

Bible Topical Index

Mark Mickelson, Pastor of the Spokane, Washington, United Church of God, has compiled a 100-page ***Bible Topical Index***. It lists basic scriptures by subject, and is a good tool to assist in Bible study and in answering questions. There is extra space between topics for you to include additional scriptures and personal notes. This handy-sized, spiral bound, book is available free to USA requestors from: UCG-Spokane, 4929 W. Shawnee Avenue, Spokane WA 99208, mmickelson@msn.com.

Consequences of Denial

At the peak of Enron's grandeur, who could have guessed it was perched for a fall? Anyone with a bit of knowledge of the company who was willing to see. There were early clues of the denial in the culture that eventually led to its demise. Tom Peters saw it, spoke the truth about what he saw, and was promptly ignored.

At the 2000 Enron Management conference, the leaders projected the next year's stock prices by saying, "Our future has never looked rosier." The tone changed when keynote speaker Tom Peters strode to the stage, abandoned his prepared speech, and said, "That's the scariest thing I've ever heard...What, exactly, has Enron done that was so novel? What accounted for such self-congratulation? ... Where were the company's new ideas? An excess of self-confidence kills companies," Peters warned.

Peter noted signs of a company in trouble: (1) denial of problems, (2) nostalgia, and (3) arrogance. The leaders sat frozen in their seats, smiles locked on their faces. It was clear to many that Enron displayed all three signs. But as soon as Peters finished, Enron leaders reminded the group, "Remember, Enron had found the one successful business model that could be applied to any market."

Some potential employees kept their eyes open, by declining offers to work at Enron because they chose not to get involved in questionable business practices. If you are part of a business (or a Church) that is in denial, it is your problem. Truth catches up with everyone. The longer you ignore it, the harder it will hit you when it does.

— based upon "A PowerPhrase A Week," from SpeakStrong, Inc., Issue 132, September 22, 2004, by Meryl Runion, author of ***Power Phrases, the Perfect Words to Say it Right and Get the Results You Want***. Subscribe to her free newsletter by E-mailing powerphrases@att.net. Order her books from www.powerpotentials.com.

Must Men Wear Beards?

Question: Don't **Leviticus 19:26-28** and **21:1-6** show that men must wear beards?

Answer: These verses do not command men to wear beards; they limit what kinds of beards men may have. God's statutes forbid the pagan custom of shaving off part of the hair of the head and beard. **Leviticus 19:27-28**, "Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard. Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you; I am the Lord." **Leviticus 21:5**, "They [Levitical priests] shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh."

If these scriptures indicate it is a command for men to keep their beards, they would say "don't cut off your beard." But, they do not say this; instead, they say do not cut off the *corner* of your beard. If you are going to have a beard, it must be a full beard. God's Word assumes that men will have beards. After all, He made men, not women, to have beards. There is no scripture forbidding men to keep their full beards.

New Publishing Schedule

Beginning in 2005, we plan to publish the *Giving & Sharing Newsletter* four times a year: March, June, September, and December. Our second publication, *Church of God News*, will be published on the Internet six times a year: January, and every other month. Please submit Bible Studies and Book Reviews for publication in the G&S Newsletter, and news articles about your Church's activities for publication in Church of God News to: info@giveshare.org.

More on Three Days

The following is from an article by Blaine Neumann in the Spring 1997 edition of the Ministerial Forum.

Didascalia Apostolorum, ca. A.D. 200, "when we had eaten the Passover on the third day of the week at even" By the end of the third century a fast was celebrated on Wednesday (until 3:00 PM) to commemorate Christ's arrest.

The Narrative of Joseph, "The Wednesday fast is still very much alive in Eastern Orthodox Church" today.

Church historian Socrates (ca. A.D. 440), "Differences in usage in regard to Easter . . . others in the East kept that feast on the Sabbath instead."

Gregory of Tours (A.D. 538-594), "Many in France believed that Jesus rose from the dead on the seventh day of the week."

Alexander Ross (A.D. 1590-1654), "The Armenii believed in a Saturday resurrection."

For more information, contact: John Lemley, 312 West 36th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660 USA, phone: 360-699-1638.

Avoiding Pork

A name for pork derivatives used in medicines is "SUIS." Pork is as vile as it gets when it comes to disease. The Bible forbids everyone from using it in any form. — submitted by Barbara Boss

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If we could have witnessed the animals line up to enter Noah's Ark, hear the pounding rains as the ark lifted with the rising water, and finally feel the Ark settle and come to rest on mount Ararat, wouldn't it have been easier for us to believe?

If we actually saw the Red Sea part and the wall of water held back while we walked through on dry ground, wouldn't that be a great faith builder?

What if we had been participants in the first Passover, and heard the pitiful wails of despair as the living mourned their dead? Serious business, this religion of the Hebrews.

If we had watched Jesus die on that cross and then later have Jesus appear to us like He did to Thomas, and say, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing," **John 20:27**. Surely we also would have said, "my Lord and my God," **verse 28**.

But we weren't there. When many seminaries teach and ministers preach that the Bible is really just a collection of fables collected from various sources over many years, stories that have been told and retold and embellished with each retelling to the point that there is little resemblance to the original event, how could we be expected to have the faith of the ancients?

Although archaeologists, historians, and various researchers have found physical evidence that these events did occur, did they occur as we are told in the Bible? Were they truly orchestrated by an all-powerful God who not only knows but also controls the end from the beginning? I'll let you decide.

Consider the first event we mentioned, Noah's ark. **Genesis 8:1-4** tells the story of when the ark came to rest, and verse four states, ". . . in the *seventh month*, on the *seventeenth day of the month*, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat." Thus, giving mankind a new beginning in a new world.

There are 360 days in the Hebrew year, but God chose the seventeenth day of the seventh month for that event. The probability of an event happening on any one day of the year would be 360 to one. **Ecclesiastes 3** tells us there is a time for everything and God has an appointed time for every event of His plan, as we shall see.

Exodus 14:21-22 tells us about the

parting of the red sea. "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left."

Did God choose a particular day for that event? In **Numbers 33:1-8**; Moses recorded their travels after the Passover, which would be the fifteenth of Nisan. Remembering that Israel's days begin at sunset we can tract them to the evening of the seventeenth, camping at Migdol. Then in **verse eight** we read, "And they departed (morning of the seventeenth) from before Pi-hahiroth, and *passed through the midst of the sea* into the wilderness. . . ."

Israel physically left the land of Egypt on the seventeenth of Nisan, a new beginning in a new land.

Did you notice something here? This occurred in the first month, but the Ark came to rest in the seventh month. What is the difference between the first month and the seventh month? None. They are the same day. After Israel left Egypt God gave them a new calendar to mark their new beginning. The new (sacred) calendar started on the seventh month of the civil calendar, thus the seventeenth day of the seventh month in the days of Noah is the same as the seventeenth day of the first month (Nisan) in their new calendar.

The probability of two events occurring on the same day is calculated by multiplying them together: $1/360 \times 1/360 = 1/129,000$. So, there is one chance in 129,000 that these two events could occur by accident on the same day.

Let's back up about 430 years to the time when Jacob's family entered the land of Egypt. Is the time of their arrival significant? **Exodus 12:40-41** will tell us precisely when they arrived.

"Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And at the end of four hundred and thirty

years, *to the very day*, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.”

The very day of their arrival in Egypt would, therefore, have to be on the seventeenth day of Nisan 430 years before, a new beginning, in a new land.

By multiplying the probabilities of the three occurrences we have 46,656,000 to one chances that three occurrences would happen on the same day. Would you buy a raffle ticket against those odds?

It gets better. Let's take a look at the battle of Jericho. If we read **Joshua 5:10-6:3** we find that Israel observed the Passover and the following day they ate some of the produce of the land. The next day (the sixteenth) the manna ceased.

Then in **verse 13** we read, “Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, (*we would assume this to be the seventeenth since the last mentioned date was the sixteenth*) that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, ‘Are you for us or for our adversaries?’ (*A pretty gutsy man, that Joshua; no wonder God chose him to lead Israel.*) He said, ‘No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, ‘What has my Lord to say to His servant?’

Then skipping down to **chapter 6:2**, we read, “The Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors.”

Jericho was given to Joshua on the seventeenth of Nisan, a new beginning in a new land. [Editor's note: some believe that this was in the second month.]

Using the same probability formula as before, we come up with one chance in 16 billion, 796 million, 160 thousand.

Want another one? In **II Chronicles 29:1-28**, we are told of the terrible rundown and filthy condition of the beautiful Temple of God. But when Hezekiah became king, he began a cleanup campaign. On the sixteenth of Nisan the cleaning was finished, on the seventeenth the sacrifices and worship

services were restored. Thus an acceptable and proper worship service began anew.

Now we have five “accidental occurrences” to calculate. Would you believe that is one chance in 6 trillion, 48 billion, 617 million, 600 thousand?

Do you remember the story of Esther? If we follow the events from **Esther 3:12** to the hanging of Haman we can determine that it was on the seventeenth of Nisan that Queen Esther exposed Haman's plot to King Xerxes. The result was that Haman was hanged on the very gallows that he had built for Mordecai. Their enemies were destroyed from among them, and God's people were given a new beginning.

The probability of six accidental new beginnings — all occurring on the same day of the month is one chance in 2 quadrillion, 177 trillion, 402 billion, 436 million.

Impressive? Yes, but there is an even more significant event to consider.

We know that Jesus was crucified on the Passover. We know that the Passover was the fourteenth of Nisan. We know that Jesus had to be in the grave three days and three nights in order to fulfill His own prophecy concerning the sign of Jonah (**Matthew 12:40**). Three days from the fourteenth is the seventeenth of Nisan. Christ was resurrected on Saturday evening the seventeenth of Nisan, a full three days and three nights, no more and no less, from the time of His death — offering you a new beginning by being born again (**John 3:1-21**). (No, He was not resurrected on Sunday morning, as can be easily determined by any sincere Bible student.)

Hold on to your hats! The probability of all seven of these events all occurring by accident on the same day is one in 783 quadrillion, 864 trillion, 876 billion, 960 million. But who's counting?

Were they accidental or divinely appointed? If we could have been there, how could we have had more reason to believe than we do now?

— from a sermon given February 7, 2004 by Del Leger, Pastor, Christian Church Of God, Grand Junction, Colorado. Ω

Free “Game of Proverbs” sheets to make into cards for Proverbs memorization game. Write: **Giving & Sharing, PO Box 100, Neck City, MO 64849.**

Proverbs, ancient or modern, are very helpful. They stimulate our thought and teach us important lessons. We should cherish every proverb.

Modern Proverbs

Here are some “Old American West” proverbs:

Don’t squat with your spurs on.

The three most deadly diseases in the old West were: smallpox, cholera, and the ignorance to argue with a long-haired, whisky-drinkin’ liar.

A woman’s heart is like a campfire. If you don’t tend to it regular, you’ll soon lose it.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Comin’ as close to the truth as a man can come without actually gettin’ there is comin’ pretty close, but it still ain’t the truth.

The basics of roping are a sense of rhythm, good timing, and an eye for distance. You might also wanta keep this in mind when you’re two stepping around the dance floor.

Marry a woman with brains enough for two, and you’ll come out even.

Never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear, or a fool from any direction.

Treat a mule-headed man the same way you’d treat a mule you’re fixin’ to corral. Don’t try to drive ‘em in. Jus’ leave the gate open a crack and let ‘em bust in.

Here are some proverbs from other countries:

If it wasn’t for the elephant, the buffalo would be a great animal in the jungle (Ghana).

Rain beats on a leopard’s skin, but it does not wash out the spots (Ashanti).

A husband and wife in perfect concord are like the music of the harp and lute (China).

Don’t count your chickens before they’re hatched (English).

You can’t hang people before you’ve caught them (German).

Don’t curse the crocodile before you have crossed the river (Swahili).

A man who has once been tossed by a buffalo, when he sees a black ox, thinks it’s another buffalo (Kenya).

In a Greek tragedy, everybody dies. In a Russian tragedy, everybody dies. In fact, in a Russian comedy, everybody dies — they just die happy (Russia).

Better to have more lightning in the hand and less thunder in the mouth (Apache).

Don’t ask God to give it to you — ask Him to put you where there is some (Spain).

Love is a sweet dream, and marriage is the

alarm clock (Jewish).

You can’t straighten out a snake by passing it through a bamboo tube (Japan).

Twelve Major Topics of Book of Proverbs

1. Corporate proverbs — “king and country” proverbs that teach organization and authority dynamics in business, education, government, and in many respects, even the church.

Proverbs 16:14-15, “As messengers of death is the king’s wrath, But a wise man will appease it. In the light of the king’s face is life, And his favor *is* like a cloud of the latter rain” (NKJV throughout).

2. Communication proverbs — principles of personal, family, and corporate communication.

Proverbs 15:1-2, “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.”

Proverbs 25:11-12, “A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in settings of silver. *Like* an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold, *Is* a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.”

3. Leadership proverbs — contain the essential principles how to be a good leader (or follower), speak to diligence, power of wisdom, goal setting, anti-slothfulness, getting counsel, reputation, etc. Included in some king and country, communication, and other proverb types.

Proverbs 4:26-27, “Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.”

Proverbs 12:24, “The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy *man* will be put to forced labor.”

Ecclesiastes 10:1, “Dead flies putrefy the perfumer’s ointment, And cause it to give off a foul odor; *So does* a little folly to one respected for wisdom *and* honor.”

4. Wealth proverbs — the first principle of financial success, teaching on thrift, savings, honest earning, warnings against greed, financial selfishness and false friends.

Proverbs 3:9-10, “Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

Proverbs 1:19, “So *are* the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.”

Proverbs 13:11, 22, “Wealth *gained* by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase A good *man* leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.”

5. Parenting proverbs — how to bring up your children as happy, well adjusted, productive, and successful young people who grow in favor with God and man.

Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”

6. Husband-Wife proverbs — dynamics of marriage, becoming a good husband or wife, enjoying the romantic and sexual bond, working together to make a home and family.

Proverbs 31:10-12, “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.” **Proverbs 5:18-19**, “Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.”

7. Sexual Immorality proverbs — warnings against the destructiveness of adultery and any sexual deviancy, forewarnings of the dynamics of seduction and temptation.

Proverbs 6:32, “Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He *who* does so destroys his own soul.”

8. Health and Stress proverbs — directions on staying fit and well, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Principles of diet, exercise, positive mental attitude, etc.

Proverbs 17:22, “A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.”

Proverbs 3:7-8, “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.” **Proverbs 31:17**, “She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms.”

9. Friendship proverbs — actually speaks to all relationships, loyalty in friendship, how to accumulate friends, how to serve your friends, the great value of good and true friendships.

Proverbs 27:9, “Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man’s friend *gives delight* by hearty counsel.”

Proverbs 27:5-6, “Open rebuke *is* better than

love carefully concealed. Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.”

Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”

10. Fool proverbs — all the things you don’t want to think, don’t what to say, don’t want to do and don’t want to be. Includes proverbs on the foibles of human nature, especially dealing with anger, self-justification, and the incredibly inept, know-it-all attitude.

Proverbs 26:12, “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him.”

11. Righteous-Wicked proverbs — these are the overarching proverbs about mankind illustrating the evil of wickedness compared to the goodness of righteousness, provide depth of understanding about true justice.

Proverbs 11:5, “The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.”

Proverbs 11:23, “The desire of the righteous *is* only good, *But* the expectation of the wicked *is* wrath.”

12. Greatness and Goodness of God proverbs — address the greatness and goodness of God directly, include themes of faith, faithfulness, and obedience.

Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

How to Use the Book of Proverbs

1. Pray for Wisdom. God wants to give us wisdom, but only when we ask Him, **James 1:5**.

2. Issue-driven Research. What issues are you facing in life? Study them first.

3. Study to Quote the Proverbs. Proverbs are meant to be quoted in conversation and your mind. Memorize the key ones and your favorites.

4. “Dating” the Chapter of Proverbs. A chapter a day is plenty. Read the chapter of **Proverbs** that corresponds to the day of the month, plus **Ecclesiastes** the first 12 days of the month.

5. Testing Laboratory for Arguments. Practice evaluating wise sayings or statements you hear or read, in the light of God’s proverbs. Great fellowship conversation topics.

— by Randy Stiver, Young Adult Bible Seminar, Feast of Tabernacles 2003.Ω

Today, when most babies are born they are usually given names that sound good to their parents without any thought to their meaning and if those names really suit the characteristics of the child they have just brought into the world.

In the Bible, names given to people by their parents, and sometimes by God, had meaning and described the person in question. The meaning of these names often give us clues to know more about the people we read about in the Bible.

The following table gives a list of all the major figures we read about in the Bible, including many who have become fathers of nations of the world. Most of the meanings of these names have been obtained from *Meredith's Book of Bible Lists*, by J.L. Meredith.

Adam and His family

Adam – humus, taken from the earth [God formed him out of the dust of the ground, **Genesis 2:7**]

Eve (Adam's wife) – life, mother of all living, **Genesis 3:20**

Cain (Adam's son) – gotten, gain, fabrication [first human born, **Genesis 4:1**. Tradition indicates that Cain was black, Enoch 84:5]

Abel (Adam's son) – meadow [Tradition indicates that Abel was reddish in skin color, Enoch 84:5]

Seth (Adam's son) – appointed [Son appointed to Eve for the loss of Abel, **Genesis 4:25**. Both Bible, **Genesis 5:3**, and tradition, Enoch 84:11, indicate Seth was white].

Cain's Descendants

Enoch – teacher; Irad – wild ass; Mehujael – God is combating; Methusael – man of God; Lamech – overthrower [slew a “young man,” possibly Enoch, **Genesis 4:23**.]; Jabal – river [pioneer of those who dwell in tents and herd cattle (**Genesis 4:20**)]; Jubal – trumpet [pioneer of all musicians, **Genesis 4:21**]; Tubal-Cain – flowing forth of Cain [pioneer of metallurgy, **Genesis 4:22**]

Seth's Descendants

Enos – man is his family; Cainan – acquisition; Mahalaleel – the praise of God;

Jared – descending; Enoch – teacher [teacher of God's ways (**Jude 14**)]

Methuselah – when he is dead, it shall be sent [“It” probably refers to the Flood. The oldest man in history died at the time of the Flood]

Lamech – overthrower

Noah – rest [his father felt Noah would comfort them from their toil on earth (Genesis 5:29)]

Noah's Family

Namaah (Noah's wife) – sweetness [according to tradition, Namaah was the name of Noah's wife which isn't recorded in the Bible]

Shem (Noah's son) – name [father of the white nations of the earth]

Ham (Noah's son) – dark, swarthy [the meaning of Ham disproves the idea that Noah's sons were white and the races were preserved by Ham and Japheth racially intermarrying. God had to have miraculously added the extra genes into Noah and his wife, like He did with Adam and Eve, to preserve the races. Ham is the father of the black nations]

Japheth (Noah's son) – persuader [father of the Oriental, Mediterranean, and Latin American peoples]

Japheth's Descendants

Gomer – completion [father of the S.E. Asian peoples]

Gomer's sons: Ashkenaz [a fire that spreads], Riphath [enemies] and Togarmah [strong]

Magog – expansion [father of the Chinese people. In population, Magog truly has expanded. Often mentioned with Gog in prophecy, meaning a mountain or kingdom]

Madai – middle

Javan – clay [father of the swarthy Mediterranean peoples]

Javan's sons: Elishah [God is saviour], Tarshish [hard – father of the Spanish and

Japanese people], Kittim [they that bruise] and Dodanim [a leader]

Tubal – worldly [father of the Russians]

Meshech – drawing out

Tiras – desire of parents [father of the Red Indians of North and South America]

Ham's Descendants

Cush – black [father of the Ethiopians and Indians]

Cush's sons: Seba [old man], Havilah [circle], Sabtah [breaking through], Sabtecha [surrender], Nimrod [hunter, valiant – a mighty hunter “before,” meaning against God (**Genesis 10:8**). The post flood world's first dictator] and Raamah [trembling] – his sons were Sheba [seventh] and Dedan [low]

Mizraim – tribulations [father of the Egyptians]; Mizraim's sons: Ludim [bending], Anamim (?), Lehabim [flame], Naphtuhim (?), Pathrusim [the south land] – father of the Nubians and Casluhim (?)

Put – extension [father of the West and South Africans and Indians]

Canaan – lowland; Canaan's sons: Zidon [fortified] and Heth [terrible]

Shem's Descendants

Elam – youth [father of the East Europeans]

Lud – bending [father of the Armenians]

Aram – exalted

Aram's sons: Uz [firmness], Hul [circle], Gether [vale of trial] and Mash [drawn out – Same meaning as Moses]

Asshur – level plain [father of the Germanic peoples of Europe]

Arphaxad – one that releases [according to tradition, Arphaxad and Asshur were twin brothers]

Arphaxad's Descendants

Salah – offshoot

Eber – a shoot [father of the Hebrews]

Peleg – division [in his day the earth was divided (**Genesis 10:25**), probably referring to the scattering of the peoples at the Tower of Babel.] His brother was Joktan [little]

Reu – friend; Serug – firmness; Nahor – snorer [What a lovely name!]; Terah – wandering

Terah's sons: Abram [father of height – This suggests that Abraham was quite tall], Nahor [snorer] and Haran [enlightened]

Job – he that weeps [when tested by God, he had a very hard life]

Abraham and His Family

Abraham – father of nations [God changed his name from Abram, **Genesis 17:5**]

Sarah (Abraham's wife) – queen, or princess of the multitude [originally her name was Sarai, meaning princess, **Genesis 17:15**]

Hagar (Abraham's Concubine) – fugitive [She had to flee when Sarah chased her away]

Ishmael (Abraham's son) – God hears [God heard the affliction of Hagar by promising Ishmael would be a father of a great multitude of people known to us as the Arabs, **Genesis 16:10-11**]

Isaac (Abraham's son) – laughing one [Sarah laughed at the promise given her age and then laughed for joy at his birth, **Genesis 21:6**]

Lot (Abraham's nephew) – concealed Lot's sons: Moab [desire] – father of Moabites) and Ben-Ammi [son of my people] – Father of Ammonites)

Isaac's Family

Rebekah (Isaac's wife) – captivating

Esau (Isaac's son) – hairy [father of the Turkish people and Palestinians]

Jacob (Isaac's son) – supplanter [God changed his name to Israel meaning “overcomer with God.” We are all to become spiritual Israelites – overcomers with God. The church is called the Israel of God (**Galatians 6:16**).

Jacob's wives: Leah [wearied], and Rachel [ewe]

Jacob's Sons

Reuben – behold a son [father of the French]

Simeon – hears and obeys [scattered throughout the Israelite peoples]

Levi – joined [scattered throughout the Israelite peoples]

Judah – praise of the Lord [father of the Jews. We are to become spiritual Jews – “praised of God,” **Romans 3:29**]

Zebulun – dwelling [father of the Dutch]

Isaachar – reward [father of the Finns]

Dan – he that judges [father of the Irish]

Gad – good fortune [father of the French-speaking Swiss]

Asher – happiness [father of the Belgians]

Naphtali – obtained by wrestling [father of the Swedes]

Benjamin – son of the right hand [originally called Ben-oni meaning “son of my sorrow,” father of the Norwegians]

Joseph – may God add [father of the English-speaking peoples]

Joseph’s Sons

Ephraim – doubly fruitful [father of British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand people. Doubly fruitful in that Joseph’s sons had the double blessing of the birthright and the British Empire was the greatest of all time.]

Manasseh – causing forgetfulness [father of the American people. His birth made Joseph forget his ordeal in prison where he was wrongfully imprisoned for alleged rape]

Moses and Some Figures in Exodus Story

Moses – drawn from [drawn from the Nile River by Pharaoh’s daughter. He may have been called Hapi-moses “drawn from Hapi (Nile god),” later dropping the Hapi. Moses is an Egyptian name seen in the names of the pharaohs such as Ra-moses (Ramses – drawn from Ra) and Thutmoses (drawn from Thoth)]

Aaron – enlightened [Moses’ brother and first High Priest of Israel]

Miriam – bitterness [Moses’ sister. Her name means the same as Mary, the mother of Jesus]

Joshua – Jehovah is salvation [Successor to Moses. Saviour in the sense he was a type of Christ leading Israel to the Promised Land]

Caleb – bold [He and Joshua were the bold spies who urged the people to take the land with God’s help]

Pharaoh – the destroyer [name for rulers of Egypt]

Agag – warlike [King of Amalek. Amalek means “dweller in the vale,” reminding us of the ambush they made on Israel near Mt. Sinai]

Balam – lord of the people [soothsayer hired by Balak, worshipper of Baal, a Mesopotamian god whose name means Lord]

Balak – waster [King of Moab]

The Judges of Israel

Othniel – lion of God [led Israel to victory against the king of Mesopotamia, **Judges 3:9-10**]

Ehud – strong [killed Eglon and delivered Israel from Moab, **Judges 3:15-30**]

Shamgar – cupbearer [delivered Israel from the Philistines, **Judges 3:31**]

Deborah – bee [helped lead Israel against Canaan, **Judges 4**]

Barak – thunder [helped Deborah fight against Canaan]

Gideon – great warrior [led Israel to victory against the Midianites, **Judges 6-8**]

Abimelech – father of the king

Tola – scarlet

Jair – Jehovah arouses

Jephthah – he sets free [set Israel free from the Ammonites, **Judges 11**]

Ibzan – active

Elon – strong

Abdon – cloud of judgment

Samson – strong [strongest man ever, delivered Israel from the Philistines, **Judges 13-16**]

Eli – my God

Samuel – asked of God [his birth was an answer to a prayer of his mother Hannah, **I Samuel 1:12-20**]

The Kings of Israel (United Kingdom)

Saul – demanded [He was the king God gave Israel when they demanded to have a king like the other nations]

David – beloved [the man after God’s own heart]

Solomon – peace [in his day Israel enjoyed great peace and prosperity]

Well-known Kings of Judah

Rehoboam – freer of the people [he had the chance to free his people from the tax burden imposed on Israel by his father but listened to bad counsel and made it heavier thus resulting in the split of Israel into two nations]

Asa – physician [grandson of Rehoboam and a good king]

Jehoshaphat – Jehovah is judge [son of Asa and another good king]

Uzziah – strength of the Lord [a good king until struck by God with leprosy for burning incense which only the priests could do]

Hezekiah – Jehovah is strength [a good king]

Josiah – fire of the Lord [had a fire to do God’s will]

Well-known Kings of Israel

Jeroboam – enlarges [first king of the ten-tribed Kingdom of Israel]

Ahab – father’s brother [bad king and husband of Jezebel]

Post Exile Figures of the Jewish People

Esther – a star

Nehemiah – Jehovah has consoled

Ezra – help

Zerubbabel – an offspring of Babel

Gentile Rulers

Tiglath-pileser – binds [Assyrian king also known as Pul (strong)]

Shalmaneser – peace taken away [Assyrian king and conqueror]

Sargon – constituted king [Assyrian king]

Sennacherib – moon god [Assyrian king]

Esarhaddon – victorious [Assyrian king]

Nebuchadnezzar – defend the boundary [defended and expanded the Neo-Babylonian Empire]

Evil-Marduk – man of the god Marduk [Babylonian king]; Belshazzar – the Lord’s leader [Babylonian king]

Cyrus – an heir [Persian king]; Darius – he that informs himself [Persian king]; Artaxerxes – possessor of an exalted kingdom [Persian king]

Caesar – one cut out [meaning refers to Julius Caesar’s birth by Caesarian section. Following Roman Emperors took the title Caesar, from which the names Tsar and Kaiser are derived]

Herod – son of the hero

Pilate – one armed with a dart

Agrippa – one who at birth causes pain

The Prophets

Isaiah – salvation is of the Lord

Jeremiah – exalted of God

Ezekiel – God is strong

Daniel – God is my judge

Hosea – salvation

Joel – Jehovah is God

Amos – one with a burden [his prophecies about the punishments to fall upon various nations are called burdens]

Obadiah – worshipper of Jehovah

Jonah – a dove

Micah – who is like Jehovah

Nahum – compassionate

Habakkuk – love’s embrace

Zephaniah – God hides

Haggai – festive

Zechariah – Jehovah remembers

Malachi – messenger of Jehovah [prophe-sied of the messenger of the Lord to prepare the way for Christ]

Jesus Christ – Saviour and Anointed One [Son of God, Saviour of all mankind and anointed King of kings of the soon-coming Kingdom of God]

The Original Disciples (Apostles except Judas)

Peter – a stone [later became a rock of stability and leadership for the Church]

James (two of them) – supplanter

John – Jehovah has been gracious

Andrew – manliness

Philip – warrior

Thomas – honored of God [despite being known as “Doubting Thomas”]

Bartholomew – son of Tolmai

Matthew – gift of Jehovah

Simon – hearing

Thaddaeus – breast

Judas – praise of the Lord [his actions became very unpraiseworthy when he betrayed Christ]

Other Apostles Mentioned in the Bible

Matthias (**Acts 1:26**) – gift of God [took over Judas’ role as one of the original twelve]

Paul (**Romans 11:13**) – little [apparently short in stature, but also humble and little in spirit. Apostle to the Gentiles]

Barnabas (**Acts 14:14**) – son of encouragement

Andronicus (**Romans 16:7**) – conqueror

Junia (**Romans 16:7**) – belonging to Juno

James (Jesus’ brother) (**Galatians 1:19**) – supplanter

Silvanus (**I Thessalonians 1:1, 2.6**) – lover of words

Timothy (**I Thessalonians 1:1, 2.6**) – honored of God

— by Roger Waite, Brisbane, Australia Ω

Additional Material to Write for: **Hitchcock’s Bible Names**, 33 pp., \$3 from Giving & Sharing, PO Box 100, Neck City, MO 64849.

Numbers 12:1 reports Miriam and Aaron's rebellion against Moses "because of the Ethiopian [margin: Cushite] woman whom he had married." Is it known who this Cushite woman was, and when Moses married her?

The Biblical text does not indicate here whether this was a marriage which had taken place some time previously or whether this was a recent event. The Hebrew commentary, Soncino, offers one possible explanation that the Cushite woman was "a woman of Ethiopian origin." It continues: "Legend tells that Moses married the queen of Ethiopia . . ."

The Hebrew writer Josephus gives the following narrative in his work, *Antiquities of the Jews*, p. 58, addressing one of Moses' campaigns as an officer in Pharaoh's army, prior to his flight from Egypt (compare Acts 7:22-29; Hebrews 11:24-27):

"Tharbis was the daughter of the king of the Ethiopians: she happened to see Moses as he led the army near the walls, and fought with great courage; and admiring the subtlety of his undertakings, and believing him to be the author of the Egyptians' success, when they had before despaired of recovering their liberty, and to be the occasion of the great danger that the Ethiopians were in, whence they had before boasted of their great achievements, she fell deeply in love with him; and upon the prevalency of that passion, sent to him the most beautiful of all her servants to discourse with him about their marriage. He thereupon accepted the offer, on condition she would produce the delivering up of the city; and gave her the assurance of an oath to take her to his wife; and that when he had once taken possession of the city, he would not break his oath to her. No sooner was the agreement made, but it took effect immediately; and when Moses had cut off the Ethiopians, he gave thanks to God, and consummated his marriage, and led the Egyptians back to their own land."

If this narrative is based on truth, and if Miriam and Aaron brought up Moses' alleged marriage with Tharbis in Numbers 12:1, then it would be very clear why the "anger of the Lord was kindled against them" (verse 9) — after all, Moses would have married the princess before his flight to Midian, that is, long before his conversion.

There is, however, another possibility as

to who the "Ethiopian woman" might have been. Soncino continues to explain: "[A commentary] identifies the Cushite woman with Zipporah [whom Moses married while in Midian, after he had escaped from Egypt, compare Exodus 2:21] who was a native of Midian. The Midianites, who were tent-dwellers and dark-skinned, were also known as 'Kushim'."

The Midianites were descendants of Abraham and Keturah (Genesis 25:1). Abraham took Keturah as his wife (same reference) or concubine (I Chronicles 1:32) after the death of Sarah.

The Broadman Bible Commentary has this to say about the "Cushite woman":

"The identity of the Cushite woman has been widely debated. The only known name of a wife of Moses was Zipporah (Exodus 2:16-22, 4:25, 18:2). However, there are times here and elsewhere at which Moses' wife is referred to without specific name. It may be that the writer is referring to Zipporah here. . . . For a long time, Zipporah had been left with her father (along with Moses' two sons) but Jethro brought them to Moses. While Zipporah and the sons were absent, Miriam and Aaron had no challenger for second place; but when they were present there was a constant reminder of the several suggestions which had come through the Midianites upsetting the status quo arrangement. Zipporah was a Midianite (Exodus 2:16) or Kenite (Judges 1:16, 4:11). In Habakkuk 3:7, the term 'Cushan' and 'Midian' are used in synonymous parallels. So she may have been referred to accurately as a Cushite woman. The story of Zipporah records the fact that Moses sent her away (Exodus 18:2). This is the same term as is used elsewhere for divorce. In the same chapter (Exodus 18:1, 6) we are told that Jethro, still called the father-in-law of Moses, brought Zipporah to Moses 'in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God' (Exodus 18:5) along with her two sons. This account indicates (Exodus 18:27) that later 'Moses let his father-in-law depart' to his own country. No mention is made of

Zipporah and the two sons, Gershom and Eliezer. Thus it may be that the Cushite woman was Zipporah. The reference in this case would explain a repeated reference to Cushite to emphasize with some disdain that Miriam and Aaron considered her a ‘foreigner’.”

This explanation would also shed light on the fact that God’s anger was kindled against them, and mainly Miriam, the apparent “spokesperson” in the incident. **Numbers 12:2** reports that they murmured against Moses, saying, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses [“and” — following the comments of the *Broadman Bible Commentary* — “Zipporah, that Cushite woman, who is influencing Moses”]? Has He not spoken through US ALSO?”

God, however, was not pleased with this criticism. He told Miriam and Aaron: “I speak with him [Moses] face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?” (**verse 8**).

Although we don’t hear anything further about Zipporah (if she was indeed the Cushite woman in **Numbers 12:1**), the Bible may contain a later possible reference to Moses’ first-born son, Gershom, in the book of Judges. We read that the Danites engaged in idolatry, setting up for themselves a carved image, and “Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh [in the margin, an alternate rendering is given as “Moses”], and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan” (**Judges 18:30**). The Hebrew Tanakh points out that

“an earlier reading [i.e.,] ‘Moses’ instead of Manasseh, is indicated.” The *Ryrie Study Bible* comments that the better rendering is “son of Moses. The Danite priests traced their lineage to Moses.” Most German translations, including Luther, Zuercher, Menge and Elberfelder, consistently render this phrase as, “son of Moses.” If the reference in **Judges 18:30** to Gershom is indeed a reference to the son of Moses, then Moses’ and Zipporah’s grandson Jonathan had begun to be deeply involved in idolatry.

We find an additional reference to Gershom, the son of Moses, in **I Chronicles 23:14-16, 26:24**. These passages mention Shebuel, a son of Gershom, the son of Moses, who had become overseer of the treasuries. This grandson of Moses seemed to have stayed loyal to God’s way of life. We also learn, in **I Chronicles 23:15, 17**, that Moses’ second son, Eliezer, had a son, named Rehabiah, and that “the sons of Rehabiah were very many.”

In any event, whether the “Cushite woman” in **Numbers 12:1** was a princess of Ethiopia or Zipporah, Miriam and Aaron should have never used Moses’ marriage as a justification to develop feelings of self importance and envy, resulting in their murmuring against Moses. They later acknowledged and repented of their sin, so that God could continue to use them in His great plan (**verse 11**).

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Here are some basic principles which will answer many of the questions you have been asking. Unless you know the PURPOSE of the Sabbath, you can't understand HOW to keep it.

YOU ARE "missing out" on a lot of the good things in life. There IS a reason!

Life lacks the real meaning and purpose it should have. "Every day is the same old thing!" you hear so many people say.

But God didn't intend it that way! He has given us a specific blessing, which, when REALLY understood, appreciated, and rightly used, will give us the zest for life that we otherwise lack. This blessing is God's Sabbath Day.

You need a new insight into this command. Here is an article that will better enable you to receive the rich blessing intended.

The article, "Has Time Been Lost?" proves that the true Sabbath was to be a *sign* between God and His children forever, and that the true *seventh* day has never been "mixed-up" or "lost."

Made for Man

Christ said, "The Sabbath was made *for man*, and not man for the Sabbath," **Mark 2:27**. He didn't say it was made for the Jew, but for MAN — for *all mankind* in other words. And it was made *for* him as a blessing.

Keep this principle in mind. It was made *for you*, to help *you*, to enable *you* to live a happier and more godly life.

God's true Sabbath is one of the greatest blessings that has ever been bestowed upon mankind. It *signifies* that the Creator is our God and we are His children.

Our Creator knew that we would need a period of rest every seventh day, and this is one of many opportunities the Sabbath affords. Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares during the week, but God foresaw this, and set aside the Sabbath as a time when we can completely forget our routine work and *get closer to God* in *study, meditation, and prayer*.

The wonderful part of it all is that we can keep this period of rest and spiritual revival with complete confidence that God will *bless* and *prosper* us because we have done this! If we would quit working every few days and take a needed rest, we might naturally expect

to get behind in our finances and material pursuits. *But* God has said just the opposite! So if we keep His Holy Day, we can rest assured that it will be *gain* instead of loss, even looking at it materially.

Do you realize what this amounts to? God is *giving* us a *paid vacation* every seventh day!

Human reasoning might not grasp this right at first. But God has *promised* this, and the *experiences* of hundreds of people have shown that God meant what He said. You may not be prospered *immediately* if you begin keeping God's commandments and paying your tithe faithfully, as He has commanded. But in His way and time, God will begin to bless and prosper you in ways that you may never have expected.

In **Isaiah 58:13-14**, God inspired Isaiah to write that *if* we kept the Sabbath and delighted in it, we would remember Him and He would cause us to have life in abundance, spiritually and materially. Notice that we are not to *seek our own pleasure* on the Sabbath. Yet, we are to *delight* in it. This means that we should be *so busy* doing good to others, and getting closer to God in prayer and study, that we will not even desire to seek any earthly amusements. We will be HAPPY because we are able to rest, to worship God with peace of mind, and because we have a special time to do good.

This same passage says we are *not* to *speak our own words* on the Sabbath. What does this mean? It shows that we should not spend the Sabbath in idle talk, but should be reading, discussing, and meditating upon God's word. Then we will be drinking in the ideas of God instead of mere human notions. What a privilege it is to have a whole day in which we can read and discuss the *way of life* that is revealed to us in the Bible.

In order that we may have our minds free from last minute duties on the Sabbath, God has commanded that we prepare for it the day before. **Exodus 16:22-25** shows that we should do any baking or time consuming boiling before the Sabbath. Long hours of cooking and stewing should *never* clutter up God's day.

So do all your “sprucing up” and any heavy cooking on Friday, the preparation day. Then at sunset Friday evening, when the Sabbath begins, you will have put all worldly cares aside and will be able to enter the Sabbath in a spirit of rejoicing and worship toward God.

Duties on Sabbath

Your time should never “drag” on God’s Sabbath! Some people experience this when they first begin to keep the Sabbath, but it certainly isn’t the way God intended. When we understand it properly, the Sabbath will be filled with *interest* and *joy*.

The true Sabbath is *not* a *negative* thing!

Christ set us an example of how to keep it. In **Mark 2:23 to 3:5**, Jesus showed that it was all right to procure food on the Sabbath *if* it is necessary.

He told the Pharisees that He was Lord of the Sabbath — not Sunday! Then Christ healed an infirm man on the Sabbath, and showed that it is lawful to *do good* on that day.

What *kind* of *good* should we do on the Sabbath day?

God commanded in **Exodus 20:10**, that we should *not work* on the Sabbath. So the kind of good that we do on that day is not the kind of hard physical labor which we might do on other days. “Doing good” is not to be used as an EXCUSE for performing those material duties, however helpful to others, which can just as well be done some other day. There is one exception to this prohibition. That is in the case of an “ox in the ditch,” **Luke 14:5**. This refers to a *genuine emergency*, not some material duty you “put off” until the Sabbath.

The principal example of doing good on the Sabbath that Christ gave us was that of healing the sick or infirm *that came to Him*, **Matthew 12:9-13**. He did not go abroad seeking them. Also, we find that He was constantly meeting with others and teaching them God’s ways on this day. We can all use the Sabbath as a time to comfort and minister to those who are sick and infirm on this day. But this does not mean that we should burden ourselves with purely material services. Jesus didn’t when he helped the sick according to their faith. Remember what he said Martha: “Thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be

taken away from her,” **Luke 10:41, 42**. We should especially try to help those who are interested in the true teachings of the Bible, because in this way we can minister to them both spiritually and physically.

As we shall find later, we are to meet with other true worshippers on the Sabbath. But if this is impossible, we may well use the Sabbath as an opportunity to meet with others who we know are really interested in the truth, to explain the Bible to them in their own homes. We are *not* to attempt to force God’s truth on people at any time. But we are always to be ready and willing to explain the Bible to anyone who is sincerely seeking God. Some of our brethren in Texas use a portion of the Sabbath for this purpose and have helped a great many people in their community to come to a better knowledge of God.

STUDY the word of God (**II Timothy 2:15**)! This should usually be your first duty on the Sabbath. *Then* you will be *ready* to answer the questions of those you are trying to help (**I Peter 3:15**).

Remember that the principal command is to *rest* from our usual routine on the Sabbath, and to *worship* God and remember him as Creator. The Bible reveals that “doing good” on the Sabbath is serving others in a way that shows the *power of God* in our lives. Christ didn’t *labor* for several hours to heal the sick on the Sabbath. Instead, He invoked the very power of the Creator to release others from the bonds of sickness. So we should *not* spend most of the Sabbath caring for the physical needs of other people. By drawing closer to God on this day, we will then be able to help others in a LASTING way thru the power of God’s Spirit.

“Sewing for charity” and other physical services may be worthy at the proper time, but such routine labor should not fill up God’s Sabbath day.

Physical things will “perish with the using.” So use the Sabbath primarily to learn *God’s ways* and make them a part of your *character* — and help others to do the same. The Spirit of God in you will last *forever!*

Commanded Assembly

In **Luke 4:16**, we find that Christ customarily met with others on the Sabbath and read from God’s word. **Leviticus 23:1-3** tells us that the Sabbath is to be a *holy convocation* for God’s people. A convocation

is a *commanded assembly*. God commands you to convoke or meet with other *true* believers *whenever this is possible* on the Sabbath.

However, this does *not* mean that you are to meet on that day or any other day with those who are blinded to God's truth and refuse to keep all His commandments. Paul commanded Christians in **II Corinthians 6:14**, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: *for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness?*"

Christian fellowship should be with other people **ONLY** thru God and his Spirit. God gives the Holy Spirit to them that *obey* Him (**Acts 5:32**). So remember that you *cannot* have true fellowship thru Satan, or his ministers, or his churches who refuse to obey God's commandments.

When it was impossible to meet with others in a Church on the Sabbath day, the apostle Paul and his helpers "went out of the city by a river side, where *prayer* was wont to be made," **Acts 16:13**. This is an admirable example for many of us, because getting closer to the natural handiwork of the Creator brings one closer to God. The hand of God is seen in everything good and beautiful. Notice that instead of going to the river to fish, as so many do on the "day of the Sun," Paul went to a river to help others seek God in prayer.

A Light to the World

Christ told his followers, "Ye are the *light* of the world," **Matthew 5:14**. How much the world needs people who will fearlessly show it the way out of this spiritual darkness!

But can you be a "light" to other people while continuing in the same manmade doctrines and practices they do?

NO you can't! You must live by God's word to show forth the true light that will eventually turn people from darkness. You must be **DIFFERENT** from other people by obeying God — by having His **SIGN**. Most people won't like you for doing this. Christ said in **John 3:19**, "And this is the condemnation, that *light* is come into the world, and *men loved darkness* rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Men were so *steeped* in their own customs, then as now, that the true light of the gospel offended them.

So you can see that real Christianity is not the way to be popular with men!

But doesn't this show what an important

"light" your keeping of the Sabbath can be to others? It is a **SIGN** that sets you apart from those following the broad way that leads to destruction.

Special Problems

It is easy to use the latitude and privileges of the Sabbath as a means to abuse it. You should not be overly strict or self-righteous like the Pharisees. On the other hand, humans are usually inclined to "stretch" the freedom God gives us and begin doing our own work or pleasure on the Sabbath.

Taking a walk on the Sabbath is fine so long as it doesn't turn into a "hike." Some people ask about the mention of "a Sabbath day's journey" in **Acts 1:12**.

There is no special command anywhere in the Bible limiting travel on the Sabbath. This "Sabbath day's journey" was a custom of the Jews and is not a Biblical command. However, you certainly shouldn't walk or drive so far on the Sabbath as to tire yourself unduly or to interfere with your worship of God.

After sitting in Church or studying for some time, a leisurely walk is very refreshing and beneficial. Also, a lengthy drive is sometimes necessary to enable you to meet with other true worshippers on the Sabbath. Within reason, this is not wrong. It serves to strengthen you spiritually and therefore glorifies God.

Here is another problem.

Should you kindle a fire on the Sabbath Day?

The command in **Exodus 35:3** was inserted in connection with instructions regarding work on the tabernacle. It was chiefly intended to forbid the kindling of a fire to melt metals or sharpen tools. However, it certainly can refer to unnecessary work done in preparing food which could be prepared on the day before.

So it would *not* be breaking the spirit of the law to light a fire for heat in wintry weather or to warm up previously prepared food.

Feeding and watering stock is necessary on the Sabbath and permissible (**Luke 13:15**). *But* if you are raising so many cattle or chickens that your "chores" add up to three or four hours' hard work, then you had better cut down on the number of your livestock or else change occupations. Our age of "specialization," when a few farmers become virtual

slaves to provide food for hundreds of city dwellers, is *not* God's way.

No man should be "tied down" to his occupation as so many are today.

DON'T try to justify breaking the Sabbath by saying that "your occupation requires it"! Remember that this worldly, competitive system is called "Babylon" in the Bible and you are commanded to "come out of her," **Revelation 18:1-4.**

Instruct Children

God inspired Solomon to write "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it," **Proverbs 22:6.** This command would certainly apply to teaching your child to keep the Sabbath. However, you should remember that even sweet little children are by no means converted. They are basically selfish, and usually lack the understanding and will power to keep God's law as an adult.

But they should be taught to rest from their routine work or play on the Sabbath as much as possible. They should be instructed in a kindly and straightforward manner that the seventh day is holy to their Heavenly Father, and that they can show their love for Him by refraining from their usual play on that day and thinking and learning about God.

Your children should be taught these things gradually and only as their age makes it possible for them to understand. If trained properly from infancy, a ten-or-twelve-year-old child should have enough respect for God's Sabbath that he does not spend his time reading "funny books" or listening to radio serials on that day.

Love and chastening must go hand in hand in this training. But a child so trained in God's ways would have a priceless advantage in his knowledge of life and its real meaning in relation to the Creator.

Holy Time

In **Exodus 20:8**, we find the original

We encourage you to read more about the Sabbath. Order *The Sabbath Under Crossfire*, 303 pp., by Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, \$15 from Giving & Sharing.

Also order the free booklet, "Has Time Been Lost?" from **The Bible Sabbath Association, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718.**

command, "Remember the Sabbath day *to keep it HOLY.*" Never forget that God has made the seventh day *holy time!* You and I are commanded to *keep* it that way.

I have already shown you in God's word that we are not to do our own work, pleasure, think our own thoughts, or speak our own words on God's Sabbath Day.

To keep the Sabbath day *holy* :

You can't spend a lot of time in worldly visiting or "shooting the breeze," or even "courting your girl."

You can't be running downtown for a cup of coffee or an ice-cream soda. That kind of procuring food is *entirely* UNNECESSARY.

You can't spend several hours listening to worthless radio programs or reading the "funnies."

You can't wait until after sunset on Friday evening to begin your cleaning up and preparing for the Sabbath, unless, of course, a *genuine* emergency has interfered.

I could go on, but I think you should get the point and grasp the principle involved.

Let's NOT "kid" ourselves!

When God said to put the Sabbath day to a HOLY use, He meant *exactly* what He said. But we should learn to be so happily employed in doing the good things prescribed for that day, that we will have no time or inclination to violate the prohibitions anyway.

So let's keep the Sabbath in a *positive* way! Use the Sabbath as a day to rest from worldly labor, to get

closer to God in *prayer* and *study*. Take time to do good to others, to care for the sick, to visit the afflicted. Assemble with other *true believers* on the Sabbath if this is possible. Then you will truly be a "light" to those around you.

The Sabbath separates true Christians from this world's churches with their pagan holidays and "day of the sun." So KEEP holy the days God made holy! Rejoice in the blessings and opportunities that the Sabbath affords, and remember that it is a SIGN between you and the true God. Ω

Let's keep the Sabbath in a positive way. Truly, the Sabbath is a sign between you and the true God.

Abortion is widely accepted today, by both professing Christians and unbelievers. Abortion even has supporters in the Sabbatarian Churches of God. Let's look at the history of abortion, review the Biblical record, and note some facts about abortion.

Poverty was not the reason for the high rate of abortion among the Romans in the century preceding, and during the early Christian era. By this time, Roman honor and respect for marriage had virtually become extinct. Juvenal (ca. 140 A.D., *Satire* 6.161) said that a chaste wife was almost non-existent. Countless Roman women committed adultery, and when they became pregnant, they destroyed the evidence of their unfaithfulness, by abortion.

Another motive for abortion was the desire to be childless. Unmarried and childless elderly people were courted by fortune hunters who wanted to receive the inheritance of these old fools.

Long before the birth of Christ, faithful Jews, contrary to the pagan societies around them, held to the sanctity of human life. Josephus said that Bible law "forbids women from either to cause abortion or to make away with the fetus," and a woman who aborts her child "destroys a soul and diminishes the race" *Against Apion*, 375.

To the Greeks and Romans, however, human life was cheap and expendable. Plato argued that the city-state had the prerogative to force a woman to submit to an abortion to prevent overpopulation, *Republic* 5.461. Aristotle likewise said that at times "abortion must be practiced" *Politics* 7.14. However, the fifth century B.C., Hippocratic Oath said, "I will not give to a woman a pessary to produce abortion." Even though some ancients frowned on abortion, the general practice favored it. (See *Under the Influence, How Christianity Transformed Civilization*, by Alvin J. Schmidt, pp. 55-57.)

Does the Bible specifically prohibit abortion? There are strong scriptural indications that answer in the affirmative. **Galatians 5:19-21** lists the works of the flesh. Among these are adultery, fornication and witchcraft (KJV). The word translated "witchcraft" is Strong's #5331, *pharmakeia*, the making and administering of potions. We usually associate potions with witches. Schmidt says, "However, it is quite likely that

when Paul used the word *pharmakeia* in **Galatians**, he meant the practice of abortion, because administering medicinal potions was a common way of inducing abortions among the Greco-Romans. . . . In **Revelation 21:8**, where the Apostle John condemns 'sexual immorality,' [whoremongers] these two words are immediately followed by the plural word *pharmakois* [sorceries], evidently because sexual immorality often resulted in unwanted pregnancies being aborted" (p. 57).

During the coming plagues of the Sixth Trumpet (the second woe), idolatrous opposers of God will refuse to repent of their deeds, **Revelation 9:20**. In **verse 21**, we see that "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their *sorceries* [*pharmakeia*], nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." Right between murder and fornication is *pharmakeia*, which may mean giving potions to cause abortions. Mystery Babylon the Great is condemned because "by thy sorceries [*pharmakia*] were all nations deceived," **Revelation 18:23**. "Without," meaning they are not part of the New Jerusalem, "are dogs [sodomites], and sorcerers [*pharmakos*], and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie," **Revelation 22:15**.

We see proof of the connection of *pharmakeia* to abortifacients in extra-Biblical literature. Plutarch (A.D. 46-120), a pagan, uses *pharmakeia* to note that it was especially used for contraception and abortion purposes (*Romulus* 22 of his *Parallel Lives*). An early Christian document, the *Didache*, forbids abortion, using the words, *ou pharmakeuseis* (you shall not use potions), immediately followed by *ou phoneuseia teknon en phthora* (you shall not kill a child by abortion). Clement of Alexandria (155-215), an early Church Father, identifies *pharmakeia* as an abortifacient. In criticizing women who conceal their sexual sin, he links abortion (*phthora*) with the taking of potions (*pharmakois*). Numerous other references are given on page 58 of Schmidt's book.

Church councils of both West and East

condemned abortion. Basil of Caesarea (d. 379) formulated church canons (laws) for the Eastern Church, which opposed abortion and the guilds (the *sagae*) which provided abortifacients, surgical devices for abortion, and sold aborted bodies to the manufacturers of beauty creams. The *sagae* were the ancient version of Planned Parenthood. Basil asserted, “Women . . . who administer drugs to cause abortion, as well as those who take poisons to destroy unborn children are murderers.”

Catholics and Protestants for hundreds of years continued to oppose abortion, and make laws against the practice. But today, most mainline Protestant Churches support abortion. Exceptions are Southern Baptists, Wesleyan Methodists, and the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. The official position of the Roman Catholic Church remains in opposition to abortion, but they do not discipline members who support the practice (e.g., Senator Edward Kennedy). While many Republican politicians give lip service to the pro-life stance, they do little or nothing to stop the practice of abortion.

The primitive Church’s opposition to abortion, along with child abandonment and infanticide, led western society to sanctify human life for many centuries. Historian W.E.H. Lecky said, “the value and sanctity of infant life . . . broadly distinguish[ed] Christian from pagan societies.” Today, the same issue, abortion, is one of the issues dividing Christians from non-Christians. It separates the men from the boys, spiritually.

The following section is an article from a modern pro-life group.

The American Holocaust and Every Christian’s Responsibility to Act

What would you do if you lived in Nazi Germany during World War II? Seriously think about that question. Would you speak up for the Jews who were legally being murdered day after day knowing you’d be counted among them if you did? Or would you be like most Christians who did nothing — turn a blind eye, ignore the cries, and disobey Christ’s command?

Did the threat of death justify those Christians in ignoring the cries of the Jews and ignoring Christ’s words? Our Savior doesn’t think so (**Matthew 25:45, 46; John 15:12, 13; Revelation 12:11**). And apparently the American soldiers of that time didn’t

think so either. They marched those Christians — men, women, and children — through those death camps and past the remains of their fellow citizens. The blood of the 6,000,000 victims was partially upon the hands of those who did not try to end the holocaust occurring within their midst.

Now, I ask you another question. What would you do if you lived in Nazi Germany during World War II and had the freedom of speech and the freedom of press? Certainly you would do anything and everything you could to save a life and bring a lost soul to Christ! Could those who still did nothing be innocent? Of course not! They would not be loving their neighbor. Part of the blood would be upon their hands.

(Some of you may know where I am going with all of this, but not entirely. Please do not jump to conclusions but continue to read on.)

Nazi Germany’s holocaust was indeed an atrocity. It claimed approximately 6,000,000 innocent lives. But as loathsome and repulsive as it was, there is still a greater holocaust. It is seven times larger than Nazi Germany’s, currently claiming over 42,000,000 victims! It is America’s holocaust of the unborn. It differs from Nazi Germany’s holocaust in two ways. The innocent victims this time around are voiceless, helpless, and vulnerable infants. The citizens this time around have their God-given rights protected.

Each day in our land 3,500 innocent unborn children are legally murdered! I repeat: Each day 3,500 children are legally murdered! Over ninety-five percent of these abortions are committed in the name of convenience. The rest of these children lose their lives because they possess a [possible] malformation or because they were conceived in rape or incest (neither reason justifies ending the new life). Very rarely does a woman obtain an abortion because her life is endangered.

The methods by which these babies are murdered are horrifying and gruesome. Most die by suction aspiration (being torn apart by a small but powerful suction device). Others are cut apart limb by limb. Still, others die by the following methods: forced ingestion of poison; lethal injection to the heart; removal of brain after partial delivery; and, neglect after complete delivery. Yes, you read correctly. Abortionists have even admitted to fatally experimenting on live late-term babies, after the attempted abortions had failed!

Friends, this is Nazi Germany all over again! This is the sickening reality of the American holocaust. The horror stories go on and on!

Our Heavenly Father considers the life of an unborn child equal to the life of an adult. He told Moses that a man who caused the death of an unborn child was to be killed also (**Exodus 21:22-25**). Scripture makes it clear that our Creator, Almighty Yahweh, forms us within our mother's womb (**Psalms 139:13, 14; Job 31:15; Jeremiah 1:5**). Abortion is indeed a mockery of the Creator. The blood of the 42,000,000 innocent lives is defiling our land and waxing hot the anger of the Creator (**Numbers 35:33; Psalm 9:12**).

Keeping our Father's view of unborn children in mind, let's examine the Messiah's teachings. In **Matthew 22:39**, we find the second greatest commandment: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Looking back to **Exodus 21:14, 22, 23**, we realize this commandment includes our unborn neighbor. One question should be asked: If I was an unborn child destined to be murdered, what would I want those on the outside to do? The answer would be: Anything that could possibly save my life! This, then, is what the Messiah said we should do. Jumping over to **Matthew 25:31-46**, we find a familiar parable. In it, our Savior teaches us to care for the oppressed and needy. When we do, He explains, we are caring for Him. Those who cared will see eternal life (this isn't the sole determining factor, of course) but those who did nothing "... will go away into everlasting punishment." Certainly any oppressed person is counted among those to be cared for, including the voiceless infant victims of the American (and worldwide) holocaust.

Every true Christian in America has the responsibility to do something to end this bloodshed in our land. To shuffle your responsibility off on those already actively defending life, is not only irresponsible, but also deadly. Thousands of babies continue to die daily as a constant reminder of the lack of soldiers. So what can you do?

First of all, DO NOT abandon your present ministry. Our world is in dire need of truly knowing the Messiah. There are plenty of hungry, homeless, and lonely individuals still suffering and waiting for relief. They need to see Christ's love. All of these are very important ministries. Do not forsake them unless our Father says otherwise. However, do not forget the fact that there is a horrible massacre occurring. Do all you can, Pastors,

to educate your congregation and try to motivate those with time to become involved in saving the lives of babies. Speakers, set aside a few minutes to address America's holocaust and the need of soldiers (ultimately this is how I became aware). Whatever you are doing, try to find opportunities here or there to inform and motivate.

If you do not have an organized ministry, or if you have time for another, you can easily become active in ending America's holocaust. Pray to the Father and ask Him to guide you. Educate yourself. Generally where the information is, contact addresses are also. Contact those organizations for information and/or resources. Then act. Write letters to editors, picket abortion clinics, talk to mothers before they enter the clinics, distribute literature, volunteer at crisis pregnancy centers, try to motivate others, etc. Whatever you do, do it with love. Share the message of our Father's forgiveness through His Son's blood. Joy unspeakable will fill your heart when a mother you counsel chooses life for her child!

I would like to pass on an important address to you. It is the address of a non-profit, all-volunteer, Christian organization who has put together a free package of information and resources for those sincerely wanting to begin in this outreach. The organization sells absolutely nothing. Simply request their "anti-abortion action pack." It will be extremely helpful in becoming active. Their address is: **Baysis of Life, PO Box 106, Lapaz, Indiana 46537**. (Please only request it if you honestly want to get involved.)

At the beginning of this article I asked you what you would do if you had lived in Nazi Germany during World War II. Now I ask you this: What will be your response to America's holocaust? If we do not help these infants, will we be justified? (**Proverbs 21:13**).

Baysis of Life provides the following statistics on abortion in America.

Abortion Facts and Statistics for America

Abortion is the spontaneous or artificially induced expulsion of the embryo or fetus (Henry Campbell Black, M.A., et al, *Black's Law Dictionary*, 6th ed., St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 1990 p. 7).

Spontaneous abortions, or miscarriages, are a natural part of life. As much as we try, we cannot prevent them from occurring.

However, artificially induced abortions, whether they be surgical or chemical, are not a natural part of life and can be avoided. The “abortion controversy” is based upon whether or not this latter class should be legal. The “pro-life” voice (42% of the U.S.) states it should not be legal; the “pro-choice” voice (48%) states otherwise.

Roe v. Wade

In *Roe v. Wade* (410 U.S. 113, 1973), the Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, legalized unrestricted abortion in all 50 states during the first trimester (first three months of pregnancy). During the second trimester, the Court gave the states the right to regulate abortion procedures to promote the mother’s health. And, during the third trimester, the states could forbid abortion altogether except when necessary to preserve the mother’s life or health. The Supreme Court [has since] found all abortions “constitutional” up until the day of birth.

Abortion Techniques

Source: NRL Educational Trust Fund, *Abortion: Some Medical Facts 8/99*, pp. 7-10, 13, 14, 17, 18.

1. (First trimester, surgical) *Suction Aspiration* — A powerful suction tube with a sharp cutting tip is inserted into the womb. The suction dismembers the body of the developing child and tears the placenta from the uterine wall. Blood, amniotic fluid, placental tissue, and fetal parts are sucked into a collection bottle.

2. (First trimester, surgical) *Dilation and Curettage (D&C)* — A looped shaped knife is inserted into the womb. The body of the child is cut into pieces and removed. The placenta is then scraped off the wall of the uterus.

3. (First trimester, chemical) *RU-486/prostaglandin* — Progesterone, a natural hormone vital to maintaining the nutrient-rich uterine lining, is blocked by the mifepristone contained in the RU-486 pills. The child starves as the nutrient-rich lining disintegrates. The woman is given prostaglandins 36-48 hours later to induce labor. Normally, the dead child is expelled 4 hours later. RU-486 was approved by the FDA in 1996.

4. (Second trimester, surgical) *Dilation and Evacuation (D&E)* — Sharp forceps are inserted into the womb and then used to take hold of parts of the child’s body. The parts are

then torn off the body and removed. The child’s skull is then crushed and removed.

5. (Second and third trimesters, surgical) *Partial-birth Abortion (D&X)* — Forceps are used to clasp the child’s leg and pull him or her into the birth canal. The child’s head is intentionally kept just inside the womb. Scissors are then stabbed into the back of the child’s skull and opened up to enlarge the wound. A suction catheter is inserted into the skull and the young child’s brains are sucked out. The child’s head collapses and the baby is then removed completely. Complications include the child “accidentally” slipping out of the birth canal.

6. (Second and third trimesters, surgical) *Hysterotomy* — Incisions are made in the abdomen and uterus. The child is removed along with the placenta. The child may be alive afterwards making many question how, when, and by whom the child dies.

7. (Second and third trimesters, chemical) *Salt Poisoning* — A large needle is inserted into the amniotic sac through the woman’s abdomen. As much as a cup of amniotic fluid is removed and replaced with a strong saline solution. The child swallows the salt and is poisoned. The child is also scalded by the toxic chemical. Delivery occurs 33-35 hours later. The child is burnt, shriveled, and dead (usually).

An Interesting Fact: The “Jane Roe” who fought for abortion “rights” in *Roe v. Wade* is now a pro-life activist.

Statistics for 1996

Source: “Abortion Surveillance United States, 1996,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 48, no. 55-4, July 30, 1999; The Alan Guttmacher Institute; Centers for Disease Control.

Approximately 1,370,000 children were aborted in the USA [in 1996]. Of the women who obtained abortions: 80.4% were unmarried, 52.2% were under 25 years old, 59.1% were White, 35.2% were Black, 44.2% had never given birth, 88% were in their first trimester, 96.5% underwent the suction aspiration procedure.

There were 314 abortions for every 1,000 live births. Abortions outnumbered live births in the District of Columbia. California, the state which performed the most abortions, reported over 280,000 abortions. Wyoming, the state which performed the least abortions, reported 208.

The top seven reasons women gave for obtaining abortions were: (1) life-style concerns, 76%, (2) couldn't afford the child, 68%, (3) problems in relationship, 51%, (4) unready for responsibility, 31%, (5) embarrassed about sex, 31%, (6) not mature enough, 30%, (7) enough children already, 26%.

Abortifacients

An abortifacient is a drug or medicine capable of, or used for, producing abortion.

Common abortifacients include oral contraceptives (OCS), Depo-Provera (DMPA), and Norplant. All of these abortifacients make it almost impossible for the newly conceived human being to implant in the uterine lining. Millions of abortions due to abortifacients are often overlooked. It has been calculated that 2.73 million to 7.8 million abortions occur every year by abortifacients alone. The intrauterine device (IUD) also prevents implantation of the newly conceived human, and is even labeled "anti-implantational" by the FDA. The IUD adds another estimated 3.82 million abortions annually to the death toll.

Other Abortion-related Information

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates 100,000 to 150,000 induced abortions occur daily, or about 36 to 53 million annually.

Three weeks after fertilization, the unborn child has a beating heart. Six weeks after fertilization the child has measurable brain waves. And at twelve weeks all of the child's organs have developed and are functioning. The child only grows and matures after that.

Less than one percent of all U.S. abortions are a result of rape or incest.

Reported cases of child abuse (not including abortion) have risen every year since 1973, from less than 250,000 cases in 1973 to over 3,000,000 in 1997.

A child is capable of living outside of the womb at 22 weeks after fertilization.

For more information and statistics on the abortion topic read, "Abortion: an Eternal Social and Moral Issue," by Gale Group.

Sources for this section are:

Dr. Bogomir M. Kuhar, Ph.D., *Infant Homicides Through Contraceptives*, 4th ed., (Bardstown, KY. Eternal Life, 2000) pp. 5, 19, 20, 23-25, 41-45; "Investigational Contraceptives," *Drug Newsletter*, May 1987, 34;

"Contraceptive Technology Update," January 1990, 5. Paul Weckenbrock, R. Ph., *The Pill: How does it work? Is it safe?* (Cincinnati, Ohio: The Couple to Couple League, Inc., 1995); *Physician's Desk Reference* (Montvale N.J.: Medical Economics, 1998).

This information is provided by: Baysis of Life, PO Box 106, Lapaz, Indiana 46537

We encourage you also to check out the Prolife America website, www.prolife.com.

Sing a Little Louder

After a speech, Pro-Life activist Penny Lea was approached by an old man. Weeping, he told her the following story:

"I lived in Germany during the Nazi holocaust. I considered myself a Christian. I attended church since I was a small boy. We had heard the stories of what was happening to the Jews, but like most people today in this country, we tried to distance ourselves from the reality of what was really taking place. What could anyone do to stop it?"

"A railroad track ran behind our small church, and each Sunday morning we would hear the whistle from a distance and then the clacking of the wheels moving over the track. We became disturbed when one Sunday we noticed cries coming from the train as it passed by. We grimly realized that the train was carrying Jews. They were like cattle in those cars!"

"Week after week that train whistle would blow. We would dread to hear the sound of those old wheels because we knew that the Jews would begin to cry out to us as they passed our church. It was so terribly disturbing! We could do nothing to help these poor miserable people, yet ***their screams tormented us***. We knew exactly at what time that whistle would blow, and we decided the only way to keep from being so disturbed by the cries was to start singing our hymns. By the time that train came rumbling past the church yard, we were singing at the top of our voices. ***If some of the screams reached our ears, we'd just sing a little louder*** until we could hear them no more. Years have passed and no one talks about it much anymore, but I still hear that train whistle in my sleep. I can still hear them crying out for help. God forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians, yet did nothing to intervene.

"Now, so many years later, I see it happening all over again in America. God forgive you as Americans, for you have

blocked out the screams of millions of your own children. The holocaust is here. The response is the same as it was in my country — SILENCE!”

Have you ever wondered HOW people could have stood by and let this just happen? Do you wonder why the Christians in this story chose to just sing their praise to God a little louder to drown out the victim’s cries?

The old man’s story is in the past. The past cannot be changed. It is easy to think we would act differently now. But the old man’s last words are haunting: “It’s happening all over again in America with abortion.”

As American Christians, we have become so comfortable in our lovely buildings and padded pews. We have beautiful fellowship halls for our many banquets. We have the latest sound equipment for our praise and worship. We have computers to keep our records. We gather together each week and shut ourselves inside our buildings. We raise our voices as loud as we can, all in the name of God.

And yet, in the heavenly realm, our voices raised in praise are drowned out by screams of agony from millions of babies who are being executed before they are born. We can’t see them. We can’t hear them. But it is happening right now!

Babies are being aborted UP UNTIL THE DAY OF BIRTH in this country. Their organs and brains are “harvested” for use in medical experimentation. In Wichita, Kansas, the smoke stack from the furnace of Dr. Tiller’s abortion clinic belches out black smoke and the sickening smell of burning flesh. These are bodies of the seventh, eighth, and ninth month old babies being “disposed of.”

If the Christians in the old man’s church had done something, they would have probably been killed. That is not the case with us. We don’t even have that as an excuse for our silence. Years from now will you be like that old man trying to explain your apathy as millions were led away to slaughter in abortion clinics? Or will you

raise your voice and cry out in protest for those who have no voice! The choice is YOURS.

But, What Can I Do?

There may be no train tracks behind your church. No train rumbling by with voices crying out for help. Yet in every major city in America there are abortion clinics where unborn children are being killed.

Churches are reluctant to get involved because abortion is perceived as a “political” issue. It is too “controversial.” Yet, abortion has always been a moral issue and considered a sin. It has been thrust into the political arena only recently just as killing Jews became “politicized” in Germany. Regardless of any politics involved, it is still a sin — and fighting sin is the Church’s domain!

What can you and your church do?

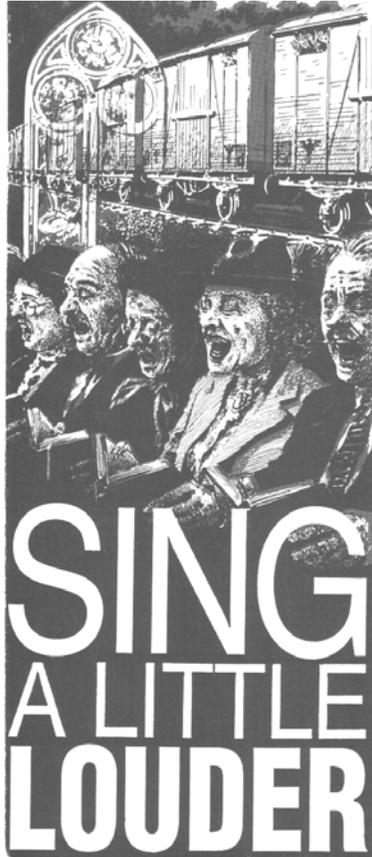
First, Pray. Pray for our country. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the people on the front lines of this battle — the counselors at Crisis Pregnancy Centers, the sidewalk counselors who take truth to

the abortion clinic doors, the post abortion ministries that help women who have had abortions find Christ’s love and forgiveness.

Second, Educate yourself and those around you. The people who sat in the pews, singly loudly to drown out the pleas of those being led to death did not change the reality of the horror. They did not *want* to know the truth. Don’t be like them. Find out about abortion and share what you find with your friends and church members.

Third, Act. As a church, adopt a crisis pregnancy center and have a baby shower. Volunteer your time at a maternity home, crisis pregnancy center or other Pro-Life organization. If you can’t do that, leave literature in places where people will read it.

If the killing of over 4,000 unborn infants a day does not move the Church into action, what will? If we Christians don’t speak out against shedding of innocent blood, who will?



The Passenger

I found myself in anger, I cried out in despair
I prayed, "Lord let them hear me! Let just one person care!"
I raised my voice to heaven as the train kept moving on
As we passed behind the church yard I could hear the worship songs.
I cried out all the louder to the Christians there inside but they raised the chorus louder not hearing me outside.
I knew they heard the whistle and the clacking of the tracks
They knew that I was going to die and still they turned their backs.
I said, "Father in heaven how can your people be so very hard of hearing to the cry of one like me?"
I shouted, "Please have mercy! Just a prayer before I die!"
But they sang a little louder to the Holy One on high.
They raised their hands to heaven but blood was dripping down.
The blood of all the innocent their voices tried to drown.
They have devotions daily, they function in My name
And they never even realized **it was I upon that train.**
"For as much as you've done it to the least of my brethren, you have done it unto Me,"
Jesus Christ

Penny Lea, author of the poem and story of "Sing a Little Louder," is a well-known Pro-Life speaker and writer. She directs "I Believe in Life," and speaks around the country. This article reprinted with permission of **I Believe in Life, Box 3226, Boone, NC 28607, 828-265-2663.**

Additional Facts About Abortion

In the United States, it is legal to abort a baby up until the day of birth.

In the D&X procedure, babies are "partially aborted": so the head is still in the cervix, but the body is out. While in this position, the live baby is still considered an "abortion" therefore a nonperson. The live baby's brains are sucked out and the other organs are harvested and sold to "researchers." The baby receives no anesthesia and is alive until the procedure kills him.

Every day in America, about 4,400 babies die painful deaths by dismemberment, chemical poisoning, lethal injections into the heart, being torn limb from limb and now, being partially delivered and having their brains sucked out and their organs sold.

Baby and mother are abortion's victims. Many women who have abortions suffer physically and mentally. Depression, anxiety, grief, infection, sterility, and even death are not uncommon as a result of abortion.

Only 1% of abortions are preformed as a result of rape or incest. Most abortions are done as a form of birth control because the baby is "inconvenient," "two expensive," or a "burden."

Freedom of Choice?

A well-known Sabbatarian Church of God pastor says that our society is more free now with legalized abortion, then it was before the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. He is old enough to know better. When the state gives women the choice to murder their innocent babies in the womb, all of our freedoms are in danger. Euthanasia, state killing of the aged and infirm, in the name of the good of society, is coming next. Hitler's Nazi regime was ahead of its time.

Nineteenth century feminist founder Susan B. Anthony said, "I deplore the horrible crime of child murder [abortion] No matter what motive, love of ease, or a desire to save from suffering the unborn innocent, the woman is awfully guilty who commits the deed . . . but oh! thrice guilty is he who for selfish gratification . . . drove her to the desperation which impelled her to the crime." Today, however, feminists support abortion. God speed the return of Jesus Christ to stop the great evil of modern society — abortion.

— compiled by Richard C. Nickels Ω

"Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it," William Penn.

Special Items — 2004

During this year, Giving & Sharing has recommended a number of books. Perhaps the best book I have read in many years is *A Thousand Shall Fall*, by Susi Hasel Mundy. This gripping true story of a Sabbath-keeper who kept the Sabbath in the Nazi army is truly an inspiring lesson of faith in action. We urge you to read this book! \$13.00 + \$2 postage from Giving & Sharing, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718.

Annals of the World, by James Ussher is the classic chronology of world history that has been a companion to Bible students for hundreds of years. 960 pp. \$65 USA, or \$75 International.

The *Franklin Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* fits in the back of your Bible, and allows you to quickly look up scriptures when you know one or more words of that scripture. \$49.95 plus postage (\$5 USA, \$12 International).

“Should Artistic Creativity Have Restraints?” 15 pp. by Wilbur Berg, \$3.00, should be read by every music and art student.

Write for free audio cassette sermons by Richard C. Nickels: **C113, “Dealing With Sodomy,”** and **C120, “The Importance of Marriage.”**

The New Testament: the Life of Jesus Christ, by Keith Hunt, 345 page reprint, is a continuation of the series, *The Bible Story*, by Basil Wolverton. \$25 postpaid.

The Humor of Christ, by Elton Trueblood, 127 pp. photocopy, \$6, exposes the lie that our Savior was a sour, sad person.

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