Father’s Word, ‘Your Word is the Truth!’*

- the commandments are true
- the statutes are true
- all the precepts of God are true

Verse 19: “And in this way we know that we are of the Truth...” You have to ask yourself:

- Are you really of the Truth?
- Can you believe a lie and say you're of the Truth?
- Can you follow false doctrines that are contrary to what is in the Bible and that God has condemned and said that you shall not do, and say that you are of the Truth?

This is New Testament doctrine—isn't it? *Yes!*

"...and shall assure our hearts before Him, that if our hearts condemn us..." (vs 19-20).

- How do our hearts condemn us? *When we are guilty!*
- Why are we guilty? *Because of sin!*

Sin pricks our hearts when we do wrong and we condemn ourselves. We know that we have missed the mark. This is why we are to repent. God wants you to repent. He doesn't want to destroy you, but if the wicked will not repent it is their choice to be destroyed by God, because they won't repent.

Likewise with us. When we sin, which we all do because we're all human beings and our heart condemns us, then what should we do? *Confess our sins!* 'He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' So that we won't have the condemnation and that we will be able to approach God in confidence and assurance. Part of that is keeping His commandments and doing His will, etc.

"...God is greater than our hearts..." (v 20). Even if you sin and do that which is wrong and repent, God will lift you out of it. God will forgive you for it.

"...and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, *then* we have confidence toward God" (vs 20-21).

Notice v 22, the very key. This ties in with Isa. 56 about doing the things that please Him; "And whatever we may ask we receive from Him **because we keep His commandments...** [not reject them] **...and practice those things that are pleasing in His sight.**" We can do that. *If we love God and keep His commandments, that's pleasing in His sight!* If we love the fatherless and the stranger and we love each other, that's pleasing in the sight of God.

Verse 23: "And this is His commandment: that we believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and that we love one another, exactly as He gave commandment to us." You can't learn to love each other unless you love God first. That's why the Sabbath is so important because this establishes you with God the Father and Jesus Christ so that you can truly love them with all your heart, mind, soul and being. Then you can love your neighbor as yourself and you can love the brethren as Christ has loved us.

Verse 24: "And the one who keeps His commandments is dwelling in Him, and He [Christ] in him..." God wants to give you of His Spirit. When you repent and are baptized so that He with His Spirit is dwelling in you.

"...and by this we **know...** [we have to *know* we have the Spirit of God] ...that He is dwelling in us: by the Spirit which He has given to us" (v 24). This is exactly what it means in Isa. 56.

Isaiah 56:4: "For thus says the LORD..." This is part of 'living by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God,' as Jesus said.

"...To the eunuchs who **keep My Sabbaths...** [part of His commandments] ...and choose things that please Me, and take hold of My covenant... [prophecy of the New Covenant] ...even **to them will I give within My house and within My walls a place...**" (vs 4-5).

What did Jesus say on the Passover night? *He told His disciples He said, 'If I go I will come again' and 'I'm going to prepare a place for you so that where I am, you may be also' (John 14)* That's New Testament doctrine. This is talking about preparing a place in New Jerusalem for the Gentiles and for the eunuchs.

Let's think about this a little more in relationship to the eunuch. This is got to be New Testament doctrine talking about the reward of eternal life because the eunuch could not reproduce himself with a wife. This is talking about eternal life for keeping the Sabbaths. If you do the things that are pleasing to God in addition to it. That's why there is the grace of God, which comes through the New Testament and the Spirit of God, which gives us the ability to do these things. This is what it's talking about.

"...and a name better than of sons and of daughters..." (v 5). God promises to give a new name (Rev. 2 and 3).

"...I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off" (v 5). If it's everlasting, that means eternal life. That's precisely what it says.

Verse 6: "Also the **sons** of the stranger..." Now, we're into the second generation, because He said, 'to the stranger.' Now here are "...the sons of the stranger..."; their children.

"...who join themselves to the LORD to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants, **everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath, and takes hold of My covenant...**" (vs 6). That's quite a promise. It extends to them.

Verse 7: "Even them I will bring to My Holy mountain... [New Jerusalem] ...and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt

offerings and their sacrifices *shall be* accepted upon My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.”

Remember what Jesus did on the Passover during the Feast of Unleavened Bread in John 2? *He drove out the money exchangers and all the commercialization and merchandising going on right in the very house of God*, and He told them, ‘You have made My house a den of thieves’ when it should be called a ‘house of prayer for all nations.’

Today we worship toward God in heaven above. We have access to His throne in heaven above, and we don’t offer the burnt offerings or sacrifices; we have our spiritual sacrifices that we offer.

Verse 8: “The Lord GOD who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, ‘Yet, I will gather still **others of him** beside those who are gathered unto him.’” In other words, a prophesy of bringing Gentiles into the Church.

The reason that I want to go through this is that lest someone get the feeling or think that because God has to condemn sin to wake people up from their sin so they can repent, that He doesn’t offer any hope.

Concerning the Sabbath command that He gave, He said to hallow the Sabbath, but they didn’t do it:

Jeremiah 17:23: “But they did not obey, nor inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, so that they might not hear nor receive instruction.”

This is also something very important to understand. ***Never get yourself into an attitude that you will not hear the Word of God!*** This also important from the point of view that ***don’t let any man and his words separate you from God!***

I want to show you the hope that God held out for all of Judah, the kings of Judah, all the people, and that He did not want to bring this captivity. He did not want to have to raise up Nebuchadnezzar and take Nebuchadnezzar’s side against His own people because of their sins, which is a great lesson for us today.

Here in America I’m telling you flat out ***that unless there’s repentance on a mass scale, that God is going to take the side of our enemies*** and we are going to come down just exactly as God had to take the side of the enemies against Judah, because they wouldn’t do the things that God said. He holds up this hope and promise:

Verse 24: “‘And it shall be, **if you diligently hearken to Me,**’ says the LORD...”—not half-hearted, not ho-hum, not being forced to, but *diligently*, you choose to *diligently* do God’s Way, listen to His Word:

“...to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but **keep the Sabbath Day Holy**, to do no work in it; **then** kings and rulers sitting on the throne of David shall enter into the gates of this city, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their rulers, the men of Judah, and the people of Jerusalem. And **this city shall remain forever**” (vs 24-25). What happened to it? *It has ended up being one of the most cursed places on earth because of sin!*

Verse 26: “And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and grain offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise to the house of the LORD.”

Does this not fit into what God has always said to choose to ***obey My voice?*** *Yes!* Now He gives the alternative. You need to ask yourself:

- **Whose authority are you going to choose to put yourself under?**
- The authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ and the Holy Word of God?

or

- The authority of Satan the devil and the men of this world and the religions of this world?

You have to choose! ***IF*** you choose God, then you choose to love Him and keep His commandments, His Sabbaths and His Holy Days. ***IF*** you choose the world, then you will keep:

- your Sunday
- your Easter
- your New Years

Maybe not even keep anything and maybe not even believe in God! Then that’s a worse fate that’s going to come upon you. Then God gives a warning. He holds our promise and then He gives a warning.

Verse 27: “**But if you will not hearken to Me to keep the Sabbath Day Holy**, and not to carry a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath Day; **then I will kindle a fire in its gates**, and it will devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it will not be put out.”

You can read *Josephus* about the destruction of the temple in 585_{B.C.} and that happened. Also, about the destruction in 70_{A.D.}, which was a far worse carnage because of sin.

Let’s survey some things in the book of Jeremiah. By the way, where did they get the term ‘Holy Week,’ which they say about the week leading up to so-called Easter? *Not from God!, Not from the Bible!* Easter is a day that worships the goddess

Ishtar, who was married to her own son and produced a child called Tammuz. Ishtar was called the ‘mother of God.’ Tammuz was slain and resurrected on Ishtar Sunday.

{note books: *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop. *The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer and you can see where all of these things have come from. ***They haven’t come from God!*** This becomes important when we read the first couple of verses in Jer.

Jeremiah 10:1: “Hear the word, which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.”

- How many times does God say *hear*?
- How many times does God say *hearken*?

If you want a good Bible study and you have an online Bible study or you have a computer Bible study, go and look up the words *listen*, *hearken*, *hear* and various other words that go along with it, and see how many times God said it.

What did Jesus say of some of the things that He said? *He said, ‘He who has an ear let him hear!’* It’s exactly the same thing. This false, lying notion that the Old Testament has been done away and has nothing to do with the New Testament, it’s like throwing away a glove that covers the hand. Then you complain because you have cold hands and say that you don’t need the glove, when it is the glove that will keep your hands warm. It’s just like this: the Old Testament and the New Testament go together like a hand in a glove. They work together and they are inseparable. That’s what you need to understand.

Verse 2: “Thus says the LORD...” Is this not out of the mouth of God—‘Man shall live by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’ Here’s what He says:

“...Do not learn the way of the heathen...” (v 2). *Every one of the holidays of this world are the ‘ways of the heathen!’*

(go to the next track)

That tells you that *no man anywhere, at any time*, can take the practices of heathen religions and put Christian-sounding names upon them and say that God accepts it because they have changed the name. ***That is a fraud! It is a counterfeit! It is against God!***

Let me give you an example to make it very clear: What if you had a Volkswagon Jetta and you had a Rolls Royce. You wanted to make money on selling the Jetta, so you wanted to defraud the buyer. So, what you did was you changed all the name plates and you made the Volkswagon Jetta say that it is a Rolls Royce, when it isn’t.

That is exactly and precisely what the ministers of this world and the religions of this world have done with God and His Holy Days, by rejecting them. *Then having the audacity to take the name of God and Jesus Christ and put it on the way of the heathen and call it of God, when God never had any presence or anything to do with them!* That’s why He says—this is God speaking:

“...and do not be terrified at the **signs of the heavens**; for the nations [heathen] are terrified at them” (v 2)—astrology, occult, tarot cards, and so forth. We’ll come back to the rest of it because it says the ‘customs of the people are vain.’

I want you to read the whole book of Jeremiah, and as your reading it what I want you to do is think about Western civilization today. In particular the United States, Britain and Australia, because they are the ten lost tribes of Israel. Think about what it is saying here. Understand that these prophecies have a dual application—a first fulfillment and a second fulfillment. All of these prophecies are going to come upon the United States, Britain and Australia as punishment from God:

- for rejecting God
- for keeping Sunday
- for keeping the holidays of this world
- for rejecting God’s Sabbath and His Holy Days

Even in spite of that, God gave another opportunity to hold back the expulsion of the people from Jerusalem in 585_{B.C.} so that they wouldn’t go into captivity. God told Jeremiah this:

Jeremiah 5:1: “Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in her open places, if you can find **a man...**” Now it’s down to one man. God honors a lot because of what one man will do or what one woman will do.

“...if there is one who does justice, who seeks the Truth; and I will pardon her...” (v 1). In other words, God would pardon all the sins of all the people in Jerusalem if there could have been found *one single man* that was seeking Truth! That’s a lot of mercy—isn’t it? So, as we read some of the very destructive prophecies, I want you to understand the mercy that God shows.

Verse 2: “And though they say, ‘As the LORD lives.’” Isn’t that what they say? *‘Come to church on Sunday. Know the Lord, brother. The Lord lives! Christ lives!’*

“...surely they swear falsely.’ O LORD, *are not Your eyes on the Truth?*” (v 2-3). Of course, it’s always on the Truth, and God knows the heart. That’s why there has to be conversion and change of heart and mind through the Spirit of God.

“...You have stricken them, but they have not grieved...” (v 3). Think about 9/11. Think about all the catastrophes that have happened.

“...You have destroyed them, but **they have refused to receive correction...**” (v 3). It’s an awesome thing to refuse to receive the correction of God. Christ expects you to let the Word of God correct you:

- to change the way that you think
- to change the way that you live
- to change from practicing sin to keeping the commandments of God

“...they have made their faces harder than rock; **they have refused to return**” (v 3). If you want to put this verse in action, it would be interesting to see what would happen if someone would go to one of these mega, mega Sunday-keeping churches and stand up there and tell them that:

- they have refused God
- they have stolen the name of Jesus Christ
- they are worshipping on the wrong day
- they are worshipping a false Christ
- God is not here
- if you want God, you better repent

you need to stop:

- your Sunday
- your Christmas
- your Easter
- your sacrifice of the Mass
- your Eucharist
- your idols

—all the things that are contrary to the commandments of God and contrary to God. You need to get rid of them and repent with all your heart. I don’t think he’d get out alive! He’d be just like Jeremiah. What happened to Jeremiah because he did that? *All the princes rose up and threw him down in the sewer, in the muck of human swill and left him there to die!* What does God’s prophets have to go through to preach the Truth, besides bad behavior and a lot of human ‘crapola’?

“...they have refused to receive correction; they have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return.” (v 3). That means they refused to repent. You need to ask yourself:

- Are you made at me for saying what I’m saying?
- Are you upset at me for saying what I’m saying?
- If I read to you the Word of God and you’re upset at the Word of God, who are you upset against?
- Me?

or

- God?
- What will you do?

Verse 4: “Therefore, I said, ‘Surely these are poor; **they are foolish...**’” What does God say about those who do these things? *It’s the way of the heathen—they are foolish!*

“...**for they do not know the way of the LORD...**” (v 4). What way did they know? *The way of the heathen!* We’ll see when we get to Jer. 7 that they did it at the temple and they did it unto the Lord God while they were worshipping Baal, the sun-god, which everyone who worships on Sunday is doing that.

“...nor the judgment of their God. I will go up for myself to the great men, and will speak to them; for they have known the way of the LORD and the judgment of their God.’ But these had altogether broken the yoke and had torn off the bonds!” (v 4-5).

- you look at our Congress
- you look at our judges
- you look at all of those who lead this nation

It’s right there; Jeremiah is talking about it.

Verse 6: “Therefore, a lion out of the forest shall kill them, and a wolf of the deserts shall rob them; a leopard shall watch over their cities....” It’s talking about the heathen who are going to come and cause destruction.

What is the greatest fear that we have now and so we have to all clamp down on everybody’s rights, because we have terrorists in our midst? *The greatest thing of which we are fearful is a biological attack or a dirty bomb attack!*

Rather than repent and return to God, we try and work it out ourselves! This a good description of it here:

- they watch us
- they’re waiting for the time
- they’re looking for the opportunity

Unless there’s repentance on a mass scale in the United States, it is going to happen, just like it did to Jerusalem.

“...Everyone who goes out from them shall be torn in pieces **because...** [What’s the cause?]: **...their sins are many and their backslidings are multiplied.** ‘How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me, and have sworn by them that are not gods...’” (vs 6-7).

Look at our younger generation; they are given over to the occult, to witchcraft, and to Satanism through everything that they do; starting

with cartoons when they're babies clear up to the time of:

- rock music
- rap music
- sex being taught in the schools to absolutely destroy their hearts and their minds

Nothing can be done about that. Then you go to church on your Sundays and you're worshipping other gods.

- How many are following the gods of the other nations?
- How many go to their guru's?
- How many are following the idiotic things of the teachings of the heathen where God said, 'Learn not the way of the heathen'?

"...When I had fed them to the full, then they committed adultery, and gathered themselves by troops in a harlot's house" (vs 7). True today— isn't it? *Yes, indeed!* Tens of millions of men and over 30-million women are hooked on online pornography. No one is faithful with husband and wife anymore. It's a rare thing to find someone who has been married for 30, 40, 50, 60 years.

Verse 8: "They were *like* lusty, well-fed stallions in the morning; every one neighing after his neighbor's wife." Isn't there a TV program by that name: Desperate Housewives^[transcriber's correction]? What are they doing? *Seducing their neighbor's husband!* There you have it. God says, because God knows all these things are going on:

Verse 9: "Shall I not punish for these *things*?" says the LORD. 'And shall not My soul be avenged on such a nation as this?' It's going to come unless there is vast and tremendous repentance this nation is going to go down.

God holds out hope for everyone who will repent! Always remember that. As I pointed out, those who have the Spirit of God, God's protection will be upon them, because He promised that. It doesn't mean that we won't have to go through things such as Jeremiah being thrown into the sewer, but he was rescued.

Here's what God says. Here's why I want you to read the whole thing. I'm going to cover most of Jer. 5, 6 and 7 because that is the heart and core of the whole message. It's repeated over and over, chapter and verse, through all 51 chapters of the book of Jeremiah. Let's see what God says is going to happen. Remember, God said He would pardon the whole thing if there was ***one man*** who was doing right, but there wasn't.

Verse 10: "Go up upon her walls and destroy; but do not make a full end; take away her

branches, for they *are* not the LORD'S. For the house of Israel and the house of Judah... [both; all 12 tribes] ...have dealt very deceitfully against Me,' says the LORD. They have lied against the LORD and said, '*It is* not He; neither shall evil come on us; nor shall we see sword nor famine. And the prophets shall become as wind, for the word *is* not in them; thus it shall be done to them.' Therefore, thus says the LORD God of hosts, '**Because you have spoken this word, behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire... [God's talking about Jeremiah] ...and this people wood, and it shall devour them**' (vs 10-14).

Here's a promise that God gave and He fulfilled twice to Jerusalem. He's going to fulfill it to the United States of America, Britain, Australia and so forth.

Verse 15: "Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from afar, O house of Israel,' says the LORD. '*It is* a mighty nation, it *is* an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor understand what they say. Their quiver *is* as an open grave... [sepulcher] ...they *are* all mighty men. And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread, your sons and your daughters they shall eat up. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds; they shall eat up your vines and your fig trees. They shall beat down your fortified cities with the sword. But even in those days,' says the LORD, '**I will not make a complete end with you**'" (vs 15-18). Again, *mercy!*

Remember that whenever God gives judgment of death, doom and destruction, ***there is mercy for those who will repent!***

Verse 19: "And it will be, when they shall ask, 'Why does the LORD our God do all these *things* to us?....'" Isn't that what they say? 'Where's God? Why did this happen?'

"...Then you shall answer them..." (v 19). Here's the reason. I want you to think about this and I want you to ask yourself honestly before God:

- Are you part of this?
- Is this your attitude?

"...Just as you have forsaken Me and served strange gods in your land..." (v 19).

- Do you keep the pagan days of this world?
- Have you learned the way of the heathen?
- Have you turned your back on God?
- Are you an atheist who thinks there is no God?
- What is it that you are?

God knows and He's going to judge. You're far better off judging yourself by the Word of God and repenting.

"...so you shall serve strangers in a land *that is* not yours." 'Declare this in the house of

Jacob, and cry it in Judah, saying, “Now hear this, O foolish people and without understanding; who have eyes and see not; who have ears and hear not; do you not fear Me?” says the LORD. “Will you not tremble at My presence, *even* I Who have placed the sand *for* the boundary of the sea *by* a never-ending decree, so that it cannot pass it? And though they toss themselves, yet, they cannot prevail; though its waves roar, yet, they cannot pass over it” (vs 19-22).

God expects you to look to the creation and see that God is the One Who has done all these things. If you don’t believe God and believe His Word, then believe His creation and what He has made and then turn to God.

Verse 23: “But this people has a revolting and a rebellious heart; they have revolted and are departed *from Me*.”

- How about you?
- Have you revolted against God?
- Do you believe the commandments are abolished?
- Do you believe that you don’t have to keep the Sabbaths of God?
- Do you believe that it’s okay to learn the way of the heathen and keep all the days that God said that you shall not do?

Let’s also understand something else. If God did sanctify the renaming of these heathen customs and joined Himself to them, He Himself would be hypocritical because the first commandment would mean nothing to Him when He said, ‘You shall have no other gods before Me.’ It would make everything that God has said hypocritical. It would make everything that God said *a lie*. It would make God a liar when God is not a liar and His word is True.

Verse 23: “But this people has a revolting and a rebellious heart; they have revolted and are departed *from Me*.”

- Are you willing to repent and submit to God?
- Are you willing to repent and keep His commandments?

Christ died for you and your sins to bring you forgiveness, not for you to continue to live in your sins, not for you to continue to live in your paganism with Christian-sounding names, but to serve God and to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. Here’s the way it is with too many people:

Verse 24: “And they do not say in their heart, ‘Let us now fear the LORD our God, Who gives both the former and the latter rain in its season; He reserves to us the appointed weeks of the harvest.’ Your iniquities have turned away these

things, and **your sins have withheld good things from you. For among My people are found wicked ones; they lie in wait, as one who sets snares; they set a trap, they catch men**” (vs 24-26). This is talking about all the schemes and evil things that go on. The world is full of them.

Verse 29: “‘Shall I not punish for these *things*?’ says the Lord....”

- we had a shooting up in Wisconsin—eight students killed
- we had a shooting in a Church of God—eight people killed
- we had Columbine
- all the other shootings and things that go on
 - How many people are shot every day in America?
 - How many people are killed and stabbed?
 - How many people suffer at the hands of others?
 - You think that God is not going to visit for these thing?

“...**Shall not My soul be avenged on such a nation as this?**” (v 29).

- notice how it’s done
- notice how it’s accomplished
- notice who God holds responsible primarily and every individual particularly

Verse 30: “An astounding and horrible thing has happened in the land. **The prophets prophesy falsely**...” (vs 30-31). That’s exactly what’s done when they rename the way of the heathen with Christian-sounding names. They “...prophesy falsely...”

“...and the priests bear rule by **their means**... [instead of serving the people the way God intended] **...and My people love to have it so**” (v 31). You don’t want to serve God the way *He* says. You want to serve God the way *you* say. You want God to accept you the way *you are* when God says, ***‘Repent! Then I will accept you.’***

“...and **what will you do at the end of it?**” (v 31). What’s going to happen? What are you going to do? Inevitably, it’s going to happen. Inevitably, God’s judgment is going to come and will culminate in the return of Christ.

I want you to take this to heart; I want you to read the book of Jeremiah as if it were a message to the United States of America and all the ministers in the land beginning with:

- Gerald Falwell
- Pat Robertson
- Billy Graham and his son and daughter
- Dr. Kennedy in Florida

- the bishops
- the archbishops
- the priests
- the deacons

in all the churches everywhere, that's what this is written for

- all the people everywhere
 - ✓ all their sins
 - ✓ all of the rotteness
 - ✓ all the vileness that they are committing

All the time decrying the terrible and heinous things that are taking place. Yet, they reject the Word of God, and in the name of Christ they preach falsehoods and lies.

Jeremiah 6:13: "For everyone from the least of them even to the greatest of them..."

- Who do you consider the least
- Who do you consider the greatest?

"...is greedy for gain... [covetousness] ...and from the prophet even unto the priest everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? **No**, they were not at all ashamed, nor could they blush..." (vs 13-15).

You stop and think about our past Presidents. How many have really been faithful to their wives? *Very few!* Those who are counted the greatest Presidents—liberal or conservative, it doesn't make any difference—they weren't ashamed! People are not ashamed. They have pornography, wretched and rotten television and music; no one is ashamed. If someone corrects them or speaks out to them, they couldn't even blush.

I'll give you an example: There's a man I know who went into an office and here is a woman there who is a receptionist and her blouse was so low-cut that two-thirds of her breasts were exposed publicly. He being a man wanting to do what is decent, he said to the young woman, 'Don't you think that your dress is totally inappropriate to receive people into the office. Don't you think that this reflects upon your employer? She got down right mad. *No shame! No blushing! No nothing!* Women today are taught to make their daughters little whores.

I'll give you an example: JonBenét Ramsey who was killed in Colorado. They were putting her into a situation where she was like a sex siren queen at age seven or eight. Teaching them to be whores; dressing them up to expose their body parts. **God's judgment is coming!** The women love it and they do it. Not all, but more and more the majority is that way.

"...No, they were not at all ashamed, nor could they blush, therefore, they shall fall among those who fall. At the time *that* I punish them, they shall be cast down,' says the LORD. Thus says the LORD, 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where **the good way is and walk in it, and you shall find rest for your souls...**'" (vs 15-16). Again, I want you to see that God holds out opportunity for *repentance and change*.

- What are you going to do that God is holding out that opportunity for you?
- Are you going to repent and change?

"...But they said, '**We will not walk in it.**' Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, 'Hearken to the sound of the ram's horn.' But they said, '**We will not hearken.**' Therefore, hear, you nations, and know, O congregation, what *will happen* to them'" (vs 16-18).

Here's a promise. The congregation are those few of the Churches of God and those people that have the Holy Spirit of God, that's who God is talking to. So, He's talking to the earth, the whole world, nations. "...and know, O congregation, what *will happen* to them" God does not want His people caught off guard. He wants them to know ahead of time.

Verse 19: "**Hear, O earth; behold, I will bring evil on this people, even the fruit of their thoughts because they have not hearkened to My words, nor to My law, but have rejected it.**" Isn't that what's preached in the pulpit every Sunday when they say that Christ did away with the Law, Christ abolished the Law? Is it not? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 20: "To what purpose does frankincense come to Me from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country?..." Put it this way today: What purpose is it that you go to church on Sunday?

- when you reject the Word of God
- when you have lawless preachers who say that the Word of God has been made null and void
- that all you have to do is to have a good feeling in your heart
- that what you think is right, that is what you can do

That is a lie! That is a lie! That is a lie!

Let's see what Jeremiah had to do. Let's see what he had to preach. Then we will see the reasons for it. We will see that those very same reasons are in our nation today. Since God is the same yesterday, today and forever and the Lord says, 'I change not,' ***know that these judgments are going to come!*** God is laying it out before you:

- Will you repent and love God and keep His way?

or

- Will you continue going the way that you are going?

Here's what Jeremiah had to do, and he was a priest.

Jeremiah 7:1: "The Word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying... [these are the Words of God]: ... 'Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this Word, and say, "Hear the Word of the LORD, all Judah, who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD"' (vs 1-2). They weren't worshipping the Lord. Here's the message:

Verse 3: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, '**Amend your ways...**' That means to change from doing the things that you think are right and start doing the things that God tells you that are right.

"...**and your doings**, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.... [holding out hope with repentance] ...**Do not trust in lying words...**" (vs 3-4). I want you to ask yourself: How many lying words do I trust in? How many lying words from:

- my pastor
- my minister
- my priest
- my bishop
- my pope
- my Dalai Lama
- the imams, the ministers of Islam
- whatever religious leader

As all the lying words of trusting in Santa Claus, the Easter bunny and all these things. 'Oh that's nice to do. Oh, we do it for the children.' Why do it for the children? *So Satan can indoctrinate them at the earliest age possible by using their parents to do his dirty work!* That's why! "...**trust in lying words...**"

They came to the temple. They said, 'We're in a temple. Oh, that's wonderful! That's good! We're God's people!'

"...saying, 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.'" We're God's people. We're God's chosen. Nothing will happen to us! Sound familiar?

Verse 5: "For **if** you **thoroughly** amend your ways and your doings... [not a little repentance of flattery] ...**if** you **thoroughly** execute judgment between a man and his neighbor; **if** you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, **nor walk after other gods...**" (vs 5-6).

All the holidays of this world are holidays of other gods! If you keep those, you are walking after other gods!

"...to your hurt... [if you'll repent of this]: ...then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever" (vs 6-7). They weren't willing to do that.

- Are you willing to do that?
- What are you willing to do for God?
- How much are you sold on yourself and your vanity and what you think is right?
- Why do you believe lies?
- Why not take the other path and begin to prove it by the Word of God?
- Is what they're saying really true or is it a lie?

Verse 8: "**Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit.** Will you steal... [people steal God's time] ...murder...?" (vs 8-9). How many people have been murdered in the name of Christ, as well as the murders in the land and everything like that? Just multiply this many times over from many different points of view.

"...and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and **burn incense to Baal...**" (v 9). Who's Baal? *Baal is the sun-god!* Baal's day is:

- Sunday
- Christmas
- Easter
- New Years
- Halloween
- May Day
- Valentine's Day

Those are all Baal's days!

- Whom do you serve?
- The true God?

or

- Baal?

It doesn't matter how many Christian names they attach to it:

- it is not of God
- has never been of God
- never will be of God
- never will be accepted by God

I don't care how many:

- popes
- potentates
- leaders
- ministers
- pastors
- bishops
- priests

claim otherwise. *The Word of God says they are liars!* That's what it says.

"...**and walk after other gods whom you do not know; and then come and stand before Me in this house...**" (vs 9-10)—My very temple! That's why God destroyed it twice.

“...which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered to do all these abominations?’” (v 10). ‘We have been given grace to do these. *No!* We don’t have to keep the laws and commandments of God because we’re under grace.’ *Big lie!*

Verse 11: “‘Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it,’ says the LORD.” He sees it! He knows! He spoke to them.

Verse 12^[transcriber’s correction]: “‘But now go to My place which *was* in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it **for the wickedness of My people Israel.** And now because you have done all these works,’ says the LORD, ‘and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear; and I called you, but you did not answer; therefore, I will do to *this* house, which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, the whole seed of Ephraim’” (vs 12-15).

God will do it! There comes a time when the evil is so bad, like it was with Jeremiah that He commanded Jeremiah:

- *if* they won’t accept my call for repentance
- *if* they won’t amend their ways,
- *if* they won’t hear Me

Verse 16: “Therefore, do not pray for this people, nor lift up cry nor prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; **for I will not hear you.**” That’s one condition you never want to let yourself get into.

- while there’s life, *there’s hope*
- while there’s belief, *there can be repentance*
- with repentance there comes *forgiveness*

What were they doing to provoke God? How was it that it was honoring other gods besides all the murder and adultery and swearing falsely and so forth?

Verse 17: “Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven...” (vs 17-18).

The false queen of heaven and was originally Semiramis, who is also called Ishtar or Ishtartha from which we get Easter, and is now called the ‘virgin Mary’ in the Roman Catholic Church. If you saw John Paul II sitting there debilitated, holding a cross of a crucified Jesus in his hand and worshipping Mary the queen of heaven.

“...and to pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger” (v 18). We’re going to see some other days that are practiced.

We need to understand that God is a God of *love, mercy, kindness and compassion*, but God is also a God of *power and judgment*, and if there is no repentance He will judge. He will bring the forces and powers to bear, to come against any people anywhere and any nation at any time that *refuses to obey* the Words of God. That brings us right back were we started today.

We need to understand that you cannot at any time take the pagan days of the religions of this world, put a Christian-sounding name on them and give them a Christian meaning, *and have that accepted of God! That is an abomination! God says so!*

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 18:6-10
- 2) Jeremiah 17:19-22
- 3) Isaiah 58:13-14
- 4) Isaiah 56:1-4
- 5) 1-John 3:18-24
- 6) Isaiah 56:4-8
- 7) Jeremiah 17:23-27
- 8) Jeremiah 10:1-2
- 9) Jeremiah 5:1-26, 29-31
- 10) Jeremiah 6:13-20
- 11) Jeremiah 7:1-18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2-Chronicles 34, 35
- Revelation 6:12
- John 14
- Revelation 2; 3
- John 2

Also referenced: Books:

- *Occult Holidays or God’s Holy Days: Which?* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Josephus*
- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop
- *The Golden Bough* by Sir James George Frazer

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Holidays vs Holy Days: By Whose Authority? VII

Fred R. Coulter

As we have seen, in this world you are under one of two authorities:

- 1) you're under the authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ

or:

- 2) you're under the authority of Satan the devil, and this world

There are some people who you can say are in between, because they're not wholly wrapped up in the world, but they are not necessarily on God's side. There will be that middle ground with some people. I'm sure that there are people in the world who don't keep the holidays of the world because they don't care for them, not necessarily because they are in the Church of God.

Let's review a couple of basic Scriptures that are important for us to understand. This is important to understand in order to be able to discern between right and wrong and good and evil even though some things appear very 'religious,' very pompous and even dramatic and elegant like the scene with Pope John Paul II's funeral.

- How do you discern right and wrong?
- How do you discern Truth and error?

Some things you can learn on your own. You put your hand on a hot stove and burn your hand you know to not do that again. If you do, it's not the stove's fault.

First of all, you have to prove the Bible, and in order to understand and realize the Bible is the Word of God it's very essential that you get a translation of the Bible that is truly translated from the true original in the Hebrew and Aramaic, and the Greek in the New Testament. There are false versions of the Bible that twist, distort and change the Scriptures. That's important to begin with. Then we need to understand that:

- the Word of God is Truth
- the commandments of God are true
- the statutes of God are true
- the judgments of God are true
- everything that God has done from the beginning is true
- God is a God Who cannot lie
- He will not lie
- He is not worshipped with lies

He expects all of us to worship Him 'in Spirit and in Truth.' Here's something we need to understand about how you come:

- to the knowledge of the Truth
- to know right and wrong

- to know good and evil
 - to understand true righteousness
- that is it must come through Christ:*
- it can't come from any other way
 - it can't come from any other man
 - it can't come from any other religion

Let's read it, John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, '**I am the Way...**'" The only way to know about the way of Jesus Christ is to study the Gospels and also to know the Old Testament, because before He became a man Jesus was the Lord God of the Old Testament. So, He is "**...the Way...**"

"**...and the Truth...**" (v 6). Therefore, we can take all the words that Jesus has said and understand that those are Truth. We can judge everything that we need to judge by the things that are in the Bible. When it comes to holidays vs Holy Days, we need to judge from the Bible what the Bible says about the holidays of this world. The holidays that are kept in the world today go way, way back thousands of years ago and they were the holidays of the sun-god and the gods of the nations round about Israel. Of course, as we have covered, God said, 'You shall have no other gods before Me.'

When we start getting into these other Scriptures, let's remember something that's very important: If God would be in league with the other gods and religions of this world, and He said, 'have no other gods before Me' He would invalidate that commandment! Would He not also prove Himself to be very hypocritical, because He said, 'have no other gods before Me?'

'Oh, but I like this holiday over here that Baal has so, lets endorse that one; I'll endorse that one.' *No!* But this is virtually what people are told. This is what they are told concerning when they come to try and understand what the Catholics are doing and all the different holidays that they have, which are based on the days that the pagan gods were before Israel came and conquered the land and just changed the name. They say that the Catholic Church has christened many of the pagan holidays by giving them Christian names.

Like I pointed out last time, you can take the emblems of a Rolls Royce and you can put them on a Volkswagon Jetta, but you still have a Volkswagon. If you take, for example, Christmas—everybody knows it's pagan even though it's professed to be Christian and they keep it—and you call it Christmas, but that doesn't change the nature of the day. I'd like to know how much you could get for a Volkswagon Jetta dressed up as a Rolls Royce.

“...and **the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me**” (v 6). That’s very profound and dogmatic—*no one!* What does He say in John 10 about coming in through the door of the sheepfold? *He is the door and if anyone comes up any other way, he’s the same as a thief and a robber!* That’s what’s happening.

Isa. 43—God is saying what Israel did in going after the other gods. Yet, they always do it in the name of God. When you start analyzing all of the holidays of this world claiming to be Christian, what do you find? ***They’re all lies!*** God being a God of Truth and Jesus being ***the*** Truth tells us very clearly that They have nothing to do with those days.

Isaiah 43:22: “Yet, you have not called upon Me, O Jacob; much less have you troubled yourself about Me, O Israel.” Doesn’t that sound interesting? Haven’t some people become weary of God because they didn’t take advantage of what they should have taken advantage?

How many Israelites were, in relation to Baalim—that means many versions of the sun-god—that Elijah had to come and perform this miracle with the sacrifice. When he threw the challenge out there, he said to the children of Israel, who are the ones of Jacob, ‘How long are you halting between two opinions?’—everybody has an opinion about God, but hardly anybody *believes*—if Baal is god, then follow him. If the Lord be God, then follow Him,’ because they were doing all the mixing together.’

Verse 23: “You have not brought Me the lamb of your burnt offerings; nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not caused you to serve with a grain offering, nor wearied you with incense.” That’s what they were doing. I couldn’t help but think of that when they were doing all the incense over and over again during the pope’s funeral. I thought, ‘What on the earth are they doing that for?’

Verse 24: “You have bought Me no sweet cane with money, nor have you filled Me *with* the fat of your sacrifices; but **you have made Me serve with your sins; you have wearied Me with your iniquities.**” This means that every time people say, ‘Let’s put Christ back into Christmas,’ that’s all part of it, making Christ to “...serve with your sins...”

Verse 25: “I, *even* I, *am* He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and will not remember your sins. Put Me in remembrance; let us plead together; declare yourself, that you may be justified. Your first father has sinned, and your teachers have transgressed against Me. And I will profane the princes of the sanctuary, and will give Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches” (vs 25-28). We will see why God did that.

As we go through and understand these things and look at them, let’s realize that God always acts to carry out His will. Whenever there is sin, He is long-suffering, He tolerates a lot of it for along time, but sooner or later, He has to judge.

Jer. 2—I couldn’t help but think of this when I saw all of those devoted Catholics getting on their knees, going through the rosary, doing all the things that they would do. Then it showed on television the scenes from different places in Poland and Europe and even in Southeast Asia. I couldn’t help but think, isn’t this Scripture true? Look how zealous and how faithful those people are and look at the trouble and difficulty that the Church of God has, because they’re not zealous.

Jeremiah 2:11: “Has a nation changed *their* gods who are yet no gods? ...[all the gods of the world are not gods indeed] ...My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be amazed, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; be utterly desolated,’ says the LORD, ‘For My people have committed two evils...’” (vs 11-13). Let’s think about modern day Israel today: United States, Britain, Australia, South Africa, Canada, and so forth.

“...they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of living waters, and hewn out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that cannot hold water” (v 13). In other words, they traded the true for the counterfeit. They bought the Volkswagon Jetta and proclaimed it a Rolls Royce religiously speaking. Here’s something that always happens:

Verse 19: “**Your own evil shall correct you**... [Have you ever done something wrong and been corrupted by your own actions?] ...and your backslidings shall reprove you; therefore, know and see that *it is* an evil and bitter *thing* that you have forsaken the LORD your God, and that My fear is not in you,’ says the Lord GOD of hosts.”

I want you to think: How do people forsake God? Some people, atheists, stand up and say ‘there’s no God and I don’t want Him around and I don’t want to hear it from anybody.’ But the people who are ‘religious’ and consider themselves to be Christian, how do they do it? *They leave God by accepting the Christianized, pagan substitutes of the days that they keep, the holidays and Sunday.*

That’s why we have on the website **cbcg.org** **Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants.** You cannot get any stronger against Sunday-keeping than what the Catholics have said that they were the ones who instituted it, and ‘if you Protestants don’t admit that you’re still really Catholic, then get off Catholic ground and keep the Sabbath like the Seventh-Day Adventists.’

They make it plain and they know that the Bible throughout teaches the seventh-day Sabbath. Then comes the slight of hand where they say, 'We have the authority to change it.' God never gave that authority. That's how they exchange it. They retain the name but they change everything else. They have counterfeits for the Passover, which is called the Eucharist, the Mass, etc. They have the counterfeit for the Sabbath, which is Sunday. They practice Halloween, Easter, Christmas and New Years, which are all pagan days. *That's how they leave God!*

Verse 23: "How can you say, 'I am not defiled; I have not gone after the Baalim'?..." That's exactly what they have done. Baalim is just the plural for sun-gods. That's Sunday and everything that goes with it.

Let's see what happens when they do that. Jeremiah was a priest and he had to stand at the temple and tell them these things.

Jeremiah 7:3: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel... [these are the words of **God**] ... **'Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not trust in lying words,** saying, "The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these."'" (vs 3-4).

The temple of the Lord doesn't guarantee anything. We've lived through that! It didn't guarantee anything because what guarantees your relationship with God? a building? or your attitude? *Of course, your attitude and Truth!*

Verse 5: "For **if** you thoroughly amend your ways...[repentance] ...and your doings; **if** you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor; **if** you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, **nor walk after other gods to your hurt**" (vs 5-6).

God says that He's a jealous God. Jealous inasmuch that it is the most profound and stupid thing for people to do to make themselves idols. As He says in one place, 'A man goes out in the forest and he cuts down a tree. He chops up a certain amount of it and uses that for a fire to warm himself, bake his bread and eat it. He takes another part of it and he carves a god out of it and then he bows down to it and says, *This is my god.*' So, God is jealous that anyone would forsake the true God to bow down to an idol. He says that **if** you repent:

Verse 7: "**Then** I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever. Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and **burn incense to Baal**... [that's what the incense was for, not unto God] ...**and walk after other gods whom you do not know**" (vs 7-9).

By the way, I never knew this until I watched a review of the funeral of the pope. They have a special services that is called Litany of the Saints. You know what the Litany of the Saints is? *They name the saint!* 'Santo Matteo, Santo Marco, Santo Luca, Santo Johannes'; that's Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I think it is that they end it with, 'Pray for us.' I was surprised that they went through about 50 saints, in the Litany of the Saints that were supposed to pray for the people and pray for the pope. The pope shouldn't need a single prayer he was such a 'righteous' man, if we could look at it that way. That's what they do. Here's what's worse:

Verse 10: "And then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name... [God gave the plans to David to give to Solomon, his son, when he built the temple] ...and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations?'" In other words, 'We have grace to do these. It's all right; God knows our hearts. We're good people.'

Verse 17: "Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven..." (vs 17-18). Today that's called Mary-worship.

Watching the whole system and everything, and this current pope was really a devotee of Mary, pushing Mary-worship. You know what Pope John II did with the bullet that was extracted from him when the attempted assassination took place? *The doctors gave him the bullet and he went to the statue of Fatima, over in Portugal, and had it put into the statue of the Lady of Fatima, which is another version of the goddess of heaven!* What they're trying to do with Mary is make her a co-mediator with Jesus Christ for mankind, when the Scriptures say Jesus is the **only** Mediator. They're trying to make her co-redemptrix with Christ, Who is our Redeemer.

Here *God condemns worshipping the queen of heaven*, because:

1. she does not exist
2. it's a figment of men's imagination and Satan's inspiration

That's why we have so many goddesses in the world. You look at every civilization where they had pagan gods:

- Babylon
- Greece
- Rome
- Egypt
- Israel
- Assyria

What did God do with every one of those civilizations? *He eventually destroyed it!* The

Acropolis there in Athens, which was the main place of worship—for the mother goddess, for Zeus, for all of the gods—is in near destruction as a perpetual witness to the impotency of those gods. Yet, man still wants to have them.

The next time the Olympic games come up, you watch how much more pagan it's going to be. How do they start the original torch? It's quite a thing when you see it done. They have a reflecting dish shaped like a bowl. They point it right up at the sun and this reflective dish concentrates the rays of the sun. They put the torch in there and light it from the sun, because this is in honor of the sun-god. Many people don't know that. They look that and say, 'Ah! Isn't that wonderful!' Don't put your finger in it!

So, we have the queen of heaven; that takes care of the assumption of the virgin Mary. That takes care of all the things to do with the goddess. **God says don't do it!**

Ezekiel 8:5: "And He said to me, 'Son of man, lift up your eyes now to the way of the north....'" Where does Santa Claus come from? He doesn't come from the South Pole.

By the way, did you see the pope lying in state in his Santa Claus suit? Because he was greater than the last two popes, they put on the fish miter, which is the god Dagon, rather than the Santa Claus hat with the white ermine. If you can go back and you can look at a picture of Pope Paul VI's funeral, you will that he's got a full-fledged Santa Claus suit with the white ermine and the red cap on. They changed embalmers because the last two pope funerals the body almost rotted in front of their eyes. So, they had to change. That was in the paper.

"...So, I lifted up my eyes toward the way of the north, and behold, northward at the gate of the altar the image of jealousy *was* at the entrance" (v 5). What is the 'image of jealousy?' *That's a statue of Nimrod!* Have you ever seen the Aztec calendar? *Right in the middle of the Aztec calendar is a card-picture of Nimrod!* It's a solar calendar and all their sacrifices were to the sun.

Verse 6: "And He said to me, 'Son of man, do you see what they do; even the great abominations...'"

- What does God call these holidays and the worship of pagan gods? *Abominations!*
- Who is the mother of abominations and harlots in the earth? *Babylon the Great!*

That's why on the website **cbcg.org** we have the full book, *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop. If anyone wants to know about these things and thinks that I am picking on people, and so forth, and that I'm against the good intentions of people, draw down the sections that you need to look at. It talks

about everything concerning Mary-worship, all the aspects of the Babylonian 'religion,' and how they've all been absorbed into Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox. It's all right there!

"...which the house of Israel is doing here, that I should go far off from My sanctuary? But turn again, *and* you shall see greater abominations.' And He brought me to the opening of the court; and I looked, and behold, a hole in the wall.... [This was a very strange thing. Why was that?] ...And He said to me, 'Son of man, dig in the wall now.' And I dug in the wall, and, behold, an opening" (vs 6-8) There's a reason it's done this way.

Verse 9: "And he said to me. 'Go in and see the evil abominations that they do here.' And I went in and saw. And behold, every kind of creeping thing, and hateful beast, and all the idols of the house of Israel were carved on the wall all around. And seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel..." (vs 9-11)—the leaders of the nation. What this is describing is very clearly the same thing that you find in Masonry and their temples.

Remember. When you see a Mason building it is called a Masonic Temple, because they have rituals and practices in there that God calls abominations and it's the leading men in society who are there. As a matter of fact, being Masons they get the promotions, money and deals.

"...and Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, standing in front of them, these were before them, and each man with his censer in his hand. And the sweet smelling cloud of incense was rising. And He said to me, 'Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, each man in his room of idols? For they are saying, "The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the earth."'" (vs 11-12). That's bad enough. He goes on and says that there are even greater things that have been done.

Verse 13: "He also said to me, 'You shall see greater abominations that they are committing.' And He brought me to the opening of the gate of the LORD'S house, toward the north. And behold, women were sitting there **weeping for Tammuz**" (vs 13-14). Tammuz is the son of Semiramis who was the wife of Nimrod and she married her son Tammuz, who was the pagan god who died and was resurrected.

- When did Tammuz die? *On Good Friday!*
- When was he resurrected? *Easter Sunday!*

Easter comes after the Bible name Astarte and the Babylonian name Ishtar, which is pronounced Easter, just like we do today. Yet, everyone proclaims this is a great 'Christian' holiday and if you take Mass on Easter and Christmas you still have it made even though you don't go other times.

Verse 15: “And He said to me, ‘Have you seen this, O son of man? **You shall see greater abominations than these.**” God said that four times.

- What does God think of these days?
- What does God think of these religions?

God is merciful in as much that in order to carry out His plan the way that He is going to carry it out, He’s let those nations go their way and have *their* gods. That still doesn’t take away from the abomination of the practices that they do. Look at the result of what these nations do that was uncovered there in Southeast Asia as a result of the Tsunami and how they were selling so many children into sex slavery and work slavery.

Verse 16: “And He brought me into the **inner court of the LORD’S house...**” The ‘inner court of the Lord’s house’ was where they would enter right into the temple. What does this tell us? *This tells us that Satan likes to have his angels get into the people of God and lead them astray; even getting very high up in the order of the temple and consequently the order of the Church! That’s why we see things going on in some of the Churches of God.*

Do you know that in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church—they’re Sabbath-keepers—there’s a movement for keeping Sabbath and Sunday. Likewise in the Church of God Seventh-Day. Why? *Because just like this, there were those who got in, into the inner part of the Church, bringing up doctrines to change it! Amazing! That’s what happened to the Church of God we knew about. This is nothing new to us. God calls it an abomination.*

“...and behold, at the opening of the temple of the LORD... [right before the temple] ...between the porch and the altar, *were* about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD... [if you worship other gods you’re turning your back on God] ...and their faces toward the **east...**” (v 16)...which is the rising of the sun. When do they have services?

Many Catholic Churches are designed this way: that at different hours of the day, at certain times and especially in the spring when Easter comes around they have this window up high in the Church that faces east. It is supposed to be designed and set at a certain time that when the priest, back here at the altar offers the Consecration of the Host—you’ve seen how the priest lifts up the little piece of bread—that when he lifts it up a beam of light from the sun will shine on it at the precise time that he lifts up the consecrated wafer.

The truth is at the temple you faced west and your worship of God was to the west. If you worship God toward the east you have turned your back on God and you’re 180 degrees out of phase with God. This is what this is telling us here.

“...**and they worshiped the sun toward the east...** [that’s what Sunday is all about; it is sun-worship] ...And He said to me, ‘Have you seen, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they do the hateful things, which they do here? For they have filled the land with violence and have turned to provoke Me to anger still more. And lo, they put **the branch** to their nose.’” (vs 16-17). What is the branch? *It’s any form of the cross with a sun symbol in it!*

Verse 18: “Therefore, I will also deal with fury; My eye shall not spare, nor will I have pity. And though they cry in My ears *with* a loud voice, I will not hear them.” That’s pretty profound. Gradually we’re getting to that point.

Jeremiah 8:5: “Why has this people of Jerusalem slidden back *by* a never-ending backsliding? They hold fast to deceit; they refuse to repent. I listened and heard, *but* they did not speak right; no man repented of his wickedness, saying, ‘What have I done?’ Everyone turned in their own courses, as the horse rushes into the battle” (vs 5-6). In other words, you’re not going to stop them. Have you ever run across people that are this stubborn? Once in a while you do.

Verse 7: “Yea, the stork in heaven knows her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow watch the time of their migration; but **My people do not know the judgment of the LORD**” They don’t understand what is happening.

You look around at what’s happening in America today, and no one understands what’s happening. We’re having:

- more murders
- more shootings
- more rapes
- more child murder and molestation

These things are so prevalent in the society and people say: ‘Oh, we don’t need this!’ *Well, you ought to repent and keep the Sabbath. ‘Who are you?’ You ought to get rid of your Christmas and Easter and New Years. ‘Oh, we can’t do that! We get 40% of our business during that time! Yes, we’ll all go broke! We can’t do that!’ They don’t know the Lord!*

Verse 8: “How do you say, ‘We are wise...’” Isn’t that what they say? *‘We’re educated. We’re smart, living in this educated, sophisticated world. We don’t need those laws of God; those are*

old and ancient. After all it was only for those people.’ Is it only for those people?

- ask those who’ve had children murdered
- ask those who have come down with venereal disease because they have broken the commandment, ‘You shall not commit adultery’
- ask the homosexuals that have 100s of contacts and now are coming down with a version of AIDS that will kill them within 90 days
- Are they wise because they do away with the Law of God? *No!*
- Are they paying the penalty? *Yes!*

“...and the Law of the LORD *is* with us’?... [No! Their perverted way!] ...Lo, certainly the lying pen of the scribes has written falsely” (v 8). ‘The pen of the scribes are in vain.’ Isn’t that what they say? ‘Well, it was only written by man.’

- Is God capable of inspiring a man? *Yes, indeed!*
- Is He capable of making someone, against his will do what God wants him to do in spite of himself? *Yes!*
- What was his name? *Baalim!*

He was hired to curse but he could only bless because God wouldn’t let him curse. He got up there seven times and said, ‘I’m going up and curse them.’ He gets up there and blesses them. Balak says, ‘I paid you to curse!’ Baalim says, ‘I can’t do any more than the Lord allows me.’

Do you think that God could inspire and cause a man to write what He wanted him to write, especially one who loved Him, served Him and was called to do His work? *Of course!* That wasn’t in vain. Isn’t that what the Jesus Seminar has said? That’s why we can:

- do away with the New Testament
- do away with the Words of Christ
- do away with Christ as a myth

because the scribes were all in vain! They didn’t do it right. They made it up in their own minds hundreds of years later.

Verse 9: “The wise men are ashamed, they are terrified, and are captured. Lo, **they have turned away from the Word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?** That’s pretty heavy-duty stuff. *No!* They weren’t ashamed and they didn’t repent.

Jeremiah was one man against the world. You’ve heard me talk about one man and how important one man is: Noah, Abraham, David, all the prophets. Here’s one man against the world. He saw all this going on and he said:

Jeremiah 9:1: “Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! Oh, that I had in the wilderness a lodging place for traveling men... [some place way up out of the way to get away from it all] ...that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they *are* all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. ‘And they bend their tongues *like* their bow for lies. But **they are not valiant for the Truth** on the earth; **for they go from evil to evil, and they do not know Me,**’ says the LORD” (vs 1-3). Why? *Because they’ve gone after other gods!*

The most convenient way to do it is this: Take a pagan practice, bring it over here and say you’ve cleaned it up and now we can dedicate it to God. That’s the way they do it. That’s how these things become so entrenched.

(go to the next track)

The greatest insanity, as people would look at it, would be standing up and saying how:

- sinful
- awful
- idolatrous
- worthless
- satanic

that this whole thing was. I got to thinking: Is this not the perfection of Satan’s substitute righteousness? If anyone would stand up and say that these are abominations, they’d get the straightjacket.

That’s what Jeremiah was feeling. You can’t trust anybody. They’re going to stab you in the back. Notice that they’re not “...valiant for the Truth...” Let’s see what happens when you’re not “...valiant for the Truth...” That’s why it’s important for us to do. This happens on an on-going basis. If people:

- love their lies
- want their lies
- want their false gods and religious practices
- to do the abomination
- do it in the name of God
- say it is good

Then God is going to do something to them unless they repent. It’s happened all down through history. It happens in absolutely every generation. The children who come along, even from righteous parents, many of them forsake the righteousness that their parents have taught them because they’re free moral agents and they have to make up their minds. Unfortunately, that’s the way it happens.

Notice what happens when you give yourself over to not loving the Truth, because there is the one who is coming:

2-Thessalonians 2:9: “*Even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing **because they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved**” (vs 9-10).

If you forsake the Truth and you don’t love the Truth, something is going to happen, individually and collectively.

Verse 11: “And for this cause, **God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe the lie.**” In believing a lie you can believe it with the same fervency as you believe the Truth and think that the lie is true because of your fervent belief.

I couldn’t help but thinking all during the pope’s funeral: What did it feel like? Did you feel anything? It was all feeling, all emotion. I thought that there probably were a lot of extra spiritual agents out there doing a little inspiring and massaging, because this was a fantastic moment of power for the whole papacy worldwide to have:

- five kings
- six queens
- 70 presidents
- prime ministers

all on their knees before the casket of the pope!

Revelation 17:18: “And the woman whom you saw is the great city that has royal power over the kings of the earth.” I sat there and watched that. It’s right in front of my eyes! It’s happening! I even thought of this: What would happen if someone were able to:

- get into the area of St. Peters Basilica
- scale up on top of that obelisk
- have a great megaphone
- call them to repentance
- tell them that God is going to destroy this horrible ugly place that you think is beautiful

I tell you what, I bet that one of the police snipers shoot them and you’re history. They wouldn’t accept one of it because they believe ‘the lie.’ ***The lie is that this ungodliness is called Christian!*** These holidays that they keep are pagan. They’re not from God.

2-Thessalonians 2:11: “God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe *the* lie. So that all may be judged who did not believe the Truth, but who took pleasure in unrighteousness.” (vs 11-12). There we have a New Testament fulfillment of “...they are not valiant for the Truth on the earth...” (Jer. 9).

- What does this tell us?
- What does lay upon us as an obligation as God’s people?
- *We’ve got to be valiant for the Truth!*
- *We can’t compromise with the Truth!*

On business deals you can compromise and negotiate; that a business deal, that’s one thing. You can be kind and understanding with people with their problems and difficulties, help them along and pray for them. That’s another thing.

But, you cannot compromise the Truth of God with the lies of Satan, blend them together and come up with a mix that *looks* righteous. ***That’s an abomination! God is jealous and zealous for His Word!*** After all, it’s for our good! Notice what happens when they do that:

Jeremiah 9:3: ““And they bend their tongues *like* their bow *for* lies. But they are not valiant for the Truth on the earth; for they go from evil to evil, and they do not know Me,” says the LORD.” Some people are so used to telling lies today, that they had rather tell a lie than tell the truth, even if the truth were simpler and easier to understand.

“...But they are not **valiant for the Truth** on the earth; for they go from evil to evil, and **they do not know Me,**” says the LORD. ‘Everyone beware of his neighbor, and do not trust any brother! For every brother will supplant his neighbor, and will walk with slanders. And everyone will deceive his neighbor and will not speak the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies, *and* they weary themselves to commit iniquity. Your dwelling *is* in the midst of deceit; **through deceit they refuse to know Me,** says the LORD” (vs 3-6).

This is how they refuse to really know God, because they don’t acknowledge the Truth. When they blend all of these things together with their observances, holidays, Sunday-keeping, plus all of the other days that they have: saints day this and saints day that and saints day the other thing—then they cut themselves off from Truth.

What I want you to do is to think about this in relationship to the laws and commandments of God. Here is a profound verse that talks about the Christmas tree.

Jeremiah 10:1: “Hear the word, which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the LORD... [this comes direct from the mouth of God] ... **Do not learn the way of the heathen...** [plain and simple] ...and do not be terrified at the signs of the heavens; for the nations are terrified at them” (vs 1-2). That has to do with the signs of the zodiac and astrology.

As I was doing a little channel surfing and they had a whole program on:

- how to do astrology charts
- how to read the stars
- how to work up a chart, whether it's:
 - ✓ a good day
 - ✓ a bad day
 - ✓ a lucky day
 - ✓ an unlucky day

I thought that here we are in the middle of it. Those of us in the Church, except for a little exposure to something like that, we don't know what's going on out there in the world. These things are going on all the time: astrology, psychics, tarot cards. That's all "...the way of the heathen..."

Verse 3: "For the customs of the people *are* vain... [that's clear; vain means that it *comes to no good*] **...for one cuts a tree out of the forest with the axe, the work of the hands of the workman**" (v 3). Every year, what do we see? *We see the Christmas tree for the White House!* We see where it's cut down and then they bring it in. Different states send one. It's generally a blue spruce.

Verse 4: "**They adorn it with silver and with gold...**" This does not mean to overlay. This means to drape it, to deck it.

"...they fasten it with nails and hammers, so that it will not move" (v 4). What did the Christmas tree picture? In the book *The Two Babylons* it is the resurrected Tammuz, *who came back to life in the form of an evergreen tree!* In the case of Egypt, since they don't have evergreen trees there, they have palm trees. I never saw a palm tree lighted up for Christmas until they showed one this year. That's what they do in Egypt. The Coptic Orthodox Church religion that keeps Christmas, they decorate the palm tree and put lights on it just like you see anyplace in Europe and America where they decorate the trees.

Verse 5: "They *are* upright like the palm tree, but cannot speak" (v 5). Even though they credit it with spiritual power, it still can't speak and it has to be carried about.

"...They must surely be carried because they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them; for they cannot do evil nor good, for it is not in them" (v 5). Please understand that this does not say that it is neither good nor evil to have a Christmas tree. It says 'the tree' being a representative of a god, which it is not, has no power to do good or evil. That's what it means.

I remember when we had a Christmas tree when I was kid. They first came out which what is called angel's hair. Some of you may remember that. You get this angel's hair and you stretch it out over the Christmas tree and the lights are on there and everything was on there. I must have been about age 10 or 11 and I looked at that at night glowing. 'Oh

that is so gorgeous, look at the way the lights reflect and all that.' Some people actually put superstitions in their mind as to powers behind the Christmas tree.

Let me just give you a summary. I think it is evident that the Christmas tree celebrates the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and this represents the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The stringers they have around it are serpentine.

- Who deceived them? *The serpent!*
- What are the ornaments? *They're all ornaments of love and sex!*
- 'Who told you that you were naked?'
- 'Did you eat of the tree I told you not to eat of?' *Yes!*

Verse 6: "*Therefore, there is none like You, O LORD...*"—compared to a tree. How are you going to compare a tree that's been cut down that is destined for death, because it has no roots? that's decorated? that's brought into a house? How can you compare that to the God Who created heaven and earth, all things that there is and everything on it? *No comparison whatsoever!*

"...You *are* great, and Your name *is* great in might. Who would not fear You, O King of nations? For fear belongs to You because among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, **there is none like You.** But they are altogether foolish and animal-like; **the tree is a doctrine of vanities**" (vs 6-8).

We could apply that to the funeral of the pope, too. What was right up there in everybody's face? *A cross with a crucified Christ on it!* Amazing!

Jeremiah 11:1: "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD saying." If you have any doubt that these things are the Words of God, just do a concordance search on:

- thus says the Lord
- the Word of God came
- the Lord said
- thus saith the Lord

You're going to find that 99% of the Bible is that way.

Verse 2: "Hear the words of this covenant..." We've got a covenant renewal with the Passover. We need to hear the words of this covenant. That's why we have the Passover preparation.

"...and speak to the men of Judah and to the people of Jerusalem. And say to them, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "**Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant,** which I commanded your fathers in the day *that* I brought

them forth out of the land of Egypt... [we covered that God has judged all the gods of Egypt] ...from the iron furnace, saying, “**Obey My voice**... [which is the simplicity of Christ] ...and do according to all that I command you; so you shall be My people, and I will be your God”; so that I may fulfill the oath which I have sworn to your fathers, to give them “a land flowing with milk and honey,” as *it is* this day.”” Then I answered and said, ‘Amen, O LORD’” (vs 2-5).

Verse 6: “Then the LORD said to me, ‘Declare all these words... “**Hear the words of this covenant, and do them**, for I earnestly forewarned your fathers in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even to this day, rising early and warning persistently, saying, ‘**Obey My voice**.’ Yet, they did not obey nor bow down their ear, but walked each one in the imagination of his evil heart. So, I will bring on them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded *them* to do; but **they did not do them**’”” (vs 6-8). Notice what has happened here. How does this come about?

Verse 9: “And the LORD said to me, ‘A **conspiracy** is found among the men of Judah, and among the people of Jerusalem.’” That’s how we got to where we are today with such mixed up ‘Christianity’—a conspiracy.

It says that the priests have ‘hid their eyes from My laws and did not show my people the difference *between the clean and the unclean*’ (Ezek. 22). *Conspiracy!* Many of them know better. Not all of them, some just take it ‘lock, stock and barrel’ and that’s it. A lot of them know better.

Every time any one tries the Sunday/Sabbath test with a Sunday preacher, he always admits that the seventh day is the Sabbath, always; but he can’t preach it otherwise he would loose his congregation. However, if he doesn’t preach it he’s going to lose his salvation. *It’s amazing!*

Jeremiah 12:10: “Many shepherds have destroyed My vineyard; they have trampled My portion under foot; they have made My pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.”

- Who is the true Vine? *Jesus!*
- Who is the Husbandman? *The Father!*
- Has this not happened to those who profess to be Christian, that they “...have destroyed my vineyard...” by teaching lies?
- Has this not even happened with the Churches of God? *Yes!*
- What are they now doing?

I know some people who have quit keeping the Passover and the Holy Days and have gone to keeping Sunday and Christmas. They feel so elated.

‘We’re free to keep Christmas!’ *I can’t believe it!* Why did it happen? *Because they believed some pastor standing up in the pulpit who said, ‘It’s okay to do these things!’* That’s why you’re not to believe any man. **You are to believe the Word of God! Test and prove everything by the Word of God!**

Jeremiah 13:9: “Thus says the LORD, ‘In this way I will spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.’”

- Did that happen?
- What is Jerusalem today? *A pitiful city full of:*
 - ✓ strife
 - ✓ hatred
 - ✓ religious lies
 - ✓ shrines
 - ✓ cathedrals

Even the Catholics admit that the fourteen stations of the cross that that really isn’t where Jesus went, but you believe it on faith. Jerusalem is a pitiful city today. It happened just exactly like God said.

Verse 10: “This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who walk in the stubbornness of their heart and **walk after other gods to serve them and to worship them**, shall even be like this girdle, which is good for nothing.” He told them to take the girdle and wait for it to rot, then pick it up, look at it. It was good for nothing.

Jeremiah 15:10: “Woe is me, my mother, that you have borne me, a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth!...” That’s what he felt like having to give this message and everyone against him.

“...I have not loaned, nor have men loaned to me; *yet*, every one of them curses me. The LORD said, ‘Truly... [here’s the promise we have]: ...it shall be well with your remnant. Truly I will cause the enemy to entreat you well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction’” (vs 10-11). That’s what happened to Jeremiah. It happened that way, exactly. He was able to get out of it.

He had some close calls. He was thrown in the sewer, but rescued. He was put in chains and destined to be killed, but Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard of Nebuchadnezzar’s army, came up and said, ‘Let this man go.’ Sometimes it will be right at the last minute.

Here’s what we need to understand, the blessing and the cursing in Jer. 17. Then we’ll finish up by seeing God’s final judgment on Israel because of what they did.

Jeremiah 17:1: “The sin of Judah is engraved with a pen of iron, with the point of a diamond; *it is* carved upon the tablet of their heart

and upon the horns of your altars” That’s pretty incurable.

- How determined and evil can people become?
- How do they get that way? *By following false gods and observing the holidays of this world!*

Verse 2: “While their children remember their altars and their Asherim beside every green tree on the high hills. O My mountain in the field, I will give your wealth *and* all your treasures for spoil, and your high places because of sin, throughout all your borders. And you, even of yourself, have let go of the inheritance, which I gave you; and **I will cause you to serve your enemies in a land**, which you do not know. For you have kindled a fire in My anger, *which* shall burn forever” (vs 2-4). For God to say that, they really were in deep sin.

Let’s stop and think for just a minute: What God did to Judah in 580_{B.C.} and in 70_{A.D.}, is nothing compared to what’s going to happen at the return of Christ. That’s going to be awesome! Here’s the result:

Verse 5: “Thus says the LORD, ‘Cursed is the man who trusts **in man**...’”

I was watching the papal funeral and I couldn’t help but think of that, when they were wanting to make him a saint now, worshipping a man, trust in a man. The only way you trust in a man is to have a contract and make sure it’s legally ironclad.

“...and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the LORD” (v 5). If he’s a Godly man, if his word is true and good, then that’s a different story, but you never trust anyone for salvation outside of Christ. Here’s what happens when you trust in man:

Verse 6: “For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes. But he shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land that is not inhabited. **Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose hope is the LORD**” (vs 6-7). That’s a blessing. That’s what we are to do. To trust in the Lord means:

- you *obey* His voice
- you *believe* His Word
- you *keep* His commandments
- you *love* Him with all your heart, mind, soul and being
- He gives you His Spirit
- He opens the way for salvation for you

Remember, whatever we have here, right now in the physical, is only temporary:

- what we’re looking for is the riches of the Kingdom
- what we’re looking for is eternal life
- what we’re looking for is eternal righteousness

That’s why we keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days.

Verse 8: “For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters; *it* sends out its roots by the river, and *it* shall not fear when the heat comes, but its foliage shall be green; and he is not worried in the year of drought, nor will it cease from yielding fruit.”

Psalms 1:1: “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the Law of the LORD; and in His Law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water that brings forth its fruit in its season...” (vs 1-3). That’s what we are to do.

Jeremiah 17:9: “**The heart is deceitful above all things...**” That’s how we get ourselves in trouble, listening to the inner voice against better judgment. I’ve done it! You’ve done it! We all do it! What is the easiest thing to be deceived by? *Not gross evil, but things that appear good!*

“...and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (v 9). Let me just explain something here. Before you’re converted, or before God begins to call you and you’re subsequently converted, **you have no thought of how deceitful the human mind is**, even though you may have experienced some interaction with people who have lied to you, and so forth. That’s them, that’s not you! You don’t know how deceitful it can get when it is turned over to evil, because it can become progressively more deceitful and evil. This is what it’s talking about, because it refers back to Jer. 17:1 where the sin is just engraven in their hearts.

What does God want in our hearts? *He wants the laws of God written in our hearts! He wants the love of God in us!* Here’s one thing we need to know. God can do this to anyone at any time, anyplace in the world, any hour of the day or night:

Verse 10: “**I the LORD search the heart...**” That’s why in the New Testament He’s called *the heart-knowing God*. Only God knows the heart. We can look and see actions, that’s true. We can know people by their fruits, but you can never judge their hearts, because you do not know, and never know, what they are thinking. Many wives and husbands, especially wives *think* that they know what their husbands are thinking and by experience, they can be pretty accurate in it. You really, really, don’t truly know, because no one knows the heart

except God. God is going to test and try. God is going to judge by the heart.

“...**I try the reins...**” (v 10). What is that? It’s likened unto the reins on horses. That’s so that God sees how you respond. With some horses you have got to get the bit in there and you actually have to put something that will injure their tongue slightly so that they will respond. It’s so sensitive on the tongue, that if they fight against it, it’s going to hurt them powerfully. You pull back on the reins on those horses, you can get them to do things that you want them to do. A horse that’s been really trained right you don’t even have to use the reins. You just get on the horse and you lean to the left, it’ll go left. You lean to the right and it’ll go right. You tell it to stop; it’ll stop. You hardly ever have to use the reins.

That’s the way God wants it with us, that we follow God and we follow *His way*, that He doesn’t have to get the reins and tug and pull on them to make us do what we need to do. He knows that we’re going to be just like God wants us to be. If He wants us to go left, He leans left and we go. If He wants us to go right, He’ll lean right and we’ll go.

“...even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings” (v 10). That’s what God will do. There are many other things that can be there.

Let’s see why God raises up nations to root out other nations and bring war against them. *God* is the One Who does it!

2-Kings 17:6: “In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria... [that was the capital of the ten northern tribes] ...and carried Israel away into Assyria. And he placed them in Halah, and in Habor by the river Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. Now it came to pass because the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, and walked in the statutes of the nations whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which the nations had made” (vs 6-8).

Let’s understand that from the time that the ten northern tribes were split off until they went into captivity was 238 years. Was God long-suffering? *Yes!* Finally it came to a point where He had to do as He said He would. The reasons are clear.

Verse 9: “Now, the children of Israel secretly did things that *were* not right against the LORD their God. And they built high places in all their cities for themselves...” Those are cathedrals today. Where do they put the cathedrals? *In the best and most expensive land, the most prominent place!*

“...from the Watch Tower to the fortified city. And **they set up images and groves** for

themselves in every high hill, and under every green tree. And they burned incense in all the high places, like the nations whom the LORD had removed from before them, and they practiced evil things to provoke the LORD to anger, for they served the idols of which the LORD had said to them, ‘You shall not do this thing.’ And the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all the prophets, by all the seers, saying, ‘**Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the Law** which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets’” (vs 9-13). God always offered them repentance.

While there is still time for those who still keep the holidays of this world, you check them out and you compare them with the Bible and are you going to accept God’s offer of repentance and repent and turn to Him? *That’s a decision you’re going to have to make!* It doesn’t matter how many other people in the world are keeping Sunday and the holidays of this world, what matters is what you do and what I do.

God sent many prophets. You can read of that all the way through the books of Kings and Chronicles.

Verse 14: “Nevertheless, they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like the neck of their fathers who did not believe in the LORD their God. **And they rejected His statutes and His covenant,** which He made with their fathers, and His warnings that He testified against them. And they went after vanity, and became vain, and went after the nations around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them not to do like them. **And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God** and made molten images, two calves for themselves. And they made a grove, and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal” (vs 14-16)—the sun-god. *That’s why the judgment of God came!*

You can add that up with many things. Let’s look at why, just for example, economically, the U.S. dollar is going to go down; it’s all based on a lie. There is no money! It’s just printed. That’s just one thing. *That comes because of leaving the commandments of God that, ‘You shall not bear false witness!’* Every dollar that you have in your pocket is bearing false witness. You can’t redeem it in silver or gold. It says, ‘This note is legal tender,’ and a note is an I.O.U.

All of these things go together. That’s just one example. Society reaches a point of maximum sin, and when society reaches the point of maximum sin, **God must judge!** He’s given some warnings: 9/11 was a warning. Everybody went to church for about six weeks and said, ‘God bless America,’ but *not one of them repented of any of their rotten sins.*

Let's put it this way. I don't know how many did or didn't, but it's evident that very few repented of their sins.

Verse 17: "And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire..." That's the fire to Molech. We can liken that unto abortion today.

"...And they used divination... [going after familiar spirits] ...and sorceries, and **sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger**" (v 17). The generation that's being raised today are being sold to sin and evil.

You want a real education, you get in your car and you go park where the high school lets out in the afternoon. Just sit there and look at the kids:

- look at the expressions on their faces
- look at how they dress
- look at how they walk
- look at their demeanor

What are you going to see? *You're going to see kids given over to evil of every kind, frustrated and miserable!* None of them walk out with a spring in their step and purpose and drive to do something. *No!* They have their heads hung down because their minds are all inundated with:

- sex
- music
- stupidity
- rottenness

They've sold themselves to evil! The parents have neglected them and let them go. If the parents try to do anything, they tell them to 'buzz off!'

You know it's going to come! What a shame! At least those who have ears to hear, can hear, repent, change and turn to God!

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

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- 1) John 14:6
- 2) Isaiah 43:22-28
- 3) Jeremiah 2:11-13, 19, 23
- 4) Jeremiah 7:3-10, 17-18
- 5) Ezekiel 8:5-18
- 6) Jeremiah 8:5-9
- 7) Jeremiah 9:1-3
- 8) 2-Thessalonians 2:9-11
- 9) Revelation 17:18
- 10) 2-Thessalonians 2:11-12
- 11) Jeremiah 9:3-6
- 12) Jeremiah 10:1-8

- 13) Jeremiah 11:1-9
- 14) Jeremiah 12:10
- 15) Jeremiah 13:9-10
- 16) Jeremiah 15:10-11
- 17) Jeremiah 17:1-8
- 18) Psalms 1:1-3
- 19) Jeremiah 17:9-10
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- John 10
- Ezekiel 22

Also referenced:

- Book: *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop
- From *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*) Appendix N: Rome's Challenge to the Protestants (also at cbcg.org)

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