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#277

# Covenant Messenger

April AD2009

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# "IS THE CHURCH REALLY THE BRIDE OF CHRIST?"

### by Pastor Charles Jennings

Practically throughout all of modern Christian theology, there is a serious confusion as to who or what is the Bride of Christ. Most ministers and Bible teachers continually refer to the Church as the Bride of Christ, but can this be substantiated by the Word of God? The absurdity of this erroneous view has not only led to confusion in the minds of many of God's people, but it also shows an ignorance on the part of many teachers and 'scholars.' Some have even speculated that there are different divisions of saints known as 'the church,' 'the bride,' 'the overcomers' and 'the 144,000 being defined as different levels of spirituality. For sure, there are various degrees of response, growth and maturity to the seed of the Word of God that is sown in one's heart. In His parable of the sower, our Lord said that from the seed that was sown on good ground some "brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold" (Matt. 13:3-9). This truth alone declares the levels of spiritual maturity in those that respond to the Gospel. Where serious confusion comes in, is not knowing the difference between the Church and the Bride which has led to gross error in New Testament interpretation.

#### ISRAEL IS FEMININĒ

In this article, our major concern is to Biblically identify the Church, the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ. In order to properly identify each entity we must begin with the foundational truth clearly seen in the Old Testament. Throughout the whole of Old Covenant relationship between God and His Israel people as a national entity, the feminine gender in most references is used in referring to Israel. Early on in the life of Israel soon after the exodus from Egypt she advanced in her relationship among the family nations. At Mount Sinai, the Lord conferred upon all thirteen tribes the position of 'nation' status. At this stage of Israel's development Moses went up unto God and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, thus shalt thou say to the house [lineage] of Jacob, and tell the Children of [Jacob-]Israel; And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. (1 Pet 2:9) These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Ex. 19:3,6,). At this point they took on 'nation' status under Moses [as Prime Minister]. About 450 yeas later they took on 'kingdom' status under David as he was the head of the royal dynasty for the Kingdom of Israel.

This Mount Sinai experience actually constituted a wedding between the Lord God as husband (the man) and Israel as His bride (the woman). The marriage vows are recorded in Exodus 24:1-18. The marriage between the Lord and His national wife was sealed with ten elements

which bound both parties to the terms of their covenantal relationship. Later on in Israel's history she became an unfaithful wife by playing the harlot among the heathen nations. Isaiah definitely confirmed this marital relationship between Israel and the Lord God by saying: "For thy Make is thine husband" 54:5-6.

ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS

In Jeremiah 3:6-11 the divided kingdom of Israel and Judah was referred to as two sisters who were unfaithful in their marriage covenant by playing the harlot with heathen nations and their gods. In Jeremiah 3:14 the Lord pleads with His people saying: "Turn, O backsliding children saith the Lord; for I am married unto you:" The prophet Isaiah spoke of the number of children as being more numerous of the desolate wife (divorced Israel) than the married wife (Judah who was never divorced) 54:1. The revealing question from the Lord through the lips of the prophet was "Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away?" Isa. 50:1. The prophet Ezekiel clearly describes the whoredom that the two houses of Israel and Judah had committed among the nations in the 23rd chapter and referred to them as "two women." The story of the prophet Hosea and his unfaithful wife is an analogy of the Lord's undying love for His divorced wife, Israel. When the Northern Kingdom of Israel had repeatedly violated the terms of her covenantal marriage with the Lord God her

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husband, she was given a bill of divorcement. her husband speaking said: "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also" Jer. 3:8.

#### **GOD'S LOVE FOR ISRAEL**

So it is quite clear that the wife of the Lord God was the Kingdom of Israel as established by Old Testament theology. As a corporate and national entity, the good, the bad, the righteous and the unrighteous were all considered a part of this national wife of the Lord. They were all considered a part of this national wife of the Lord (whom Jesus came to Redeem Gal. 4:5). In spite of the gross sins which gave just cause for the divorce of Israel, the Lord's love never diminished for His wayward wife. He declared through the yearning bowels (4:19) and burning bones of the weeping prophet that He would make a new marriage covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah [i.e. the very same people]: "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant

that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the LORD; I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,

saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" Jer 31:31-34, (Notice there is no mention of any people other than Israel alone!) The Lord did not promise that He would make a new covenant with the Church. He said He would make it with Israel and Judah which were national entities formed into a kingdom from the loins of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If the Kingdom of Israel must be the wife of God under the terms of the Old Covenant then the Kingdom of Israel must be the wife of God under the terms of the New Covenant Heb. 8:8-13.

#### JESUS AND THE REDEEMED WIFE

Under the law of the Old Covenant, the penalty for adultery was death. Therefore all Israel was under the penalty of death. Jesus came and died in Israel's place - taking the penalty of the law upon himself, thereby Redeeming national Israel.

John the Revelator in vision form saw national (Redeemed) Israel as "the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" Rev. 21:2. John emphatically refers to this redeemed kingdom of Israel; as "the bride, the Lamb's wife" 21:9. He goes on to describe this wife as possessing the characteristics of Old Testament Israel with the names of the twelve sons of Jacob and the respective precious stones which represent each tribe.

According to many there is the Old Testament God who married and divorced an earthly bride (mistakenly believed by many to be the Jews), and Jesus of the New Testament who will marry a heavenly bride (mistakenly believed by many to be the church).

At this point confusion reigns supreme, because the dispensationalists insist that God will again remarry Israel, whom they identify with the Jews, after their alleged future seven year tribulation. If this scenario is not ridiculous enough, some theologians have a triune God with two wives, a heavenly (the Church) and an earthly (the Jews) which makes God a bigamist, while the Holy Spirit has no wife.

The truth is that Israel as a corporate family was married to the Lord God at the first Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after the Passover in Egypt which required the death of a lamb. Jesus was the Passover Lamb slain for the same corporate family of Israel, so that the death which Israel deserved passed over them, thereby redeeming them from their debt to adultery and sin.

At Mount Sinai, Israel was given the law on tablets of stone, but under the New Covenant the Word is written by holy ghost on the tablets of the heart. Heb 8:10.

#### THE BODY OF CHRIST IS MASCULINE

It is quite obvious that all Israelites are not born again Christians (I think this is using the term 'born again' in the usual Church sense, because to use it as relating to being

born from an origin or beginning see The Exclusiveness of Israel would relate to all physical Israelites, CIM) But out of this restored Kingdom of Israel, Jesus Christ as the Head has formed a body, which is referred to in Scripture as the Ecclesia (or Congregation, Church), which is His body Eph 1:22-23. Paul went on to say that the Church which is the Body of Christ is the fullness of Him [Jesus Christ, the Head] that filleth all in all. This learned apostle did not say that the Church was the Bride of Christ. Some have construed the words in Ephesians 5:22-23 to mean that Paul

equated the Church with the Bride of Christ. Paul was using the analogy of a husband and wife only to express the principles of Christ's love for His Church and His authority over His Church. The true Church or Body of Christ are sons and daughters who are begotten as a result of the proclamation of the Gospel and who were given the ability to Hear the Word. Jesus was the first begotten Son, therefore constituting the Head of His many-membered body. Paul referred to Jesus as the Son who was the firstborn of many brethren. Rom 8:29. The writer of the book of Hebrews used such phrases as "For which cause he [Jesus] is not ashamed to call them brethren and again, saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" Heb 2:11-12. Being that Jesus is referred to in the masculine gender, so are the members of His body. It would be strange indeed if Jesus as the Head was masculine and the rest of His body was feminine. This would be nothing short of a theological circus freak.

Through overwhelming historical and Biblical evidence comes proof enough that the people known as Jews have not accepted the blood sacrifice of our Lord, neither have been redeemed or restored to a covenantal relationship with God [according to John's letters the Jews are antichrist!]. Since the unfailing promise of God was that He would make a new covenant with both the House of Israel and Judah (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-13), and if the Jews are Israel then two conditions must exist. Either God did not mean what He said or the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ was ineffective to execute and ratify this promised New Covenant. The Body of Christ which is the Church has

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from its origin and historical development been mainly among the people of northwestern European descent. These same people as architects and builders of Western Christian Civilization have been and even now constitute the earthly kingdom of true Israel whose lineal descent has been sufficiently traced back to ancient Israel.

The foundational truth is that our Lord Jesus by His death did abolish the wall of separation between Israel and Judah making of the two, one, and out of this nation have been born sons, men and women, by means of grace to comprise His Body which is the true Church - Ecclesia -Congregation. The Church is the company of 'born again' saints within this larger entity of earthly people called 'the Bride.' Some may ask, "how could Israel be God's wife in such a sinful condition?" Judah was in a sinful condition and still remained the wife of the Lord God [because out of this remnant the Lord Jesus had to be born, as He could not have been born through the divorced House of Israel, CIM]. This Bride (Israel Kingdom) must be 'prepared and adorned' (Rev. 21:2) to yet attend the wedding feast [where the Bride Israel will be united with the Body the Church, of which Jesus is the Head] and the to fulfill her destiny as outlined in prophecy to serve God and inherit the world. Courtesy TKC Box 1478, Ferndale WA 98248

#### A CHRISTIAN ISRAELITE VIEW HOPE

by Bob Vermaat

"Let Israel hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy..... Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and forever." (Psa. 130:7 and 131:3

As we all know, we are living in some perilous and uncertain times. Our economies are in a shamble, financially the whole world is in a downspin and our morals are melting away at an alarming rate. Yes, things all around us are falling apart! Businesses are laying off workers and/or closing their doors. Workers without jobs cannot pay their bills, so families are losing their homes. Savings are disappearing faster than snow in the sun. people are becoming desperate and discouraged, but there is "hope." Hope that things will be rectified, sooner rather than later. But who is going to do the rectifying?

Here in Canada and in the USA the governments are desperately trying to stem the tide and through stimulus packages (borrowed money, to be repaid later) and tax

incentives and tax-breaks they are hoping to again kick-start the sick and sagging economies, and I am sure that the same is happening in other nations as well. So the secular world is waiting with baited breath for the miracle to happen. But there is one thing desperately wrong with this scenario. They, the secular world, including a lot of Bible believing Christians, are just waiting for the manifestation of Mammon. God really does not fit into the equation with most

people anymore and that brings me back to the opening verses that I started with. "Let Israel - that's us Folks! hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy." (Psa 130:7). The verse leads me to the often quoted verse in 2 Chron 7:14 [often wrongly rendered] that aptly describes where it all really is at. "If my people, upon whom my name is called (ref. to Num. 6:23-27), shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land [from bushfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and cyclones, etc. etc. etc.)" And back

again to Psa 131:3, "Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and forever.

Yes, there really is "Hope," but it is not found in man. Only in God is there hope for mankind in all of this mess! The word hope in its various forms is mentioned some hundred and forty-two times in the Bible. So let us see what hope is. In Rom. 8:24 we read, "For we are saved by hope. But hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for it?" So what this verse is indicating is that hope that is seen is not hope anymore, but a reality, whereas hope unseen is an uncertainty or mystery.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1). Throughout the eleventh chapter of Hebrews we read about our forefathers and heroes of faith, who walked with God in that faith hoping for the promises of better things to come. By faith Abel brought an offering to the Lord and his hope was fulfilled by God accepting that offering. (Gen. 4:4). Abraham and Sarah by faith left Ur of the Chaldeans to go to a place unknown and eventually their hope was fulfilled in the birth of Isaac, the heir. (Gen. 21:2). Simeon by faith waited for the consolation of Israel and he had been promised by holy spirit that he, Simeon, would live to see the Redeemer and that hope was realized when he held the baby Jesus in his arms (Luk 2:26-28).

I could go on quoting passages from Scripture, but I think you can see the picture. Faith is the only ingredient needed in hope. So let us not build our hope on the performance and ability of man, but in faith let us place our hope on the promises of God.

Those promises do not pertain to spiritual things only, for throughout Scripture we find material things promised in abundance.

In these trying times it is not difficult to lose sight of the positive and even believing Christians at times feel a bit dismayed. But as long as we put our trust (Trust and Obey!) in our only Lord and Saviour, He has promised to save us out of it, all we need to do is ask.

I will leave you with the words found in Rom. 12:12 where we read Paul's words, "Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulations, continuing diligently in prayer."

Hope springs eternal. And yes, there is hope! Courtesy TKC Box 1478, Ferndale WA 98248

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#### PASS THE GARLIC PLEASE!

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 Jn 1:2

Ever said "pass the garlic please"? Most people have not! The world's best example of a medicinal food, Garlic-Allium Sativum, is often overlooked as being too "offensive" to the breath at the expense of reaping the rewards of its 5,000 year Godgiven healing properties.

This popular relative of the Lily family has a long history of

use as medicine and enhancing the flavor of the food we eat of which each of us should take notice. The Bible says that "garlick" was lusted after following the exodus of Israel from Egypt while wandering in the desert. (Numbers 11:5).

Eaten whole it has a unique "spicy hot" taste when chewed, although some prefer to swallow whole cloves. Traditionally garlic has been used for a variety of ailments, including: heart problems, lowering blood pressure, cancer, infections, colds and flu, high cholesterol, antioxidant, and even for diabetes. Scientists say it has positive results in



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ailments as varied as problems of heart, cancer, infection, earaches, skin infections and various other claims. These claims are substantiated in many hundreds and thousands of reports and studies.

Historically garlic is an herbal giant rated as the second largest selling herbal supplement in the U.S. The Greek physician Hippocrates, prescribed garlic for a variety of ailments including infections, pneumonia, cancer and digestive problems. Also, Greek Physician Dioscorides, who served in the Roman armies of Nero, studied plants for their medicinal properties, recommended garlic for "clearing the arteries" and for treating coughs, infections and leprosy. He wrote De Materia Medica (On Medical Matters) which for fifteen centuries was the most authoritative text on botany and pharmacological medicine.

This ancient food is recognized for its positive effects on the body and should be considered a positive addition to any diet, but check with your health care provider for your particular situation as it is a blood thinner. All parts of the garlic plant are edible, including the flowers.

Garlic should be found in almost any grocery store in a variety of packages (but make sure it is Australian, and NOT Chinese! CIM) It comes pack-

aged in perled form, granules, powder, extract, capsule and fresh or loose bulk. My favourite is bulk: it keeps well, but if not used relatively soon it

will dry or become moldy.

The absolute best way to get garlic though, is to plant your own; you'll reap an annual harvest and be the local supplier for your garlic habit! Plant the cloves in the fall or early spring in a sunny spot in rich, moist, sandy soil. Harvest the bulbs when the leaves begin to wither. Get your garlic spot ready for next spring.

He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough. - Proverbs 28:19

Courtesy Michael Reed; The Christian Israelite, Box12354, Columbia SC 29211

tives (no matter how big or small they may seem to us), but also unearthed areas in our own lives that have been in direct contradiction to clearly ordained elements of scriptural living. I submit that there are more areas than most of us would care to admit, where we have been ignorant of God's requirements OR have been willing to remain "inconsistent" in adhering to them or trying to obey them in the first place.

I can hear the cries of legalism and works salvation. But I'm not discussing the way in which we become justified with God. We are justified by the act of God's grace, which recognizes Christ's death and resurrection as applying to us. I am talking about how our sanctification (growth in grace) constitutes our response to living out God's definitions of right and wrong, righteousness and unrighteousness, blessings and cursings, and so on.

#### **OUTDATED OR RELEVANT?**

Years ago, my husband and I would make our monthly (sometimes weekly) jaunts to Vallecito to hear Dr. Rushdoony preach. We would have regular Sunday afternoon discussions with him in his living room along with his wife, Dorothy, and any other guests who happened to be visiting.

I always intently asked questions about those portions of Scripture I "knew" didn't apply any longer and was eager for Rush to help me understand why I was correct in my thinking. He provided me with no justification to assume that God's directives were things of the past, no matter how inconsequential they seemed to me. Rather, he would give an answer, provide a Scripture reference to back it up, and then add, "Someone should really write about this. This is an area that needs more development." This article is an effort to further develop a Biblical understanding of one of those issues.

After the creation account, concluding with the creation of Adam, the Bible proceeds to define the purpose and role of the woman. She was to be his complement—providing aspects of

personality and gifts that matched up well with his. Physically, the bodies of men and women clearly show an intentional design that makes them compatible with the task of producing progeny that God assigned to them.

Likewise, in matters of size, strength, inclinations, and temperament the differences in the sexes was a deliberate act of creation and one that was designed to further the Kingdom of God.1 Men are stronger and more suited to the tasks of combat, hunting, defense, protection, and leadership.2 Much like the outside of a building, God has instilled in men to be that which stands in constant protection of that which is inside—providing a barrier between the outside and the inside. Women, on the other hand, are more concerned and gifted in the areas of childbearing, comfort, edification, and beautification, similar to the inside of a structure that serves as a pleasant and suitable environment for family life and nurturing. A building without insides is an empty shell; rooms without outside protection are shortlived and vulnerable to predators and thieves. Thus, from the outset, the roles of men and women were defined and established to ensure the furtherance of the Kingdom by means of the dominion mandate to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.

#### ASSAULT ON THE WEAKER VESSEL

Opponents of Biblical Christianity like to paint a pic-

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#### PROTECTION AND COVERING:

A Look at God's Provision for the Biblical Trustee Family by Andrea Schwartz

God's Law-Word can be viewed either as a burden with hundreds of do's and don'ts that stifle the creativity and freedom of individuals, OR as a blessing given by God to man within the context of families as the standard by which to glorify Him and enjoy Him. Believers should view it from the second perspective.

In Scripture God has differentiated the roles of men and women. Despite attempts to blur the distinctions between the sexes, God's Word makes it clear that men have been given the responsibility to lead (headship) and women have been given the task to assist them in their calling.

If we are going to take the Word of God seriously as a faith for all of life, then we must do an inventory of our lives and determine which areas have been placed outside of God's domain (whether intentionally or unintentionally). We also must honestly examine whether we have allocated some actions or responsibilities to the "important" column and others to the "less important" or "inconsequential" categories. If we truly are to be the salt that hasn't lost its savor, or the light not hid under a bushel, then we would do well to ensure that we have not only embraced God's direc-



ture of the caveman-mentality when it comes to describing what the Bible says about men and women. Not unlike their father the devil, they seek to attack the most vital stronghold of Christian civilization—the Biblical trustee family.<sup>3</sup> By promoting egalitarianism, and perpetuating the "battle of the sexes," they stimulate a conflict of interests rather than a harmony of interests. Their assault undermines a woman's most important role—raising and educating God's children. By succumbing to the lure of outside careers and personal fulfillment, women are abdicating the royal role of wife and mother and transferring it to paid surrogates.

Our Lord said, "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber" (John 10:1). In the Garden, the serpent avoided a direct assault on the "door," Adam, and sought entry through "some other way," Eve. She was clearly a weaker point of entry (1 Pet. 3:7), but that's why the Bible describes the Fall of man as the "sin of Adam" (Rom. 5:12,14), and not Eve. It was Adam's responsibility to "dress and keep" the Garden (Gen. 2:15) and that included his wife. Yet Eve was still culpable in that she allowed herself to be deceived (1 Tim. 2:14). The end result was a disastrous course for world history that is only remedied by Jesus' redemption and a deliberate reversal of the original

sin on the part of man, i.e., the marriage relationship must be reconstructed along Biblical lines.

God never left mankind without a witness to that which pleases Him and obtains His blessings. Throughout the pages of both Old and New Testaments, there are provisions that serve to safeguard the interests of the trustee family by acknowledging the vulnerability of women and establishing the protective responsibilities of fathers and husbands. Rushdoony had this to say:

"We understand ... why a married woman as well as unmarried daughters carry the name of the husband and father. They signify thereby that they are under his care and authority. It is a protective covering."

and authority. It is a protective covering."<sup>4</sup>
(Hence the 'giving away' of a woman in marriage, at which time her name changes to that of her husband. Anything else brings shame on the family) A pertinent portion of Scripture on the subject of vows can be found in Numbers 30:1-16. It is an example of a law given by God to protect the interests of the family by giving the husband and father the responsibility to examine and approve the dealings of his wife and daughters and thereby act as a covering for them in business dealings and other important matters. Rushdoony elaborates.

"This obviously is a law of far-reaching implications because here alone in the law do we find that statement, 'And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes of the children of Israel' (v.1); usually Moses is commanded to speak to the children of Israel. Obviously, we have a law of importance and a different in kind."

Much is important in this passage, but for the sake of this discussion Rushdoony's comment on the role of husbands and fathers is highlighted:

"The reason why the husband or father had oversight where a wife or daughter made a vow was to prevent rash vows which, however well-intended, could adversely affect family life. This meant that the head of the household had to be responsible, not only to annul rash vows, but to avoid himself any rash vows that would harm the family."<sup>6</sup>

How can we presume that the New Testament contradicts or overrides these God-given directives that preserve and uphold the institution of the family? Yet, it is the Biblical trustee family, of all the institutions that God has ordained, that is continually assaulted (either directly or indirectly) by both church and state—the family's authority, preferences, and jurisdiction are regularly challenged. This is so true in our day, that the portion of Scripture cited above is virtually unknown among professing Christians.

The church is often guilty of dealing with believers as autonomous units rather than within the context of family life—often approaching men, women, and children in isolation from their familial roles. The state, too, is not without guilt as it robs the loyalty of the children from their parents by means of the compulsory educational system, not to mention robbing the family wealth by means of inflation and excessive taxation.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT APPLICATION**

A look at the early church gives us a picture of the application of the covering commanded by God for women

(either wives or daughters) by their husbands or fathers.

In chapter 7 of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, he writes in direct response to a letter from them regarding fidelity, morality, and marriage. The apostle's reply included a condemnation of fornication (v.2), a remonstrance against individualism in a marriage (vv. 3-5), a recommendation of abstinence (vv. 7-8), and the problematic issue of having an unsaved spouse (vv. 10-16). It's in this last matter that neither salvation nor the church sought to annul the institution of the family; an unbelieving husband remained the head of his believing wife, insofar as he was willing to remain in the marriage.<sup>7</sup>

CD#G-720 You're Eating What? Ted Weiland This has far-reaching implications. From the outset, the church was not claiming jurisdiction over the family, but declared it was God's institution to support and uphold family life. In fact, it maintained that within the structure of marriage and family life, evangelism was most likely to find its good fruit, thereby encouraging new converts to stay married if the other spouse was willing. Even 1 Peter 3:1-6 instructs wives to be in subjection to husbands who obey not the Word, as a means of converting them. Paul never wavers from identifying the family as an institution under God rather than under the church. And, an important distinction includes that wives are to be subject to their own husbands, not to any and every man. Thus, a wife's membership in the church never was intended to replace the authority of the husband as family head.

#### **POWER ON HER HEAD**

In 1 Cor. 11:1-15, Paul instructs men and women in their proper roles under God in public worship.

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of the Anointed. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of

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E-267 The Queen of Judah, pt 2. Don Elmore

every man is (the) Anointed; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of (the) Anointed is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head [which religion has men covering their heads when they pray? with skull caps] But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of man. For the man is not of the woman but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is

a glory for her: for her hair is given her for a covering. [emphasis added].

Despite how unpopular the entire subject of head coverings is today, it has a long and important

Despite how unpopular the entire subject of head coverings is today, it has a long and important history in the life of the church and Christian civilization in general. All one has to do is view films made earlier than the 1960s that contained church scenes and you will see women with their heads covered. I know from my own childhood that this was accepted practice, even if most did not recognize its origin. [This was also the time before men started growing long hair!]

Rushdoony comments on 1 Cor. 11:10, "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels," and points

out the seeming contradiction between Paul establishing a head covering as a sign of subordination and authority at one and the same time:

"This seeming contradiction arises from the anarchic concept of authority which is so deeply imbedded in man's sinful nature. All true authority is under authority, since God alone transcends all things and is the source of all power and authority. A colonel has authority because he is under a general, and his own authority grows as the power, prestige, and authority of those above him grow, and his unity with them in mind and purpose is assured. So too with the woman: Her subordination is also her symbol of authority."

Think of the implications of a woman covering her head in worship within the context of Paul's remarks:

- 1. Praying with her head covered prevents a woman from dishonouring her head (her husband).
- 2. By way of analogy, since it would be shameful for a woman to have her head shaved, likewise, she should cover her head in public worship.
- 3. Covering her head is a visual symbol of her being the "glory of the man" and under her husband or father's authority as ordained by God.
- 4. Because of this aforementioned relationship, a woman has (wears) power on her head, establishing that

she lives and acts under authority. (This is much like the practice of nurses, policemen, and military personnel having a head covering that denotes they are under authority, and thus have power or jurisdiction in a particular area).

Finally, Paul asks and answers the question, "[I]s it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?" By answering that nature itself testifies that men and women have differing roles and thus designated manners of dress and adornment, he is answering this question with a definitive "no." The meaning seems straightforward: men dishonour their heads when they come to congregational worship with covered heads, and women do so when they fail to cover theirs.

There are any number of alternate explanations of this Biblical text, and one in particular which, although it doesn't maintain the need for actual head coverings, does concur that God's authority structure of male headship must be maintained. However, there are some published church standards that emphatically state that women must not cover their heads as a sign of submission and are liable to cause division and offense by doing so. If the authority for this statement comes from Scripture, then the passages

on either side of this directive to women, admonishing men to pray without a covering on their heads, might be called into question as well. Furthermore, since Paul talks about some sort of covering, where is the teaching in the church today that does more than say "This doesn't apply any longer"? In the very same portion of Scripture there are instructions regarding the administration of the Lord's Supper. Are these to be taken as specific answers to problems of the Corinthian church and not applicable to our time?

Shortly before his death, I asked Dr. Rushdoony in a private conversation about the issue of head coverings for women and why it generated such division and discord among Christians. His answer was succinct, He said, "Because it is just a matter

of obedience. There isn't attached to it any other obvious benefit. You will see the beginnings of true revival when once again women have their heads covered in worship. It will mean you have a people desirous of obeying God completely."

But I didn't stop there with Rushdoony's answer. After all, years before, he had commented that there were topics in Scripture that needed more scholarship and study. So my husband and I began to discuss this issue and see what, if anything, we were missing. it was my husband who finally identified that the sign of a woman covering her head in worship was a visible display that familial ties were not abandoned when families walked through the doors of a local church. Rather than become absorbed into the life of the church, this visible sign established the family as the first and foremost of the three major institutions (family, church, state) ordained by God. Herein lies the key to liberty in the Christian sense of the word to be nurtured and developed within the context of the Biblical trustee family.

Additionally, as the early church grew, there were many families where one spouse would come to faith before the other. What better sign that the church had no desire to rob a man of his wife<sup>11</sup> or his daughters, than for a woman to have a visible representation that they were under the protection of husbands and fathers?

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Many commentators differ when it comes to explaining the clause "because of the angels" in this text. Whether you accept the perspective that Paul is describing fallen angels or faithful ones, he is nonetheless emphatic that women should wear power on their heads.

Without settling the designation as to which angels are being referred to, we have to acknowledge Paul's emphasis.12

#### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

A congregation consisting of women with covered heads is a testimony to God's creation order and a visual symbol of the high regard the Christian faith places on women. Biblically speaking, this is an obvious sign that a woman is under the care and protection of her husband or father (or some male relative in the case of death) and serves as a constant reminder to both women and men that women minister under authority (Prov. 31), and do so with power—that power that derives itself from He who owns the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory and delegates it to

men in authority and women under their fathers and husbands. 13 This line of thought runs completely counter to modern thinking.

I can testify from my own experience that at the point in my Christian walk that I took this directive seriously, my efforts within my own family, in homeschooling leadership roles, and in Christian ministry reached new levels.14 If for no other benefit than as a testimony to myself, I was able to embark on existing and new opportunities for service within the context of being a woman under authority. the sign. The sign on my head continues to serve as a reminder that I live and breathe in terms of God's order and that I am in no way autonomous in any of my earthly relationships.

We constantly hear clamouring for strong family values and strengthening the family against the attacks from those outside the faith. Maybe it is time we examined how we have been party to disobeying God and abandoning the very symbol He has ordained to regularly and routinely picture the family as His most basic, fundamental institution. Maybe the greatest opposition to God's order for the family is unwittingly found within the very walls of the church. 15 •

(Andrea Schwartz is the Chalcedon Foundation's active proponent of Christian education. She has authored two books on homeschooling along with writing a regular blog <www.StartYourHomeschoo.com> She is spearheading the Chalcedon Teacher Training Institute and continues to mentor, lecture, and teach. She lives in San Jose with her husband of 33 years and continues to homeschool her youngest daughter. She can be reached by email at <lessons correct@wahea.com> sons.:earned@yahoo.com>

1. See Chris Ortiz's article on the Kingdom, "The Kingdom-Driven Life: Discovering God's Larger Purpose and Our Place in It," Faith for All of Life, March/April, 2008, <a href="http://www.chalce-don.edu/articles/article.php?ArticleID=2840">http://www.chalce-don.edu/articles/article.php?ArticleID=2840</a>

2. When Adam was created, there was no need of combat or hunting. Defense and protection probably did come into his calling at that point, but in a nonviolent way. The calling of the male as head and the female as helpmeet were normative in a non-fallen

3. Andrea Schwartz, "The Biblical Trustee Family," Faith for All of Life, Nov/Dec 2007, <a href="http://www.chalcedon.edu/articles/arti-10.10">http://www.chalcedon.edu/articles/arti-10.10</a> cle.php?ArticleID=2794.

4. R.J. Rushdoony, Deuteronomy (Vallecito, CA: Ross House

Books, 2008), 79.

5. R.J. Rushdoony, Numbers (Vallecito, CA: Ross House Books, 2006), 340.

6. Ibid., 344

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7. The unbeliever's headship did not mean that the wife had to obey the husband when he wanted to lead her or the family into sin or outside the clear directives of the Scriptures.

8. R.J. Rushdoony, Institutes of Biblical Law, Vol.1, (Phillips-

burg, NJ: The Craig Press, 1973), 347.

9. See James B. Hurley, "Did Paul Require Veils or the Silence of Women?: A Consideration of 1 Cor. 11:2-16 and 1 Cor. 14:33b-36." Hurley's conclusions assert, "1) that the primary issued was the authority of husbands in relation to their wives as focused in the hair-style of wives at the worship service and 20 that Paul did not intend to silence women but rather to regulate their relation to their husbands as they charismatically prayed and prophe-

10. See The Practice of Headcoverings in Public Worship, issued by the Reformed Presbytery of North America, June 4, 2001.

11. Note in pagan cultures, it was not uncommon for men desirous of another man's wife to kill him so as to have the wife. Such were the cases in Genesis regarding Abraham and Sarah.

12. R.J. Rushdoony, Institutes of Biblical Law, Vol I, 347.
13. It is important to distinguish between the Christian covering of women and the Islamic covering of women. The covering of

a Muslim woman certainly has nothing to do with power, but rather degradation. If you saw a Christian woman and a Muslim woman each with their heads covered, would you be able to tell the difference? Folks often comment when they see a woman with her head covered, "Is she a Muslim?" Under Islam a woman is covered because she is deemed a temptation and snare to men. Under Christianity, she is recognized as having full status as a redeemed person, albeit existing in an authority structure with her husband as the head. This relationship has been compared to a king and his prime minister.

14. It should be noted that sola Scriptura, not experience, must be the final guide in determining how we should

Some would challenge my premise and ask if all women immediately covered their heads in worship, would revival result? The question con-

fuses the symbol with that which the

symbol refers. I could ask likewise: if a woman removed her wedding ring, would she suddenly not be married? The symbol points to a reality of her being married. Likewise, the wearing of a veil during the marriage ceremony was a symbol of being under authority. The father brings the woman to the husband, and she is "given" in marriage. This, a transfer of authority takes place.

Courtesy Chalcedon, PO Box 158, Vallecito CA 95251

#### MULTICULTURALISM

As a Tool to Divide and Conquer The Layman's Primer by Louis Beam

No nation is born multicultured. Multiculturalism is an unnatural as well as unhealthy condition that can only afflict states in national decline. A multicultural state carries in its genesis the seeds of eventual national destruction.

All multicultural nations will be found to be in a state of political, moral, economic and social decay. Greed and corruption will characterize the government coupled with oppressive measures directed against citizens. Lies and deceit will be stock and trade of media, politicians, and educational institutions. Such are the leaders of sheep of a multiculturalist advent.

In modern times multiculturalism is instituted from the top down as an elitist ruling class tool used to play one or more racial or ethnic groups against another. The ensuing melee serves the political designs, economic goals and power needs of elitist rulers and their sponsors. This technique was developed by Marxist ideologues who used mul-



ticulturalism in Russia to divide and conquer resistance to the institution of a communist state. The end result of their successful takeover was the murder of thirty million humans in the Soviet Union alone. Many more elsewhere.

The same internationalist cabals who sponsored Lenin, Trotsky, and Stalin as the multicultural leaders of the Soviet state from their banking houses in New York, similarly sponsor the multicultural leaders of the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe today.

An interlocking network of foundations such as Ford and Carnegie, international banking, empires such as Rockefeller and Rothschild, and government agencies firmly in their control, work in tandem with controlled propaganda outlets such as the New York Times, CBS, and Hollywood, to promote, foster, and institute multiculturalism today. While the examples used in this essay deal primarily with

the United States the same process with the same methods is being employed elsewhere. This of itself is prima facie evidence of a cabal that promotes multiculturalism as a tool to achieve its objectives.

Multiculturalism is being used as a hammer to forge the compliant people who will compose the obedient states of the New World Order. As a weapon of post modern political warfare, multiculturalism has few equals, which, thus explains its use currently against all of Western Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Deliberate fragmentation of these nations and the resultant loss of national identity and purpose into politically disharmonious units, serves as a stepping stone to world government. And who will compose that world government? A ruling class consisting of an "economic hierarchy" that replaces the philosophy of the nineteenth century "natural hierarchy." A force that views countries and the people that live in them first as eco-

nomic targets to be exploited, and second as military targets to be defeated if they resist.

One must not let himself be confused by the window

dressing of willing dupes from the left who are most often, but not always, seen as the spokesmen for the glories of multiculturalism. Liberal supporters of multiculturalism amount to nothing more than opportunistic parasites riding on the back of a social fungus attacking the body politic. The real stimulus, unseen elitists who promote multiculturalism as a tool of warfare, are themselves anything but liberal, progressive, or democratic. Rather they are global social tyrants who seek more power, more wealth, and more control over people they seek to rule. Elitist schemers envision a dictatorial world government composed of forcibly federated states, which, properly speaking, are *police* states without borders.

The United Nations will serve as the store-house front and public face of those who from behind the scenes manipulate world events. Economically envisioned is a global workers plantation, overseen by transnational corporations who have no more concern for the human rights of those who produce their products or services than Stalin did for his miserable workers. Vassal states are to produce goods and insure compliance of their subjects by defining all opposition to the borderless police state as terrorism. Thus will be the good times. In bad times, when elitist multinational corporations are unable to maintain control, the

armed might of NATO will be used to enforce obedience by non-compliant states (1) <a href="http://www.louisbeam.com/multi-">http://www.louisbeam.com/multi-</a> cul.htm#N\_1\_#N\_1\_>

#### METHODS USED AND THEIR EFFECT

Just as television commercials are run by those who will profit from their airing, multiculturalism is fostered upon a country by its sponsors who intend to benefit from its acceptance.

Those who sponsor multiculturalism are properly called multiculturalists and generally will be found to be those people with the least amount of personal culture appertaining to them. As a dying tree drops its leaves and is attacked by fungus and worms of decay, so too is a nation set upon by multiculturalists. The dominant culture is attacked from all sides. This is not so much a product of maliciousness as necessity. By vilifying, levelling, and

weakening the dominant culture, an environment is created for social, political, and economic turmoil which produces change that will benefit the sponsors of a multiculturalist state. If the government and news media relentlessly pursue issues of race, gender, and diversity in preference to the real issues that need to be addressed, there will be an increasing division of society along the same lines. Which is exactly what the sponsors of multiculturalism want.

Social instability, caused by a steady erosion of standards and values, coupled with a scramble over dwindling economic opportunities by conflicting ethnic groups, produces precisely the alienation and conflict needed to implement a multicultural state. Further, the lack of common standards and values leads to personal disorganization, resulting in unsociable behaviour. This is the life support system of a multicultural state. In a word: Anomie! (a social vacuum).

but that may take some time. As a political tool multiculturalism has several applications. It is used to prevent a national consensus among the electorate. The confluence of divergent life views, cultures, beliefs, religions, ethnic habits, etc. insures a swirling river of discontent upon which the multiculturalist rides. It is a perfect method of ensuring that there can never in the future be accord, unity, and a common agreed upon destiny among those ruled. Multiculturalism represents a basic form of divide and conquer, to the benefit of corrupt government and its sponsors.

> Multiculturalism is likewise a financial tool used to socially and economically level a targeted population. When implemented, it becomes in fact a battle over scarce resources and shrinking economic opportunities, with government weighing in on the side of cheap labour. A continual flow of impoverished workers is insured through immigration (both legal and illegal), who by working for less compensation continually drive wages down. For the vast majority of citizens the standard of living will not increase, but rather constantly decrease.

#### ASA GENERAL RULE

The amount of multiculturalism in any society is directly proportional to the corruption at the top of a political system and inversely proportional to national unity.

This means: multiculturalism will have succeeded in so much as the country has failed.

Multiculturalism can further be used as "transitional tool" to take a targeted population from one form of gov-



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ernment to another. When a political condition of greed, massive corruption, and diversity of objective is coupled to a social condition of drugs, violence, and discontent, therein exists the perfect environment for governmental change to a system that more closely serves long term interests of ruling elitists.

Seeing that both the problem and solution are provided by the same people makes the CIA's importation of some one hundred billion dollars worth of cocaine and other drugs into the United States understandable. While at the same time explaining FBI, ATF, and other, more secretive federal government agencies involvement in domestic terrorism or its cover-up. Suddenly, that which erroneously was previously thought to be unrelated events, shows their common thread and purpose.

Within the deleterious milieu of multiculturalism exists the propaganda opportunity for re-education of the people into a more malleable entity. a targeted population will be shaped mentally by new forms of public education in the schools, media indoctrination, and by elitist pronounce-

ments. Thus placed in a crucible of economic necessity and social pressure, once free citizens become despondent masses, adjusting to and accepting fundamentally changing national circumstances as a matter of expedient survival. For the reticent, conformity by force will ensue in the form of legal penalties disguised as anti-drug, anti-terrorism, or anti-hate laws. all of this leading toward what George Orwell so aptly predicted in his book 1984:

"Almost certainly we are moving into an age of totalitarian dictatorships. An age in which freedom of thought will be at first a deadly sin and later on a meaningless abstraction."

A society is being spawned where those with the most unsociable behaviour, deviant life-style, or personal failures are given the most by government. (Note-the Australian parliament is awash with homosexuals, all sorts of deviants and many are solicitors who are trained to be professional liars, LB). This is no accident! It is not government blundering, nor is it misguided liberalism; it is exactly what it is by design, purpose, and objective. A program advocated by both Republican and Democratic (liberal or labor) administrations for the elitist backers of both are the same. It is the program of a government that has fallen firmly into the hands of evil forces.

Multiculturalism, like drugs, is an insidious weapon. Both destroy the heart and fabric of a people. All ties to family, community, and one's people as a whole are destroyed by these two opiates of the human mind. Both are sponsored from the top down by one world elitists bent upon creating a world order who's power is such that its subjects possess no potential for resistance.

By its very nature, every emerging police state seeks to harness both the power of the state and the people to its will. When calls are made for support of cryptic slogans such as war on crime, drugs, terrorism, hate, poverty, etc. what is really meant is "grant power to the state and applaud the rape of your freedom." In sum: multiculturalism is another program designed to create the subjects of a Police State Without Borders.

The anti-thesis of multiculturalism is moral, and cultural solidarity among the people of a nation. Belief in one's self and the ultimate good of his people. A cohesiveness that produces a national vision, with set boundaries of

acceptability and unacceptability in the affairs of a nation, while allowing for the natural differences in men. Multiculturalism as a tool of warfare becomes impotent and rejected in such an environment.

America, Canada, and most of Europe are ruled by politicians about whom the best that can be said is that they are men of ill repute, each out to loot the state. One thing is clear; the American ruling elite of today are far closer in ideological viewpoint to a world government ruled by a privileged few than it is to the world of the American Revolution or the Constitutional Convention of 1789.

Yet still, the spirit of 1776 lives on in this land. For once again 'rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God' is afoot. Listen closely and in the distance you can hear the ring of liberty's bell calling gallant sons and noble daughters to her aid. They know no left, nor right, only treason. And they will not fear to answer. Let tyrants tremble. And though the heavens fall, let there be justice.

Footnotes:

1. Those who imagine the United Nations in and of itself as a military threat are naive or deliberately misled. Global elitists would never trust the U.N. with an army other than one on loan.

Because of the U.N.'s diversity there is too

Because of the U.N.'s diversity there is too great a potential for some member states taking as serious elitist propaganda of "democratic" rule and "equality" then using any military that might exist without elitist sanction. NATO on the other hand is controlled by the United States government, which is the chief force behind the establishment of the New World Order. It is, and will remain in the foreseeable future, the army of choice for insuring compliance. A quick change of hat from green to blue will make NATO troops "UN Forces" when such need is sanctioned by elitists.

2. Indeed liberal thinkers such as Daniel Brandt have written far more eloquently about the deleterious effects of multiculturalism than the present writer. Brandt's

essay Multiculturalism and the Ruling Elite is a must read for those interested in the subject.

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"I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do. And what I should do, by the grace of God, I will do." - Edward Everett Hale.

In Matthew 13:47-50 we have Christ's parable of the drag-net, and in verses 47-48 we find Jesus saying:

"The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind; which when it was full, they drew to the shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away."

Here we have described what has happened here in America. The fish are people. To our shores have come people from every clime and nation. And our Lord's application of this is: that at the end of the age, God's angels, or messengers, would come forth to sever the wicked from the just. It is the wicked that are the source of our trouble. To be rid of our trouble, we get rid of the people who cause it! (Robert Bruce Record). [I am of the opinion that if God's people enforced God's Laws as intended, the other people would leave, as they would rather not live under God's Laws.

Courtesy Richard Niemela, by email.

THE COMING GREAT DELIVERANCE

by John W. Shenton, New Jerusalem Fellowship

God's great clock of time is tolling out the midnight hours. We are living in the most momentous days since the



death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The prophecies of God's Word are being fulfilled before our eyes.

We are living in a time of unparalleled auspiciousness. It is also a time of unprecedented opportunities for spreading the good news of "this Gospel of the Kingdom of God." It is a time of examination before the Lord. It is a time of judgment. It is a time of preparing for the return of God's Great King. It is the breaking of the day!

We all know from bitter experience that the night of man's own making has been long and the darkness thick, therefore we welcome the first rays of light that herald the long-awaited dawn. We are glad to send out this message of comfort to our friends. By the signs of the times, and by all the fulfilled prophecies of God's Word we can see the first faint streaks of the breaking of God's great, coming glorious day.

#### GOD COMFORTS AT DAYBREAK

The Bible is full of great and precious promises made

by God to Israel. Having been made to Israel we believe that can not and will not be fulfilled by any other people. This is what holy spirit through Peter says, "We

have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well to take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place until the day

dawn . . . (2 Pet. 1:19).

Throughout the long night God has given Israel His Word of Promis like we have victory, such as in the Iraqi great millennium day. I was reading the other morning Psalm 46, which deals with the overthrow of Israel's enemies and her own mighty deliverance, If you read vs 5, "God shall help her, and that right early." and then look in the margin, you will find a most wonderful revelation, for

it says, "when the morning appeareth." Now this is God's promise to Israel in the latter days when the heathen are raging and the kingdoms of this world are being shaken. The Bible says that God is going to help Israel when some

particular morning appeareth

Now to add comfort upon comfort, read what Ferrar Fenton says in his translation of that verse, "God comforts at the break of day!" And would you believe it if we turn to the R.V. we find "at the dawn of the morning." So one thing is perfectly clear, God is going to come to the aid of Israel (us - His people!) at some time called "dawn," "daybreak" or "morning.

#### GOD WORKS ALL NIGHT FOR ISRAEL

If we take Israel's Red Sea deliverance as a type of a great deliverance yet to come, we find many helpful facts for present-day application. We read in Ex. 14:21, "The Lord caused the sea to go back . . all that night." For Israel the night was full of anxiety and threatenings. No greater plight than theirs can be imagined. Hardly had they left the land of bondage when Pharaoh and his hosts had come to take them back to re-enslave them. Israel was unarmed, and wholly unprepared for any kind of battle. All around tended to produce sadness and despair. But! God was working for Israel's deliverance all that night!

You will notice that God's real work for Israel's real deliverance was not actually when they saw they could get across the Red Sea; it had been done in the darkness of the night! The dawn simply manifested what God had been doing for Israel in the darkness. The way of deliverance was made clear at "dawn." What a wonderful lesson for these days!

We of this generation have had our long night. The

darkness has been thick. At times we could not see God working. Yet we know that as He worked for Israel of old, He has been working for us all the night. When we pass into the light of the dawn we will see clearly what God has been doing. When we really know the story, it will be of dividing Red-Seas and overthrowing Israel's enemies. God will "comfort Israel at the break of day."

I believe that God's deliverance of His latter-day Israel people will be so complete, and so unmistakably the work of God, that it will be truly said of us all over the world, "Happy art thou, O Israel: Who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord." (Deut 33:29).

#### THE PROMISE IS FOR THE NIGHT

It is interesting to see how God prepared Israel of old for this night ordeal, and for the deliverance at dawn. First, they had just gone through the Passover experience. They knew that God had brought them out of Egypt. But God had promised not only to "bring them out of Egypt" but also "to bring them into" the Promised Land (Ex. 13). That

was God's promise. That is what Israel had to believe in this crisis.

When Pharaoh and his army came near, we read, "the Israelites lifted up their eyes." Under such conditions what would be the result of this sight? They were afraid, full of fear and unbelief. They saw Pharaoh but did not see God! We are always afraid when we do not see God. Fear always comes in when faith goes out. The Bible says of Israel, "they chided Moses." When the nation loses its vision if God, the land is always full of murmurings and quarrellings.

Notice how Moses turned Israel's thoughts away from Pharaoh and his great army to God. Israel had

been gazing with fear at her enemies, but did she realize that soon "they would see them no more"? Notice, too, that there was something else to be seen, but it could not be seen by the natural eye—the salvation of God. This could only be seen through the eye of faith.

"He will show you today" was the promise. Israel must make this promise the ground pr foundation of her faith. This was the rock upon which she was to stand—God's Word. Note - the promise was given first. The command came afterwards, and the obedience to the command springs from the faith produced by believing God's promises. This is the lesson we need to learn today.

Courtesy The pathfinder, Box 291 Spokane WA 99210

#### CHILDREN: A GIFT FROM GOD by John D. Martin

Jesus had a special place in His heart for children. mark recorded one of the incidents that substantiates this fact. Jesus' followers seemingly thought that children were too insignificant to occupy Jesus' time.

'But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said to them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God . . . And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:14,16).

In today's world, the place of the child is grossly misunderstood. Some prefer to lavish their inordinate affections upon animals rather than having children. Others consider the killing of the unborn an acceptable escape from the results of immoral living. Many mothers consider children a liability that hinders the pursuit of a career, and they choose to commit their children to daycare centers.



old tract:

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by Karl Schott

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The government sees children as their responsibility to protect and to educate into responsible citizens who will better their country by humanistic concepts. Sadly, some professing Christians view their children as a means of expressing their own pride by pushing them forward in society and clothing them with the latest fads and fashions.

All of these ideas, along with many other misconceptions about children, are foreign to Bible principle. As a Christian people, we must follow God's clear directions regarding His heritage (gift) of children.

Psalm 127 and 128, believed to have been authored by Solomon, contain a beautiful picture after which to model the Christian home. the following discussion is based on thoughts from these two psalms.

#### EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE

The word 'house' as used in this statement contains the thought of family. Primary home-building and child-rearing is the need for the Lord to direct the lives of parents. As Christian parents, we must have the Lord first in our lives or else our efforts will be in vain. A life-style that empha-

sises the material gain above spiritual life falls short of God's design. It is

vain to be so involved in the cares of this life that our children suffer neglect [or suffer lack of siblings]. The Lord is not building the house if we are too busy to give Him first place in all our activities [10% of our income -&- 1/ 7th of our time, is but the beginning]. If the Lord is not directing all our efforts, we lack the foundation upon which to build our homes.

#### **CHILDREN ARE AN HERITAGE** FROM THE LORD

We accept children as gifts from God. Because He gave these souls into our care. He calls us to bring them up for Him. Responsibility for children rests primarily on the shoulders of parents, not on secular daycare centres or Head Start programs. If we truly recognize our accountability for the children God has so graciously given us, we as Christian parents and Scriptural churches will seek to follow God's directives to bring them up. We will seek wisdom from God as Manoah did.

"Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born." Judges 13:8.

earthly wisdom will not suffice for this job. We need mothers who are keepers at home and fathers who provide for their homes both physically and spiritually.

Children are not pawns of the state to push around by humanistic logic. Sending our children to government-run schools, or idolatrous-church run schools is not an option for Christian parents. Allowing our children to associate too freely with children from unbelieving homes will be a snare to them. God requires us to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph.6:4). We may not entrust this responsibility to others.

#### AS ARROWS ARE IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN

While an archer has the arrow in his hand, he can do much to shape the arrow so it will fly true. As he places the arrow into the bow, he will pay much attention to its position and will aim it carefully so that it will hit the mark. After the arrow has flown, it is out of his direct control. So are children of the youth (Psalm 127:4).

Short indeed is the time we have to shape and direct the lives of our children. Families that are in the heat of battle with young children to care for may feel that the time is long. Sleepless nights, frequent nappy changes, and ironing out squabbles may cause weariness, yet God promises grace for the day. And the day will soon be over. The window of opportunity will be closed very quickly. The arrows will soon have flown beyond our control. So let us be encouraged to pay much attention to shaping the lives of these dear little children while we have the opportunity.

baby swings, strollers, and playpens may be helpful to pacify the child, but they should not be used at the expense of the mother's loving care as she cuddles the child into her lap and talks to him. Mothers touch eternity as they take time to establish a bond of love with their child that will go with the child throughout his life and mold his character. Reading Bible stories to him will acquaint him early with the way of truth.

The toys we provide for our children affect their character. The electronic age makes possible toys that talk, squeak, blink, or move about with remote control. Mystical TV characters and satanic images are available to entertain the child. We do well to avoid toys that promote ungodliness, even if they can be purchased cheaply at garage sales.

Simple toys that promote creativity will often make the child more satis-

fied that the world's glitzy playthings. Biblical discipline brings the will of the child into subjection. We should not only be a good pattern for children

to follow but also be their guide. 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it' (Prov. 22:6). Notice that this vs says the way he should go, not the way he would go. Yes, the child will eventually need to decide for himself whether or not he will follow

Christ. But while he is in our hand, we must environ him with a godly atmosphere. Deut 6:7-9 explains this further.

If we heed the humanistic cry of society to let the young child make his own decisions, we are really robbing him of the opportunity to learn the ways of God. 'The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame' (Prov. 29:1). Scriptural discipline will mold the character in such a way that he cannot totally disregard Bible principles later in life, even if he fails to appropriate the grace of God personally. Many child-training books are not sound. Let us resort to the Bible and to the writings and advice of such who promote the whole counsel of God for our help on this important responsibility.

When our arrows have flown, will we be satisfied that we have done that which was in our power to do while they were in our hand?

Will they have hit the mark? Will they be useful for the Master, touching lives for good wherever they serve? Will they challenge the enemies of the Gospel to consider their lives? Will they be warriors in the battle between good and evil, or will they succumb to the enemy by endorsing worldliness? So much depends on how we as parents and churches have shaped them.

#### BLESSED IS EVERY ONE THAT FEARETH THE LORD

We know that the Lord does not always choose to bless homes with children, for purposes He alone may know, but having the quiver full of them is a blessing to the Christian family. While the world goes on in their selfish ways, seeking to severely limit family size or eliminate children altogether, the Christian family thanks the Lord for each child He gives them. Are those who view children as a hindrance to their careers or pleasure seeking not worshipping the god of this world rather than finding fulfillment in the Lord and His rich gifts?



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Psalm 128 depicts a beautiful scene of a godly family around the table. Mealtimes in the home can be a blessing as the family eats together rather than at the local (fast food) restaurant. A Christian father that fills his place in directing his family in the fear of the Lord, a loving wife that supports and cherishes her husband, and happy children who are in training for the Master are a God-given bit of heaven here below.

Children as olive plants hold great potential as kingdom laborers and future occupants of God's Kingdom. Godly families are building blocks in the Scriptural church. The peace of God is promised to those who take their responsibility before the Lord seriously and seek to further His kingdom in successive generations.

Courtesy Light of Life, 200 Florey Drive, Charnwood ACT 2615

# THE ONLY WAY TO PEACE, HEALTH AND PROSPERITY Destiny Editorial Staff

Perhaps ,pre important to the human being than any other factor in life in his attitude toward Law; for all basic laws are divine in origin. As a matter of fact, man's very existence depends upon the keeping of certain fundamental laws of life, which if violated, result in sudden death!

There is only one source and origin of all basic laws and this is true whether they govern the material universe, the physical creation, or the spiritual, moral and economic life of man. That source is God—the fountain-head of all law and order—who has already revealed to men His laws which govern an orderly creation. To know and to keep those laws is to live; while to

to keep those laws is to live; while to belittle or disregard them brings destitution and want, until death terminates a life of sorrow and suffering, the direct result of failure to keep and observe the Laws of God.

In the word of the Psalmist, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork!" (Psa. 19:1). This is an acknowledgment of Divine Law manifested in the ordinances of heaven. The operation of the Law of the Lord, however, is not confined to the physical universe alone, for even the least and smallest in creation is numbered, weighed, and measured in accordance with law. Jesus had this in mind when He said, "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

Scientists may not always recognize the hand and power of Deity in the law and order evident in the field of investigation, but they do recognize that there exists a rigid law, which they respect and keep, knowing that its violation brings penalties. In some cases such violation has resulted in the death of the careless experimenter. [So obviously it is important to study God's Law and those who say it can be discarded do so at their peril!]

natural laws, so-called, govern the entire operation of the universe from the great heavenly bodies which roll in their circuits to the minutest atom and electron; and the effect has long been recognized as following the cause in orderly process because of the inexorable operation of these laws. This is understood fully by men who have familiarized themselves with God's Laws of gravity, physics, mechanics, chemistry, mathematics and the many and varied multiplicities in the operation of these laws in their

innumerable ramifications—all of which supports the thesis of law and order which the scientists have learned to respect and keep.

Now recognized natural law does not cover the entire scope of the Divine Regulations which control, govern and preserve an orderly universe. God in His Providence has enacted other laws as well which, if kept, would usher in a Utopian Age—an age bringing benefits to mankind beyond the fondest dreams of those who have longed for real peace and lasting happiness. These are necessarily laws of governmental administration.

An understanding of the perfect laws of administration, however, cannot be acquired by men through any process of experimentation—a method which was effective in bringing to light the existence of the physical laws of the universe. The brief fact is that it is impossible in this way to come to an understanding of God's Laws of justice, equity and moral conduct.

Man, himself the result of Divine creation in accordance with law, was given by Divine revelation the perfect law of life, the keeping of which would result in peace, happiness and prosperity. Violation of that law was destined to bring injustice, poverty, distress and war. Man may talk of freedom and liberty but there can be no liberty nor freedom apart from law! And when men refuse to observe and keep it the ensuing license results in violence and strife, with chaos as the ultimate end of that society which ignores the Divine Law.

Man in a state of rebellion spiritually has so far refused to recognize or heed the way of life which would give him peace and bring prosperity in all of his endeavors. In the very beginning God began to reveal His Laws unto men. The very first command of God to Adam became a rule of action, or law of life, unto man.

## THE WAY OF LIFE—AND DEATH

The positive law of life as given to our first parents in the Garden of Eden was to eat of the fruit of the trees in the Garden and live. The negative law was contained in the command to abstain from partaking of certain forbidden fruits with the warning that the violation of this command would be followed by death. Physical health and wellbeing depended upon man obeying the first, while the keeping of the

second assured him of life unending and continuous spiritual communion with God. Thus the Divine Command had become law unto man. But mankind—created in the image of God—was given the right of choice: in obedience—a blessing; in disobedience—a curse. The first would bring continuous health and life—the second, trouble and death. By act of will, man was now able to choose his course, for before him lay two roads—one the way of life, and the other the way of death.

#### WHAT IS SIN?

Many have asked the question, What is sin? The answer is simple: Sin is disobedience to the commands of God, a refusal to keep His Laws. John declared this when he said, "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

Law, insofar as it regulates the conduct and action of men and nations, is a rule of action established by a recognized authority with power to enforce justice and direct duty. God is a recognized authority and He has full power

#### At this time of 'economic meltdown,'

'financial crisis,' 'bail-out,' and 'stimulus packages,' it would do well to take account of what really happens with the stuff called 'money.' As Bruce McCarthy used to say, identify the substance that we use as money in this country and I'll give you a hundred pounds (50 kilos) of it free of charge! Sheldon Emry wrote

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to enforce His commands which must ultimately be observed, kept and obeyed; for the Divine Law cannot be altered or removed—they are *a constant—and* the passage of time has no effect upon them.

Human regulations, designates as law by men, are often but temporary acts of appeasement to counteract the result of the failure to keep and administer the Law of the Lord. By such means men have endeavoured to meet their needs and to find a human solution for existing troubles which have in reality resulted from the breaking of Divine Law. Such man-made regulations undergo continual revision as time marches on! New generations come and changing conditions in the human experiment show the lack of foresight and wisdom in legislative enactments; for when the enactments of men are at variance with the Divine Law there can be only one result—trouble for men. This is true whenever men refuse to conform with the Laws of God which govern the universe; or fail to observe and keep spiritual, and economic ments—including the perfect ; laws of governmental administration.

Before considering the subject of Divine Law in its application to man, both individually and collectively, it is essential that we first settle satisfactorily the question of the entire scope and application of the Divine Laws, and man's relationship to these laws. This becomes necessary because of the prevalence of a doctrinal teaching which has had a definite influence upon Christian men and women to such an extent that it has led some to ignore God's injunction to observe and keep all His Law. In thus ignoring the law such have failed to recognize the Divine plan of the operation of the Law of the Lord as it governs our physical well-being, economic security and national prosperity.

The Psalmist, in speaking of the law, states: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." [while some say that too much emphasis is placed on the Law, it is the best thing you can get your children to memorize from the Scriptures - 'writing them on the heart' by memorization. Start with memorizing the 10 Commandments] And although even this is said of the Law of the Lord, yet some ignore this declaration of the Psalmist, with its unmistakable clarity and meaning, and teach that they are free from the need of keeping His Law. This doctrinal teaching is based on the assumption that because of Grace (the unmerited favour of God through His Son Jesus Christ), Christians have been exonerated from the need of keeping the law. If a man is free from keeping the law, however, he is at liberty then to violate that law and do so with impunity; and it would then follow that the gift of Grace becomes a license to be used as a cloak to cover sinning (for sin is the violation of the law), which is repugnant to all the teaching of the law and the direct commands of God as given in both the Old and New Testaments.

#### WE MUST KEEP THE LAW

Nowhere in Scripture is it stated that a Christian is free from the need of keeping the law. While the Word of God states that a Christian is not under bondage to the law, yet this freedom from bondage cannot in any sense be construed as a license to violate law. It is unfortunate that the gift of Grace has been used to perpetuate a doctrinal belief contrary to the clear teaching of the Bible. Violation of Divine Law is sin whether that law is violated by a Christian or a non-Christian, regardless of any doctrinal excuse that might be made for such violation

#### DIVINE LAW IS ALL-EMBRACING

Now the scope of the Divine Law embraces all the needs, activities and requirements of men and nations; limiting, guiding and directing them in all the things that should, and should not, be done. Christians are amiss in not knowing and understanding these laws.

A knowledge of the Law of the Lord would unfold for Christians a much deeper concept of God's plans regarding His people than they have now. The possession of such information would open up before the Christian world the marvellous scope of that law in its entirety and in its application to the needs of men and nations. Such an understanding would once and for all settle the question that no one group of men, Christian or otherwise, are exempt from

law observance. It would prove the absurdity of all the excuses given by men to justify their violation of the law; and would show that even to claim the right to ignore or violate Divine Law is, in itself, SIN!

Sin, as defined in the dictionary, is wholly in accord with the Biblical definition of law violation. The dictionary states that sin is: "Any want of conformity to or transgression of rule of rectitude or duty, especially as made known through the conscience or the revealed Word of God: disagreement in thought, word, deed, or desire, whether by omission or commission, with the Divine Law."

The necessity of law observance must first be established, for unless this is done many Christians will continue to ignore the Divine

Laws to their own hurt—thinking that in so doing they are justified because of their acceptance of the teachings of an erroneous doctrine which has belittled the need of such law observance. No man in his right mind would be so foolish as to hold for one moment that the Divine Laws of the physical universe need not be observed. The sane and intelligent Christian recognizes that he must keep them or suffer the consequences resulting from their violation. Is a man, though Christian, justified in a deliberate violation of the requirements of ;law as laid down in the Ten Commandments? Would he in his violation be immune from the evils resulting from their violation? Certainly not! And what is true regarding these moral laws of God is also true regarding the Divine Laws of administration with their rules and regulations governing economics, jurisprudence and the health of His people. Men or nations violating these laws will find themselves subject to the operation of punitive clauses of the law and will suffer under the curses pronounced for their violation.

#### **CHRIST IS OUR ADVOCATE**

Paul is very clear in his statements regarding all this, for evidently he had in mind those in his day who were teaching a doctrine of law violation paralleling that which is held by some Christians today. He said, "Sin (law violation) shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law (in bondage to it), but under Grace (unmerited pardon from the penalties having favour with God and able to keep that law through His Son Jesus Christ)." He contin-

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ues, "What then? Shall we sin (that is, violate the law), because we are not under (the bondage of) the law, but under Grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin (law violation) unto righteousness?"

The Apostle clearly states here that Grace does not give a license to anyone to violate law, for such violation he declares is sin. What advantage then has the Christian? Very much, for as John says, "If any man sin (that is, violate the law), we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous." This being so, Paul could say, "Therefore being justified (escaping the penalty of the law through the righteousness of Jesus) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Perhaps the one great difficulty regarding the absolute need of observing Divine Law and which is responsible for much of the confusion regarding that law has been the failure to recognize the distinction between the laws contained in ordinances and those given in Commandments, Statutes and Judgments. The lack of a clearly defined definition of the Divine Law in each of its particular applications and especially concerning the operation of the ordinances is responsible for most of this confusion.

#### GOD'S WORD STANDS IMMUTABLE

Our purpose in writing *Digest of the Divine Law* was to set forth the operation of these Laws and to clarify for our readers the distinction between 1) the laws which govern the activities and operations of men and nations, and 2) the ordinances or ritual. These ordinances had their place and purpose in the Divine plan fully revealed through Jesus Christ in His life, ministry, death and resurrection. As to the laws apart from the ordinances it was shown that if we must obey some, then we are bound to keep them all! If we can with impunity violate some, then God has failed and the Bible has ceased to be an authority for the guidance of men and nations. But God has not failed and the authority of His Word still stands immutable in its teachings and law.

The New Covenant so stressed by the teachings of Christianity is, according to the Bible, definitely associated with the keeping of the law. Jeremiah prophesied and Hebrews affirms, "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts." (i.e. learning it off by heart!) If then the Christian is not bound to keep the law, how can it be written into his heart? After the New Testament had been established Paul declared that he was dead to the law. What law? Certainly it could not be that law which was written into his heart as the result of the work of holy spirit! Later Paul asks the question, Why serve the law which was added? This was the law unto which Paul declared he was dead, for that law which was added to the Commandments, Statutes and Judgments received by Israel at Mt Sinai was none other than the ordinances which were given as the result of Israel's sin when Aaron built the golden calf which they worshipped. These ordinances became a schoolmaster to bring the people to Christ. Now that Christ has come, the schoolmaster is no more needed; nor is it necessary to be in bondage to the (blood)ritual, which law Paul declared he served no more.

"Confusion" is the only word which explains the condition existing in the minds of so many Christians regarding the law through the failure to recognize the (blood)ordinances as that law which was added. The ritual does not have to be observed; but the *Commandments*, *Statutes* and *Judgments* are still in operation and every man and nation will ultimately be compelled to observe and keep them. The day will yet come when God's people will be compelled to recognize the operation of these Divine Laws.

Ezekiel prophesies of that time and says: "They shall also walk in my judgments and observe my statutes, and do them." (Eze. 37:24). Let us familiarize ourselves with these Divine Laws which the nation will yet be compelled to observe, keep and obey. In that day: "The law shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." (Micah 4:2)

As the result of God's recognition of the needs of men there have been revealed to mankind rules and regulations, the keeping of which will bring prosperity and happiness to all men everywhere. Observance, with the resultant peace and goodwill, will yet characterize all national and international relationships.

It is this recognition on the part of men and nations of God's administration as set forth in the Divine Law which is essential. It is the crying need of a world full of trouble and strife!

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