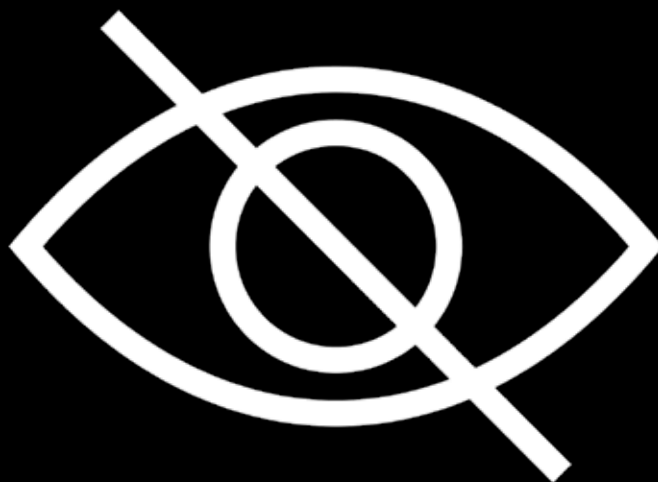


TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

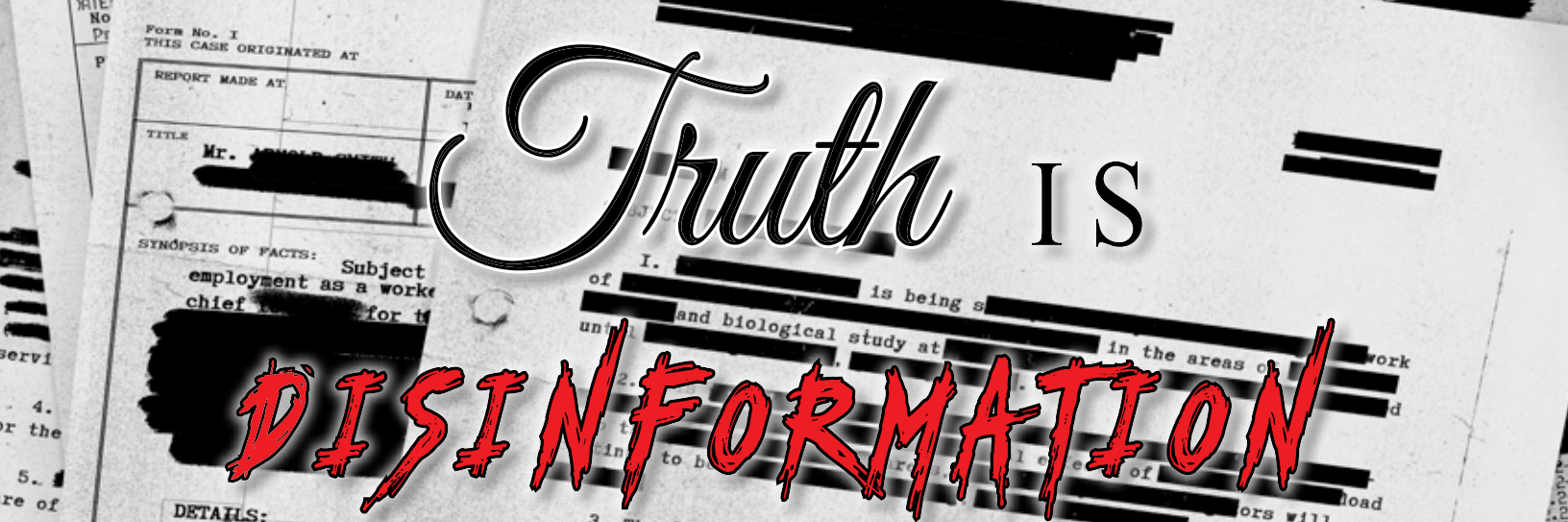
Vol. 24 No. 4

Fourth Quarter 2021



SENSITIVE CONTENT

This object contains sensitive content which some people may find offensive or disturbing.



by Mark Armstrong

A mandate on businesses, to be enforced apparently by a familiar four letter agency, says that everyone will have proof of vaccination or face crippling fines. Lawsuits are flying, but how long does a lawsuit take to play out? This stuff will be overturned, never fear. Really? When? We've been surprised at several outcomes at the highest courts. You never know. Meanwhile, lots of people are walking away from careers rather than submit. Deadlines are expiring. If the Supreme Court abandons the American ideal and sides with the fear-mongers and mandate barkers, freedoms you've taken for granted begin to disappear.

At this writing, the January 4 vaccine mandate for companies that employ 100 people or more has

been struck down by the 5th Circuit court. The mainstream news wants you to know that the Judges in question were appointed by Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump, and that this is one of the most conservative courts in the nation. But not to worry, the pretender's lawyers are brimming with confidence that all the mandates will be upheld on appeal. If that's true, the U. S. will truly have entered another era.

Some are beginning to wonder whether this situation amounts to the beginning of the trouble mentioned at the end of the Bible. Does Covid 19 qualify as a "pestilence?" There are some similarities. Nobody wants to have to live through the horrific imagery described in the book of Revelation. But we are seeing mass deception at the same time the third world is surging into Europe and America, and citizens of free nations suddenly have become the serfs ruled by an "elite" class.

The border has been breached now by millions, and the mandate administration is preparing to "compensate" illegals for all the trouble. There were well-documented attempts to deny it before we were just told it was the right thing to do. That sounds familiar. Cloward and Piven, anybody? Recent suggestions are that they should be compensated for inconveniences visited upon them by that mean, heartless, racist, Donald Trump. What other accusations are in the wings?

Global warming is settled science, they claim. The only remaining question is what they plan to make you do to comply while they save the planet. When have the experts ever led you astray? The answer to every question you might have is to trust the experts. Especially those that the government trots out to tell us what to think.



"The science is clear: We have only a brief window to raise our ambition and rise to meet the threat of climate change."

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“Because that, when they knew
God, they glorified him not
as God, neither were thankful;
but became vain in their
imagination, and their foolish
heart was darkened.

“PROFESSING THEMSELVES
TO BE WISE, THEY
BECAME FOOLS...”

Romans I:21-22

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What is a child? How does he learn? When should you begin to teach him? These are some of the fundamental questions of child rearing. We'll outline the basic principles of how to train your children – and when to begin.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“Congratulations!” say all the friends, relatives and greeting cards to the beaming parents! And what a tremendous moment it is – bringing a newborn child into the world – introducing him around.

And what a responsibility! Youthful couples, carefree and unencumbered, suddenly become aware of a great responsibility! Let's begin to see just how great – and come to understand some of the most vital principles in sound child training.

A PLAN OF ACTION

Countless thousands of little babies are carried into homes where exists the naive assumption that all the knowledge and understanding necessary for the care and training of children has come to exist automatically by virtue of the arrival of the infant.

There are many mechanics, engineers, artists or musicians today who are competent in their fields merely because

they had the tools, machinery or instruments near them as a part of their environment. Many mechanics are grown-up boys who began “tinkering” with machines and automobiles – learning by trial and error – taking them apart and seeing how they were put together again.

This, sad to say, is the identical type of training course pursued by most parents in the art of child training. Simply because the baby is near at hand, and is now a wanted or unwanted inheritance of the family, parents blithely assume the child will develop just as they desire.

“Competent parenthood is looked upon generally as a sort of magic endowment that makes study unnecessary. No grasp of the responsibilities and no vision of the great possibilities are considered essential when entering the career. Sometimes there is no special desire for children – merely a lucky accident... No special thought that is given to new character problems that

arise from day to day. No plan of action is outlined” (*As the Twig Is Bent*, Hohman, p. 2).

What, then, are the new parents to do? From all sides come the hue and cry that the oldest profession on earth – that of rearing children – is facing abysmal failure. There are seemingly countless books on child study, child feeding and care, child training, child rearing, child psychology, and just about “child everything!” The parents are assured that no one today really knows HOW to rear children properly. Where are they to turn? The books, articles, and other trivia dealing with the subject are confusing, to say the least.

And so – where does the parent turn to learn of this strange new life, this squirmy, wriggling, crying, giggling, tiny reproduction of themselves?

Observe a marvelous “mechanical brain.” Here is a phenomenal machine, filled with thousands of miles of intricate wiring, complete with a complex

panel so dizzying, so technical as to stupefy the average layman. However, in observing how this machine functions, a little of its outward looks, and watching one or two repair operations, one of the laymen takes it in his head to write a book advising other laymen to exactly what this machine is all about!

But wait! Which would you rather read? The book written by the recent observer – or the manual published by the inventor and manufacturer? Has no one ever thought of going to the inventor of children? He is God!

“And God said, let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon earth.

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth...” (Gen. 1:26-28).

Yes, difficult though it seems to be for the most “modern” to accept the amazing truth that God is Creator, the existence and the work of the Divine Architect stand clearly proved!

God did not leave His creation in the dark! He then “...commanded the man,” (Gen. 2:16) giving him certain specific instructions on how to live!

God gave to man a manual, a textbook, an instruction book on how the human machine

works! Since God is its Creator and Inventor, God is the One who knows exactly how it operates. God gave to man certain essential knowledge which man could not have otherwise discovered for himself! The Bible, the inspired and holy word of God is the most basic of all books on the subject of how to rear children!

Men have not wanted to follow the manual of the Inventor but have turned to the misknowledge of casual observers.

Just as two and two make four, so does the fact that today’s colossal problems have been created by the poorly trained babies of yesterday.

Men have rejected this source of revealed knowledge of how to live!

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication... murder, debate, deceit... inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents...” (Rom. 1:28-30).

One logical, inevitable and immediate outcome of rejecting God’s basic revealed will is disobedience to parents!

Today, the world is faced with the most gigantic tidal wave of juvenile lawlessness and violence that has ever infected society since its dimmest recorded beginnings.

What is the best source for right knowledge about child training? The “manual of the Inventor” – the inspired word of God – your Bible!

WHAT IS A CHILD?

This question is asked – and richly deserves to be answered – simply because, by their actions, it seems many do not honestly know! All too often, newborn babies, and especially a first child, are treated as if they were “little green men from Mars!” Is it any wonder? There seem to be more “rules” written about this squirming infant than can be perused in the average lifetime of a normal adult. “Do this!” or “Don’t do that!” is heard from every side.

The newcomer arrives as a total stranger. According to usual procedures, the father has been allowed brief glimpses of his progeny through the double thick glass of the supposedly sterilized maternity ward in the hospital. But now he is home. All of a sudden, it seems, your entire homelife is completely topsy-turvy. Every sigh, every chuckle, and especially every cry from the new arrival sends your little household into a veritable frenzy.

There are bottles to be carefully sterilized, formulas to be mixed, schedules to be met, diapers to be changed, room temperatures to be checked, morning, noon and nighttime feedings – and every time the child howls you are told with all authority he most certainly has the colic and the doctor should be called!

Sound ridiculous? But it isn’t! It is all too often the normal procedure – the accepted routine in the arrival of a first child.

Let’s clear the air and come down to earth. Rather than

Continued next page



treat the new arrival as something made of the most fragile glass, let's get a true perspective, and realize just what a child really is!

First, he is a human being! He is an exact miniature copy of yourselves. He probably has, though it is sometimes undiscernible at such an early stage, your own looks, your very own nature, your voice, and some of your talents. However, he is also an individual with a mind definitely all his own.

But exactly what is this human self, this separate entity, this newborn child?

Let's go to the manual of the Inventor – the inspired word of God – and see what He says.

“What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that Thou visitest him?”

“For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor” (Psalms 8:4, 5).

A new human life is made in the exact similitude of Divine Life! God said, “Let Us make man in Our image!” But so far

God has made man merely a physical replica, and far from an exact copy of God in character!

“O Lord, Thou hast searched me, and known me... for there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether...”

“For Thou hast possessed my reins; thou hast knit me together in my mother's womb.

“I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

“My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

“Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in Thy book all my members were written, which day by day were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them” (Psalms 139:1, 4, 13-16).

Yes, we are fearfully and wonderfully made. But now let's see a little about the nature of the tiny, infantile mind!

BABIES ARE CARNAL!

The apostle Paul reveals: “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: For it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7).

Jeremiah was inspired to write: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it?”

“I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings” (Jer. 17:9, 10).

Every little baby is born with carnal nature. Carnal means nothing more than physical, sensual, earthly nature! Carnal as opposed to spiritual. Fleshly, not yet begotten of God's Holy Spirit!

Many dozens of scriptures in the Holy Bible explain this carnal nature as a mixture of good and evil, a nature of basic selfishness, of wanting to get for the self, rather than give to others.

Observe the perfect example of carnality in a young baby. The baby is totally incapable of any such thing as “thought” at just a few days of age. Yet it is already perfectly carnal! There is no “reasoning process” by which the baby simply decides to howl at 2 or 3 a.m.. If the father has had a very busy and nerve-racking day at the office, the mother has had to do an unusually large washing, clean house, tend the baby and prepare the meals, and both are very tired – the child is totally unable to think of, understand or comprehend any of these things. The impulse of hunger, discomfort,

loneliness, or the pain of an upset stomach is all that is necessary to launch the child on a yowling, howling tirade until it gets what it wants. This is not stated here to say that it is wrong or unnecessary to tend to a baby when it cries at night, nor to see to its needs – but to illustrate the fact that we are all born with basic carnal nature, which thinks only of self.

On the other hand, one of the greatest blessings God ever promised some of His patriarchs was the blessing of children! Abraham, by faith, waited many years for a son. All of the promises which God gave to ancient Israel had to do with the begetting of healthy children! God says:

“He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord!” (Psalms 113:9).

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: And the fruit of the womb is His reward.

“As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

“Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate” (Psalms 127:3-5).

Children are precious, priceless gifts from Almighty God to any parents! What a pity that more parents today do not understand the real MIRACLE of childbirth, and give God thanks for it! A child is the sweetest, most lovely and beautiful, altogether most exciting

and completely satisfying thing that can happen to a young married couple who are truly in love!

God says: “Blessed is everyone that fears the Eternal; that walketh in His ways

“For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands; happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

“Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the side of thine house: Thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

“Behold that thus shall the man be blest that feareth the Eternal” (Psalms 128:1-4).

What, then, is a child? A little baby is an exact reproduction of the two parents, a separate human being, who is a thoroughly selfish, altogether carnal and completely lovable, laughable, sweet little creature that will steal your heart and your reason, bring you heartache and tears, exultation and pride, anxiety and worry, happiness and joy, but who will teach you the real meaning of the word “love.”

HOW A CHILD LEARNS

Human beings are creatures of habit! Not very many people, it seems, have ever stopped to ask themselves how it is they have come to believe the various concepts, philosophies and doctrines they assume to be true. Each one of us came into existence as a baby, knowing absolutely NOTHING at birth.

The human child is the most helpless of all newborn creatures. The young colt, the calf, even the baby porpoise and whale are able to stand, walk, leap or swim within hours, even minutes after birth!

But they are creatures of instinct. A human being does not have instinct, but a mind. No one had to teach the young colt where to go for its “dinner.” It simply went there – automatically! But God gave man a mind capable of accumulating knowledge. It is a mind much like the mind of God, though limited in its capacity.

Almighty God, who created all life in all its myriad



forms, set and planted that instinct within all the varied forms and species of animals.

There are five channels by which knowledge may come into the mind. At birth – you know absolutely nothing! The newborn infant would starve to death if it were not taken by the more intelligent parent and nursed! Oftentimes, though not always, the mother must even begin a type of sucking motion with the jaws of the child by manipulating its lower jaw in order to teach it the habit of nursing. This is not always true, but serves to illustrate the amazing fact that the greatest creation in the physical sphere – that of the human mind – has such a simple beginning!

LEARNING BY ASSOCIATION

As a creature of habit, a baby begins to learn at the very instant of its birth! The way in which it first learns is by mere association. But these “associations” begin to form certain habits within the rapidly growing and developing mind of a newly born

human baby. Let us understand the way in which the newborn child learns.

Very quickly, the baby becomes accustomed to the smell, the taste and sounds of its own mother. If the infant of only a very few weeks is hungry, and begins to cry for his food, it may be observed that he will oftentimes quit crying the moment he is picked up by his mother, because the sound of her reassuring voice, the feeling of her arms lifting him from his bassinet, and the smell of her own body has begun to become completely associated with the satisfying taste of her milk!

Perhaps you have seen cases where tiny babies have been reared in very quiet homes. It takes only the slightest dropping of the cover on the mailbox by the postman, or the barking of a dog to awaken the child from a mid-afternoon nap. This is true because the baby has become accustomed to living in a very quiet environment. If the child has been used to a noisy environment, such trivial sounds would never

disturb him during his nap.

This factor of learning by association is so vitally important that it must be understood thoroughly.

Isn't it a pity more parents do not understand this marvelous truth of association and thereby avoid so much that is extraneous and nonessential in attempting to get a child to obey their admonitions?

There are absolutely millions of parents today who do not know how to keep a child from becoming as destructive as a proverbial “bull in a china shop!”

They are completely helpless to keep their child from crawling about from one thing to another, turning over knick knacks, pulling doilies from tables, pulling out electric plugs, tearing up books and magazines, or any other of the one thousand and one different things a little crawling infant seems to “get into.” Myriad, countless, it seems, are the parents who have not the slightest glimpse of understanding as to how to cope with such a situation!

If they could realize their child is a creature of habit – habits which are formed by association and must be taught – much of the problem would be solved!

WHEN SHOULD YOU BEGIN TO TRAIN YOUR CHILD?

A vitally important principle every parent needs to understand is that good habits must be constantly taught to the child, beginning at birth!

“Never too old to learn” is truer in reverse. The further it



BRAIN DEVELOPMENT – HOW YOU CAN HELP

Frontal Lobe – Concrete Thinking (3 to 12 years)

- Have your child sort and categorize objects. Encourage problem-solving. Let your child be frustrated sometimes as they figure something out.
- Help your child notice patterns. (“When you do X, this always happens.” “After we do Y, we always...”)
- In your child’s elementary school years (age 5–12) teach reading and writing (not essential to start earlier)

Prefrontal Cortex – Judgment (12–22 yrs)

- Give choices (when your child is calm... they can’t make choices when stressed or upset).
- Talk to your child about plans. Let them make plans. Help your child break down big tasks into little steps.
- Give your child some freedom to try out their ideas, and learn from their mistakes.

Limbic System – Emotions (8 mos to 2 yrs)

- Show unconditional love.
- Experience joy with your child.
- Respond in consistent ways.
- Talk to your child about emotions. Teach vocabulary to understand how they feel.

Note: Timeframe given is the “sensitive period” when that part of the brain is growing and developing the most. The brain grows and changes throughout our lifetimes, so your child will benefit by all these kinds of stimulation throughout life.

Illustration: Macmillan Cancer Support 2012

Thought, memory and behaviour

Hearing, learning and emotions

Temporal Lobe – Hearing (Birth to 6 years)

- Expose your child to a wide variety of sounds. Also, be sure there are quiet times when this system can rest.
- Listen to music, play music, let your child experiment with instruments / noisemaking.
- Play games where you practice being loud/ quiet, echo tunes back and forth, etc.

Parietal Lobe – Language (Birth to 6 years)

- Talk, sing, and read to your child. Listen to your child and respond.
- Read the same stories or sing the same songs over and over so your child learns to memorize.
- Follow your child’s attention and talk about what they are looking at or doing.

Parietal Lobe – Touch (Birth to 6 years)

- Carry your baby, touch your child, hold hands, hug, massage. Give your child lots of objects to hold and manipulate.
- Let them touch soft things, rough things, slimy things, etc. Let your child explore the world hands-on—pulling, pushing, pouring, stroking, picking up, dropping, turning, twisting, opening, and closing.

Occipital Lobe – Vision (Birth to 2 years)

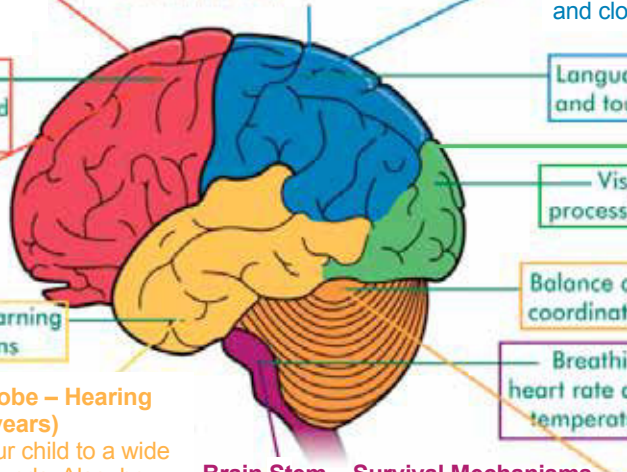
- Provide interesting things to look at.
- Play games where the child follows things with his/her eyes. Roll the ball, throw the ball.
- Look at pictures and small items up close. Play “I spy” and “where’s waldo” and games where they search for visual differences.
- Make sure your child has plenty of outdoor time to develop distance vision.

Cerebellum—Balance & Coordination (Birth to 1 yr)

- First 6 months: carry your baby in your arms or a sling to let them experience more variety of movement than in a stroller. Dance with them. Sing songs and move their arms and legs for them.
- Throughout life: Let them move in lots of different ways. Take your child to the playground and the swimming pool. Let them climb trees and rocks. Let them run, throw, jump, and kick.

Brain Stem – Survival Mechanisms (Developed at Birth)

- During pregnancy: reduce stress, minimize alcohol and tobacco. Maximize healthy diet, including omega-3 fats
- After birth: Help your child feel safe, emotionally and physically. If a child is frightened or stressed, the brain goes into survival mode (brain stem function), and the rest of the brain can’t grow and develop. When a child feels safe and happy, the child can learn.



Language and touch

Visual processing

Balance and coordination

Breathing, heart rate and temperature

is reversed, the truer it becomes. ‘Never too young to learn’ is the idea parents and nurses should always bear in mind. The more a behavior pattern is affixed to the primary, simple, unconditioned responses, the easier it is to establish firmly. That is to say, the sooner habits (good or bad) are inculcated, the more force they will have, the longer they will endure, the harder they will be to change.

“Then ‘just as the twig is bent,’ Pope said, ‘the tree’s inclin’d.’ This remark, with the one made by Robert Southwell in *Loss in Delay*, ‘tender twigs are bent with ease’ and ‘aged trees do break with bending,’ sums up the

outstanding points in the story of man’s emotional background. If we allow our children to become twisted too far and wait for the prevailing winds and recurring storms of the world to force them into line after they are fully grown and stiffened in their individual patterns, they may break. A multitude of men and women do.” (*As the Twig Is Bent*, p. 22, Hohman)

Yes, the time to begin training children is much earlier than most parents think!

Unfortunately, not all writers on child training give such sound advice.

Because of the carnal nature in human beings, which

is a nature tending to degenerate, rather than build up, it seems to be much simpler for children to acquire bad habits than it is to learn good ones. Hence, it appears that thumb-sucking, throwing dishes on the floor, or other habits are acquired only after two or three attempts, while it takes many months to teach a child to stay dry. The simple answer to this problem is that the carnal child learns much more quickly to do that which is pleasurable, that which satisfies the downward pull of his nature, that which is curious, interesting, and easy to do, rather than that which takes effort, concentration, and persistence.

Continued next page

It is much easier to obtain a bad habit than it is to acquire a good one!

Obviously, since the child repeats what he enjoys, it is good for parents to make interesting and enjoyable things which the child needs to acquire. However, when all is said and done, the child must learn to do that which is right, enjoyable or not!

Most parents assume their very tiny children are too young to teach. They believe they should wait until the child is old enough to “understand.” However, this excuse is often carried over into most of the pre-school years by many parents, resulting in a perfectly horrible little child who is rebellious, ill-mannered, disrespectful toward his elders, and generally destructive.

The truth is, it is impossible to begin too soon! A good slogan to remember is the one already quoted: “Never too young to learn!”

LEARNING BY IMITATING

Perhaps the second most important manner in which a very young child acquires certain

habits is through mimicking and imitating others.

“Even simple reflexes... such as breathing, the movement of the hands, arms, legs, trunk, smiling and crying, soon show the effect of your training – soon become influenced by the kind of life you force your child to lead.

“But you may ask, aren’t there more complex inherited forms of behavior which appear later as instincts? Aren’t such activities such as climbing, imitation, emulation and rivalry, pugnacity, anger, resentment, sympathy, hunting, fear, appropriation, acquisitiveness, constructiveness, play, curiosity, sociability, shyness, cleanliness, modesty, shame, love, jealousy, parental love, and all of these pure instincts which appear and run their course completely beyond the control of the parents? Surely, these things are not dependent upon the way I let my child grow up. Most of the older psychologists would agree with you. The behaviorist believed, too, when he began his work, that some of these acts would spring forth fully formed. But we waited for their appearance in vain. Now

we are forced to believe from the study of facts that all of these forms of behavior are built in by the parents and by the environment which the parent allows the child to grow up in. There are no instincts. We build in at an early age everything that is later to appear” (*Psychological Care of the Infant and Child*, pp. 37-38, Watson).

As has been previously outlined, human beings know nothing at birth. They must acquire, through the channels of the five senses, everything they come to know. One of the major ways in which every human being learns is by mimicking, imitating others.

This method of learning is so powerful, so intense that it follows us all through our lives – often guiding and ruling our every action, our customs and our habits, even as mature adults.

Parents who are raucous, disagreeing, and show they are frequently upset with one another are going to find they will have children who will also become raucous, disagreeable and given to temper displays and angry outbursts. It also logically follows that parents with bad table manners, unclean personal habits, resentment toward authority, inherent laziness or any number of hundreds of similar frailties and faults are presenting a constant, powerful influence over their children to develop these same habits.

Understanding this broad field of imitation as a means of child training, it should become immediately clear that parents have the very important responsibility of setting the right example before their children! □



Censorship is needed to stop disagreements, says Aspen Institute

'Merely elevating truthful content is not nearly enough to change our current course'

by Bob Unruh, WND News Center



The far-left Aspen Institute, where the board of trustees includes far-left personalities such as Jane Harman, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Arne Duncan, Michael D. Eisner and Katie Couric, has decided that there's a solution to all of the disputes over speech in America today.

Ivermectin vs. ventilators? Solved. Vote fraud vs. perfect election? Solved. Grade school indoctrination vs. grade school lessons? Solved. Racism vs. reality? Solved.

The United States for centuries has diluted bad speech with *more* good speech. But now activists and even government officials are demanding censorship of speech, for example, that challenges their narrative about a perfect presidential election in 2020, or their opinion that ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine are bad for COVID-19 patients.

The institute created a 16-person Commission on Information Disorder, incidentally led by Couric who has her own struggles with truth after admitting she edited the late Justice

Ruth Ginsburg to remove controversial comments, and joined by Prince Harry, who has confirmed he believes free speech is “bonkers,” to offer a solution.

That would be a pretty aggressive form of censorship.

“The biggest lie of all, which this crisis thrives on, and which the beneficiaries of mis- and disinformation feed on, is that the crisis itself is uncontainable,” the commission said in its attempt to enlighten America. “One of the corollaries of that mythology is that, in order to fight bad information, all we need is more (and better distributed) good information. In reality, merely elevating truthful content is not nearly enough to change our current course.”

Law professor, legal commentator and constitutional scholar Jonathan Turley said America needs to be warned that such intolerant attitudes are being permitted at such levels.

He said, “The Aspen report is the latest evidence of a building anti-free speech movement in the United States. It is a movement that both rejects core free speech

values but also seeks to normalize censorship. In the last few years, we have seen an increasing call for private censorship from Democratic politicians and liberal commentators. Faculty and editors are now actively supporting modern versions of book-burning with blacklists and bans for those with opposing political views. Columbia Journalism School Dean Steve Coll has denounced the ‘weaponization’ of free speech, which appears to be the use of free speech by those on the right. So the dean of one of the premier journalism schools now supports censorship.”

He continued, “Free speech advocates are facing a generational shift that is now being reflected in our law schools, where free speech principles were once a touchstone of the rule of law. As millions of students are taught that free speech is a threat and that ‘China is right’ about censorship, these figures are shaping a new and more limited role for free speech in society.”

He found the Aspen ideology “a full-throated endorsement

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of systems of censorship.”

The 80-page report leaves “disinformation” and “misinformation” remarkably ill-defined, he said, “but treated as a matter of ‘we know when we see it.’”

It immediately rejected the idea that free speech is and should be, well, free speech, an expected result from Couric as well as commission members Color of Change President Rashad Robinson and Chris Krebs, former director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

“Robinson was also a notable choice since he has been one of the most outspoken advocates of censorship. While some of us have been denouncing the expanding system of censorship by companies like Facebook, Robinson was threatening boycotts if the companies do not ‘rein in’ those considered racists or spreaders of misinformation,” Turley explained.

Then there’s Harry, known for his opinion that free speech

protections in America’s Constitution are “bonkers.”

“Objectivity” and including both sides on a topic are rejected, noted Turley, who cited those agenda points already at large in America.

Commissioners appear to endorse “the movement against ‘objectivity’ and ‘both sideism’ in the media: ‘Commissioners also discussed the need to adjust journalistic norms to avoid false equivalencies between lies and empirical fact in the pursuit of ‘both sides’ and ‘objectivity,’ particularly in areas of public health, civil rights, or election outcomes,” he explained.

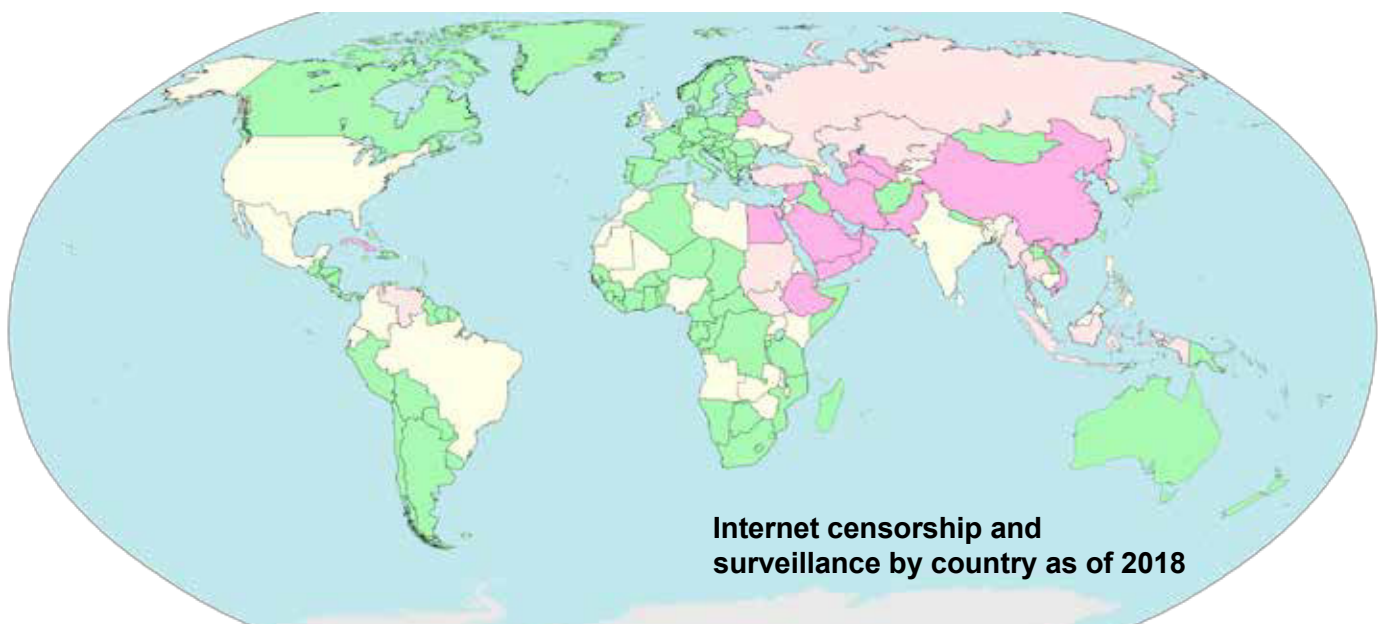
“The most chilling aspect of the report is the obvious invitation for greater forms of censorship,” Turley warned. “It calls for the government to become involved in combating misinformation, the scourge of free speech, and an invitation for state controls over speech. Ironically, there is no need for such direct government

involvement with social media.”

The commission’s suggestions include setting up a “centralized national response” to what insiders claim is “misinformation.” And members want an independent group to “develop systemic misinformation countermeasures through education, research, and investment in local institutions.”

Further, the commission wants both government and private sector systems to adopt “decisive actions and penalties” against those it considers in violation of their ideology.

Turley explained, however, “The deepest rooted problems in our society include the denial of free speech. Indeed, the First Amendment is premised on the belief that this right is essential to protecting the other freedoms in the Constitution. It is the right that allows people to challenge their government and others on electoral issues, public health issues, and other controversies.” □



Internet censorship and surveillance by country as of 2018



Truth Is “Disinformation”

Continued from page 2

There’s no need to argue Constitutional issues. Private companies can implement whatever policies or rules they deem appropriate, goes the argument. If someone wants to work for them or acquire their services, the rules must be followed.

Not that they need to make logical sense. Somebody smarter than you will decide what you must do in order to participate. We are no longer entitled to explanations or logic and that goes for a whole range of subjects. The science is settled and the public will either knuckle under or live with the consequences. And they’re going to “save the planet,” if it ruins us all.

Some suppose that the masses will wake up to what is going on, and that there will be some consequence for the news media and the smug anchors who sneer at people like us. Or for certain well-known figures who appear again and again with quotes and statements they know are untrue, told to reporters who nod with great concern. It has been quite a revelation watching thoroughly discredited buffoons come out and lie with a straight face. But nobody has admitted anything. We’re told that coming reports will spell out the truth and the guilty parties. But our confidence is all but gone.

Critical employees of every description are facing punishment or job-loss unless they comply. Some are specialists in their field and cannot be replaced at the drop of a hat. The supply lines are backed up beyond comprehension. Covid of course. Ships are stacked up at anchor, unable to be unloaded. The docks at Los Angeles have a back load of 68,000 containers according to a recent estimate, but we’re told the supply chain is too complicated to understand, let alone explain.

China is bristling with renewed military capabilities and menacing Taiwan. But the real concern is that the public do what it is told. Don’t think you’ll outsmart the system into a false belief that you’ve complied. Extreme punishments are reserved for those who attempt to trick the system.

You might say, “But that’s the politics of this world, and therefore none of the church’s business.” If we neglect to WATCH how the population is being

softened up and made to comply with mandates from all directions, what are we here for? Are we supposed to forget that our tormentors have been proven to be wrong, if not corrupt, and we’re still supposed to jump when they say? Nobody has even owned up to the energy wasted over at least three years. And they’re still at it. But get this, they’re going to claim they actually believed the clap trap they were feeding the public. That goes for any criminal mischief the alphabets may have engaged in. Whew! At least all that nonsense was committed in good faith!

A lot of people in high places are becoming fabulously wealthy in cooperation with the Chinese government. We’re not going to name names. You already know them. That may be the answer to much that we’re seeing. China is turning out to be a major player, but let’s not forget Jerusalem and the Middle East. New caravans from the Middle East are trying to break into Europe at the same time our southern border is under constant assault. Maybe Cloward and Piven will collapse our western way of life after all.

God may have removed His blessing due to the prevailing wisdom of our society. The nations have been corrupted in obvious ways. Isn’t that the warning that appears over and over from cover to cover of the Bible? □





Forced Vaccination Was Always the End Game

by Barbara Loe Fisher, National Vaccine Information Center

With the exception of Pearl Harbor and Sept. 11, 2001, Americans have not been attacked by an enemy on our own soil. Unlike countries in Europe during World War II, America has never been occupied by a military force or locked down under martial law. We have never seen soldiers in armored vehicles patrolling the streets, warning us to stay in our homes or face arrest – or worse. Beginning in 1776, when our freedom seeking founders wrote the Declaration of Independence and stood their ground from Lexington and Concord to Saratoga and Valley Forge, and then came together to create a constitutional Republic dedicated to protecting individual and minority rights, the United States of America has defined and served as a beacon for liberty for people around the world.

This summer, we watched soldiers patrolling the streets of Sydney, Australia with helicopters overhead blaring warnings to a stunned, locked down people to stay in their homes in the

name of the public health. We have watched hundreds of thousands of people, young and old, gather together again and again in the streets of Paris, London, Rome, Athens, and Berlin. They are marching against authoritarianism, the kind of Orwellian authoritarianism embodied in government issued vaccine passports that punish citizens for simply defending the right to make a voluntary medical decision for themselves and their minor children, a decision about whether to be injected with a biological pharmaceutical product that can cause serious reactions, injure, kill or fail to work.

The signs they carry say:

“No forced testing, no forced vaccines”

“Stop the dictatorship”

“Hands off our children:

“My body is mine”

“Big Pharma shackles freedom”

“No to the Pass of shame”

“Better to die free than live as a slave”

In what has become a

prophetic primal scream for liberty, governments are ordering the police to break up the largely peaceful demonstrators flooding the big cities and small villages of western Europe, the first populations to organize massive public protests against old fashioned tyranny dressed up in 21st century clothes.

The people of Europe were the first to stand up for freedom during this government declared public health emergency because they know how tyranny begins. They know what it looks like and they remember what it feels like. They remember and are declaring, “Never again.”

**IN AMERICA, WE HAVE TAKEN
OUR FREEDOM FOR GRANTED**

Most Americans living today do not remember World War II or, if they do, it is through what their parents or grandparents told them about it. World War II was not fought on American soil. Americans went to war in Europe to stop the slaughter of millions at the hands of an authoritarian

fascist government commanding the Army of the Third Reich that killed in the name of the public health and safety, even an authoritarian communist government slaughtered many more millions during a “Reign of Terror” in the Soviet Union. Most American children today are not taught what happened in China after World War II, when the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) implemented the Great Leap Forward and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Those militant ideological cleansing campaigns imprisoned and killed tens of millions of citizens because they criticized or opposed authoritarian government policies.

In America, we have taken our freedom for granted because, while we have been willing to fight to defend the freedom of others, we have never been called upon to defend it in our own backyard. Most Americans have never imagined we would experience a serious threat to autonomy and freedom of thought, speech, conscience and assembly. So deep has been our trust in the laws and cultural values which have, for the most part, ensured fundamental freedoms in our country, that we never believed it could happen here.

But the last 20 months have changed everything. Many Americans have begun to understand that tyranny can be disguised to look like safety, even as many others still cannot bring themselves to believe it.

**AMERICA’S MOVE TOWARD
AUTHORITARIANISM**

Striking fear into the hearts and minds of the people, the move toward authoritarianism

Continued next page



“The people of Europe were the first to stand up for freedom during this government declared public health emergency because they know how tyranny begins.”



All across Europe, people have been demonstrating for the freedoms to travel, to work, to make their own medical decisions.

(Above, left to right: Macedonia, England, France, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Ireland)



Empty streets of Times Square during lockdown, March 2020

in America began with government officials suddenly telling us – even children as young as two years old – that we could not breathe fresh air or enter public spaces without a mask covering our face. Millions of American workers judged to be “non-essential” lost the ability to earn a living so they could eat and pay rent during “flatten the curve” lockdowns we were told would only last a few weeks but, instead, went on for months. Anyone who criticized government narratives about the origin of SARS-CoV-2 virus or questioned social distancing restrictions was immediately publicly shamed and censored. Any doctor, who tried to provide early treatment to COVID-19 patients by repurposing safe and effective licensed drugs and nutritional supplements to help their patients survive the infection, were also publicly shamed and censored.

After the FDA granted Pfizer and Moderna an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) in December 2020 to distribute their liability free experimental mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S., public health officials enlisted

big corporations to launch a hard-sell national vaccine advertising campaign targeting all Americans over the age of 12. Anyone who asked questions or challenged the hard sell was immediately censored on social media. State governments and employers were encouraged to threaten workers, especially health care workers and emergency responders, with loss of their jobs for refusing the vaccine. Private businesses were encouraged to deny unvaccinated citizens entry to restaurants, stores and other public venues.

By the end of July 2021, the Department of Veteran Affairs directed all VA health care workers to be fully vaccinated or lose their jobs. In early August, the Department of Defense announced that all military service members must be fully vaccinated when the FDA officially licenses a COVID-19 vaccine or lose their jobs. Suddenly, on August 23, the Pfizer mRNA vaccine was licensed without a public meeting of the FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRPAC) and full disclosure of the scientific data supporting licensure.

By the end of August, about 176 million Americans had been “fully” vaccinated, representing 53.6 percent of our population of 333 million people, which is the third largest in the world. And studies had confirmed that the SARS-CoV-2 infection mortality ratio (IFR) in the U.S. remains at less than one percent.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECLARES WAR

ON UNVACCINATED AMERICANS

But the Executive Branch of the US government was not happy. Federal health officials had publicly set the goal of persuading 90 percent of Americans to get the COVID vaccine, although it is clear now that the real goal all along was a 100 percent vaccination rate: no exceptions and no questions asked.

At the beginning of September, the politics of persuasion gave way to an iron fisted approach using the heel of the boot of the State to try to club 100 million unvaccinated Americans into submission.

On Sept. 9, 2021, the President of the United States followed the advice of top public health officials and, in effect, declared war on unvaccinated Americans. He scapegoated and placed all the blame for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the unvaccinated, even though federal health officials admit that fully vaccinated people can still get infected and transmit the virus to others; and even though breakthrough COVID infections, hospitalizations and deaths in fully vaccinated people are on the

rise; and even though evidence shows individuals who have recovered from the infection have stronger natural immunity than those who have been vaccinated; and even though officials at the World Health Organization now say that the SARS-COV-2 virus is mutating like influenza and is likely to become prevalent in every county – no matter how high the vaccination rate.

The President told 100 million unvaccinated Americans that “our patience is running thin” and issued an Executive Order that every person working for the Executive Branch of the federal government – more than two million people – must get fully vaccinated or lose their jobs. That order also applied to about 17 million health care professionals working in medical facilities that accept Medicare and Medicaid.

There is no option for Executive Branch employees to get tested - the rule is get vaccinated or be fired. It is interesting that the order does not apply to workers in the Judicial Branch or Legislative Branch, which includes members and staffers in Congress.

The President also ordered the Department of Labor to issue a rule that carries penalties of \$14,000 per violation to force private companies with more than 100 employees to get their workers fully vaccinated or be tested weekly. He also called for all teachers and school staff in all schools to be fully vaccinated.

The next day, the Director of the National Institute of

Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci, criticized the President for not going far enough. Fauci said the government should give Americans no option but to get injected with the biological product that some describe as a vaccine, others characterize as a genetic therapy or cell disrupter biological, and others allege is a bioweapon made in a lab in China with U.S. funding. Then Fauci said all children must be vaccinated or denied a school education and all unvaccinated people must be banned from getting on an airplane. At the same time, a Virginia congressman introduced the Safety Travel Act that would require travelers getting on a plane or Amtrak train in the U.S. to show proof of COVID vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours of boarding.

DESTROYING THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO DISSENT

Today, people in some cities are being denied entrance to restaurants and stores if they can't prove they have been

“fully” vaccinated. Doctors are refusing to provide medical care to the unvaccinated. Hollywood entertainers are celebrating the deaths of unvaccinated people, saying they deserved to die, and are calling for the unvaccinated who get COVID to be denied admission to hospitals for treatment. Judges are separating children from mothers who have not gotten a COVID shot. Influential scientists are insisting lawmakers make it a hate crime for anyone to publicly criticize scientists and government health officials.

Dissenters are told they are “selfish” and characterized as an enemy of the state for simply defending the human right to informed consent to medical risk taking. The normalizing of the ritualistic persecution of Americans who are refusing to give up the right to autonomy – which is the first and most fundamental human right – is underway. The Orwellian message is: the life of any person who dissents from government policy must be systematically destroyed.

Demanding obedience,



Continued next page

government health officials characterize public health policies that segregate, discriminate and turn people against each other as “the good.” Yet, a lot of Americans instinctively know segregation and discrimination is not good. They know that persuading a majority of citizens to scapegoat a minority of citizens to cover up the failures of government is allowing evil to triumph.

Dissenting Americans, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, fill the ranks of every socio-economic class, every political party and every faith-based community. They understand the meaning of the warning that, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing,” and they are not going to stand by and do nothing.

When government threatens to take away an individual’s right to employment, education, health care and the ability to enter a store to buy food, enter a hospital or travel on public transportation, there is no other word for it but tyranny.

WEAPONIZING A VIRUS AND A VACCINE AGAINST THE PEOPLE

This virus, which has a 99 percent survival rate, and this leaky vaccine, which fails to reliably prevent infection and transmission in the fully vaccinated, has racked up a record breaking more than half a million vaccine adverse event reports in the U.S. alone. It will not be the last virus and vaccine to be weaponized against the people in the name of the greater good.

That is because forced

vaccination is the tip of the spear in a culture war that has been going on for much longer than the 40 years that I have been a vaccine safety and human rights activist publicly warning that this day would come. It is a war that will cause more suffering until enough of us refuse to be siloed and, instead, join together to change dangerous laws that abuse the trust and good will of the people.



Every single American, whether you have been vaccinated or not, should stop to reflect upon what is happening in our country. Think about what liberty means.

IMAGINE WHAT LIFE WILL BE LIKE IN THE FUTURE

Imagine what life will be like in the future if you cannot leave your home without being harnessed to a government issued digital ID, which contains personal information about your body and your life, and is hooked up to an electronic surveillance system that records and controls every move you make.

Imagine if you are a health

care worker and your medical license is taken from you for refusing to get a government mandated vaccine, which is a public health policy being implemented in Washington, DC, a city where doctors can now vaccinate children as young as 11 years old without the knowledge or consent of their parents.

Imagine if you cannot hold any type of job or enter a grocery store to buy food to feed your family, or enter a drug store, cafe, gym, school, cinema, museum, park or beach without showing proof you’ve been vaccinated.

Imagine if you are denied entrance to a doctor’s office or lose your Medicare and social security benefits because you don’t have the vaccine passport, a suggestion made recently on national television.

Imagine if you cannot get on a plane or bus to visit your children or elderly parents because federal government officials have exercised authority over inter-state commerce and banned the unvaccinated from crossing state borders, an action that some proponents of forced vaccination are urging the current administration to invoke.

Imagine if you cannot get a driver’s license, file your taxes, open or access your bank account or use a credit card to make a purchase if you fail to produce the required vaccine paperwork stamped by the government.

Imagine if you or your child have already suffered a previous serious vaccine reaction or have an underlying inflammatory immune disorder that increases your

risk for being harmed by vaccination, but doctors refuse to see you because you are unvaccinated – which is already happening in America – and you are denied admission to a hospital for a life saving operation.

FORCED VACCINATION WAS ALWAYS THE END GAME BEFORE AND DURING THIS PANDEMIC

If you think that the vaccine passport is only about this virus and this vaccine, think again. Forced vaccination was always the end game both before and during this pandemic and the proof of that lies in the decades of federal legislation and federal agency rule making paving the way for what we are experiencing today. Right now, forced vaccination is the quickest means to what the World Economic Forum transparently describes on its website as “The Great Reset.” You, your children and grandchildren are the commodity, and in the name of the greater good, you are expected to obediently allow others to “reset” your lives in all kinds of ways without making a sound.

The government issued passport allowing you to function in society, is just the first step on the slippery slope to what will be many more requirements and restrictions on your freedom in the days, months and years to come. The question is, will you allow yourself to be used and abused by those currently holding the power to do what they want to do to you, or will you defend your God-given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?



This pandemic of deception and incompetence has stolen from our daily lives the peace and joy we deserve to have, leaving too many of us confused and paralyzed by fear, divided from our family and friends, crippled with anxiety and despair, allowing hopelessness to rule our days.

WE CAN REFUSE TO LIVE IN FEAR AND PUSH BACK AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM

It doesn't have to be like this. We can refuse to be psychologically manipulated so we are unable to engage in rational thinking and are crippled by fear. We can push back against the authoritarians taking away our freedom and trying to divide us. We can do it the way that all successful social reform movements before us have done it: through actively participating in local, state and federal government and by engaging in non-violent civil disobedience, if that becomes necessary.

Instead of allowing ourselves to be separated from one

another, we can stay connected and meet together in small groups in our homes and neighborhoods. We can develop personal relationships with our elected officials at every level of government – from our local sheriff and elected members of local school boards and city and county councils, to our elected state and federal legislators. If we don't like the way the people we have elected are governing, we can vote them out, or run for office ourselves and help change the laws.

We can talk to the young men and women serving in our community police departments and the U.S. military to remind them of how important it is to value and protect human rights and civil liberties, so that if they are ever called upon to implement authoritarian rule, they will make the right choice.

Above all, we can be self-disciplined and make rational decisions that do not lead to violent confrontations, because that kind of behavior only plays into the hands of those, whose

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ultimate goal is to take away autonomy and more individual freedoms in the United States. During the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s, the most profound statements were made by those who sat down in the front of the bus, or in a chair at a segregated restaurant or other public place, and simply refused to move.

**STANDING OUR GROUND
DURING THIS TIME OF
OPPRESSION AND SUFFERING**

There are restaurant owners in New York City, who are refusing to follow orders directing them to discriminate against and deny service to the unvaccinated.

There are veteran health care workers on the frontlines caring for patients during the pandemic, who are being fired for supporting informed consent rights, and giving up their careers to stand on principle. Many of them suspect that the next cruel order they will be told to obey is to deny life saving medical treatment to unvaccinated patients.

There are corporate CEO's and union leaders, who are refusing to bow to political pressure to require rank and file workers to get the vaccine or risk losing their jobs.

There are courageous doctors and scientists, who have never spoken out publicly before, who are risking their careers by demanding that mass vaccination policies be backed up by good science; who are challenging the government's narrative that natural immunity is not as good as vaccine acquired immunity; who are criticizing the long term

safety of mRNA vaccines, and providing convincing evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 virus did not spontaneously jump out of a bat but was genetically engineered by scientists in biohazard labs.

There are state lawmakers, who are listening to the people and refusing to vote for the passage of forced vaccination laws that perpetuate the illusion that vaccine passports are the only solution to ending the pandemic.

These Americans are rejecting authoritarianism. They are heroes, and they are on the right side of history.

They and many other brave Americans are helping us make our way through this time of fear, oppression and suffering when the cultural values and beliefs that have guaranteed freedom in this great country of ours are being tested.

**RESTORING THE SPIRIT OF
FREEDOM TO THE CENTER
OF OUR CULTURE**

I believe we will come together and pass this test. We will act responsibly to protect our liberty. We will restore the spirit

of freedom to its rightful place at the center of our culture.

We will do it because we know that if the state can tag, track down and force individuals against their will to be injected with biologicals of known and unknown toxicity today, then there will be no limit on which individual freedoms the state can take away in the name of the greater good tomorrow.

You can choose to be a hero wherever you live. You can choose to reject the ugly call to shame and punish your friends, family members, neighbors, colleagues and fellow citizens for defending the human right to autonomy and protection of bodily integrity, which is the essence of the informed consent ethic. You can choose freedom over fear.

Be the one who never has to say you did not do today what you could have done to change tomorrow. Do it for yourself, your children and grandchildren, and for all the generations to come.

It's your health, your family, your choice. And our mission continues:

**No forced vaccination.
Not in America. ☐**



BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks



Learning From the Future

WHY STUDY END TIME PROPHECIES?

Is it appropriate that some churches are ignoring the teaching of end of the age prophecies? We can assume that some believers have been emotionally let down when their teachers seemed to be wrong. They now wish to protect themselves by ignoring nearly one quarter of all Bible teaching. Is this what God wants or what the Devil would like to see? Did the original Apostles preach end-times prophecy?

2 Thessalonians 2:4-5, “Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?” (NKJV)

Paul is telling the church to remember his end-times messages regarding the end of time dictator, the beast, that is to come in the future. Paul said remember the prophetic messages he preached to you brethren in Thessalonica. The Apostle set for us an example of teaching end time prophetic messages.

1 Thessalonians 5:20-21, “Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.”

Paul had told them in his first letter to them to learn to appreciate all biblical teaching which would also include prophetic messages. Paul wanted them to grow through all the valuable teachings available. He told them to maturely evaluate the messages they received. He did not tell them to overreact and avoid certain messages, such as end-time prophecies.

BECOMING A SOPHISTICATED STUDENT OF PROPHECY

A mature approach to benefiting from prophetic messages requires true believers to remember several key teachings. First, Paul warned about letting end-time prophetic messages, true or not so true, rattle us. We must consume them and remain joyful and thankful! These are the basic emotions that God wants us to learn to adopt even in times of trials. Note the first thing Paul tells the brethren in his letter about the end-times evil beast.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you

Continued next page

BIBLE STUDY

by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

The Apostle is saying we must first remain calm. Do not allow the messages to get us rattled. Some brethren are victims of leaders who used fear of the end-times to manipulate members into an overly autocratic system. They abused their leadership.

Others have just learned of these cultist leaders' misuse of prophecy and have overreacted by completely avoiding the topic. They are unknowingly falling into a trap of Satan. Ignoring end time prophecy can lead to apathy. All the Apostles were allowed to think that the end was coming soon. Why? God knew that it would help motivate them!

Further, we will all face the end of our lives someday. We have a finite amount of time, no matter when the end comes. We need to stay motivated as much as possible. Paul said to stay positive, even under the pressure which seemed like the end-times to them.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.”

Paul told other congregations the same thing about not being rattled.

Philippians 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”

A mature believer will also remember the words of Jesus, that no one knows the exact timing of His return except the Father. Even if we get the events correct, our timing is at best SPECULATION. This speculation is still valuable for our understanding of the end time, but always keep that in mind.

Matthew 24:35-36, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass

away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

A sophisticated Bible student knows that one must be flexible in matters of end-time prophecy. No one can know the timing, not even our Lord Jesus. Watching events unfold helps keep us spiritually alert and awake. Ignoring prophecy facilitates apathy and leaves us in the dark.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5, “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”

Paul’s message to them was to watch events and stay alert to end-time prophecy! The world will be caught totally unawares and off guard, but not true believers.

REMAIN OPEN MINDED AND FLEXIBLE TO INTERPRETATION

A well informed biblical believer should be flexible in end-time analysis of world events. The believer knows that there will be some surprises coming to everyone. This mature believer knows that the first big event coming as we get closer is deception.

Matthew 24:4, “And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.’”

2 Thessalonians 2:3, “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.”

This great “falling away” from truth will include Bible knowledge in all areas. One of those areas will be end-time prophecies. It will be to the beast and false prophet’s advantage if few are re-

BIBLE STUDY

ally familiar with end-time prophecies. The Bible is full of prophecies; some about the first coming of the Messiah have already been fulfilled. One about Britain not being part of the European based government that will pave the way for a revived Holy Roman Empire of the end-times has lately been fulfilled.

The end-times further require that America cannot be the super power that maintains order in the world. Order will be maintained by the beast. Is that prophecy now beginning to be fulfilled? Europe now feels that they can no longer trust America and therefore must replace America as their military shield. Maybe America has many more years of world hegemony, but can we see the decline now starting?

We can if our eyes are open and watching. We need to be flexible in our thinking. Maybe God the Father has not decided the exact moment yet. Could He be evaluating the hearts of men to determine the final moment? We do not know if this is true. Be flexible. Surprises will come but we are told to be watchful.

Luke 21:34, "But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence and drunkenness or the anxieties of this life, and that day come upon you, suddenly, like a falling trap;"

Luke says to remain watchful or one could fall into the trap that Satan is planning for the entire planet. Believers must stay alert to current events. This includes the spiritual decline of the nation and the growing hatred of Christians, in America and worldwide.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-7, "So then let us not sleep, like the rest of the world, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who drink freely, drink at night."

Paul warns to be watchful so we do not fall asleep. We stay awake by valuing prophetic messages. Being watchful of world events can help us be motivated to live a better, more Godly life.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-9, "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ..."

The knowledge of prophetic events helps sober us and then we can better be motivated to discipline ourselves. Regarding the second coming, we are advised to watch because it will be easy to be caught off guard.

Matthew 25:13, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." □

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**WORLD NEWS
BRIEF****IN CASE YOU MISSED IT****CLIMATE REALPOLITIK**

While activists contribute their tears to the rise in ocean levels, Russia is taking a more pragmatic approach. About 20% of its territory is inside the arctic circle, where an estimated 10% of Earth's oil and natural gas reserves are also located. Arctic shipping is already a reality, but is currently limited to about nine months a year. With the climate crowd bemoaning the potential for a reduction in sea ice, Russia isn't waiting to see if the temperature changes or not. Their fleet of heavy duty icebreakers is expanding. Liquid natural gas ships are under construction to supplement the nuclear powered giants already in service. The goal is year round shipping by 2022 or 2023. Hydrocarbons are the primary cargo. This fancy word encompasses butane, propane, and a number of other compounds derived from oil, coal, and natural gas that are essential in the production of gasoline, jet fuel, asphalt and wood preservatives. Maybe Greta will chain herself to an iceberg and make them stop...

HOW BREXIT REALLY ISN'T OVER

One of the touchiest issues in the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union is making headlines again. The Northern Ireland protocols, which derailed all early attempts to get Brexit through parliament, have proven unsatisfactory in practice. The agreed solution was keeping the UK province of Northern Ireland in a customs union with the EU. This allowed it to have an open border, free of customs checks, with EU member state Ireland. Both the UK province Northern Ireland and the country Ireland are on the physical island of Ireland, which technically creates an international border between the UK and Ireland on the island. This can be confusing for those unfamiliar with the matter.

Theresa May's Brexit attempts failed to pass Parliament because this solution was unacceptable to the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from Northern Ireland, on whose votes her government relied. The election that brought Boris Johnson to power ended this dependence and the deal was adopted despite DUP protests.

This border being open was a large part of the solution to decades of terrorism and violence ended by the Good Friday Agreement in the late 1990's. Brexit negotiations attempted to bypass the issue but in doing so put an international border, with customs checks, between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. While geographically logical due to their separation by the Irish Sea it has significantly complicated trade and other internal affairs. So much so that Northern Irish businesses have been minimizing UK reliance in favor of EU based suppliers. This reality is untenable for the UK and Unionist parties in Northern Ireland. It has led to a re-opening of the whole can of worms with the EU. A solution agreeable to all parties involved has proved elusive as of yet. The fear is that a serious diplomatic break would result in a hard border in Ireland and occasion a return to bloodshed.

DEUTSCH MUEZZIN

Germans are preparing to hear the Muslim call to prayer. The city of Cologne has given the go ahead to its 35 Mosques to broadcast the call over loudspeakers, a phenomenon common in Arabic countries. The Muezzin recites the Adhan, which includes the phrases, "Allah is greater," "I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah," "I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah," "Hasten to the prayer," "Prayer is better than sleep," "Allah is greater," "There is no deity but Allah." Each is

repeated two to eight times depending on the sect of Islam. Cologne is home to Germany's largest Mosque which was designed to host up to 4,000 devotees. Its construction was highly controversial and included concerns over whether or not the call to prayer would be broadcast. Its grand opening featured a speech by Turkish President Erdogan. While the call will be limited to Fridays between noon and 3pm instead of the customary five times daily, that it is being allowed at all is a victory for Islam. The mayor of Cologne described it as a "sign of respect." It is estimated that almost 5 million Muslims live in Germany.

CALIFORNIA SCHEMING

The reliably ludicrous land of fruits and nuts has just unleashed this corker. Large retailers are now required to include "gender neutral" sections for children. Clothing is unaffected, but everything from diapers to toys to toenail clippers falls under the legislation. Stores can keep their traditional boys and girls displays provided they add a neutral section that meets certain dimensional requirements. According to the state legislator, the pressure to conform imposed by distinct sections was just too much for their fragile psyches. How the little darlings make it through bath time with their wits intact remains a mystery.

Building an identity around clothing and accouterments is a house of cards. Don't all children enjoy Nerf guns? Aren't action figures really dolls after all? Can't men enjoy cooking and women woodworking? None of it changes one thing about the reality of your reproductive organs or the hormones your body naturally produces. Nor do any of the medical horrors individuals visit upon themselves allow them to "be who they really are," quite the opposite. If the legislators who pushed this through cared about their citizens a fraction as much as their radical agenda they would leave the kids alone! Too much pressure? How about letting them buy a toy without being subjected to life altering propaganda?

PRIVILEGE AND POWER

A report by the Financial Times indicates that British spy agencies have made a deal with Amazon. The tech giant will host unimaginable amounts of data and utilize Artificial Intelligence to analyze it on behalf of the government. This is reminiscent of

the deal between Facebook and the USA for use of their facial recognition software. It helps explain the privileged status many of the largest tech firms enjoy. While these tools may help identify threats and neutralize criminals or terrorists, they can be used for far more than that. Privacy, far beyond just what you choose to put online, is at stake in many instances. Rather than defend it, governments seem eager to breach it, combating threats "in the public's interest." Misinformation is considered one of their main concerns.

LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT...

Sometimes teenagers make poor decisions. One 15 year old German boy found this out the hard way as he was surrounded by police officers and arrested. His crime? Making his Lego creations a little too realistic. Having constructed a very convincing replica rifle from the beloved bricks, he took his creation outside to show off and no doubt to play, as kids are prone to do. To complete the effect he also dressed up in camouflage. Thus equipped and attired, he ran up and down a busy street with zeal that could understandably be mistaken for something more than childlike. Germany has extremely strict gun laws. Alarmed patrons and shopkeepers called the authorities who descended in force. Hopefully the punishment won't be any more serious than the crime. Incidents like this have occurred many times before all over the world.

BLACKMAIL AND GREENMAIL

Poland's troubles with the EU continue. Funds for Poland are being withheld over judicial issues, including their stance on LGBTQ rights. Migrants are piling up at the border with Belarus as tensions escalate. Poland finds itself in a similar situation to Greece or Turkey, crucial to the efforts to restrain the massive influx and expecting to be compensated accordingly. A new wrinkle now colors the Polish/EU standoff. Poland relies primarily on coal to generate their electricity. Reducing reliance on this particular resource is key to the EU meeting a number of its self-inflicted climate and emissions goals. Polish reluctance has the potential to put the scheme in jeopardy and they know it. The Polish Prime Minister has already publicly stated that unless they get the money, it may be impossible to achieve their climate goals. A classic case of you twist my arm, I'll twist yours. □

End of the Line For Roe v. Wade?

by Russell Shaw



Starting December 1, the nine justices of the Supreme Court will begin work in earnest on what already looks to be the court's most closely watched — and probably most controversial — ruling in nearly 50 years.

When the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* is handed down, probably next spring or early summer, it will do one of three things: either overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion, together with *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the 1992 decision affirming

the central holding of *Roe*; or else permit individual states to impose meaningful restrictions on abortion, though without reversing *Roe* and *Casey* entirely; or else, heaven forbid, deliver a bitter setback to the pro-life movement by permitting the death-dealing *Roe/Casey* regime of abortion on demand to remain in place.

December 1 is the date set by the court for oral arguments in *Dobbs*. The case comes from Mississippi and concerns a law enacted in 2018 that bars abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy except in cases of medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality. Lower courts have ruled against this law as a violation of *Roe*.

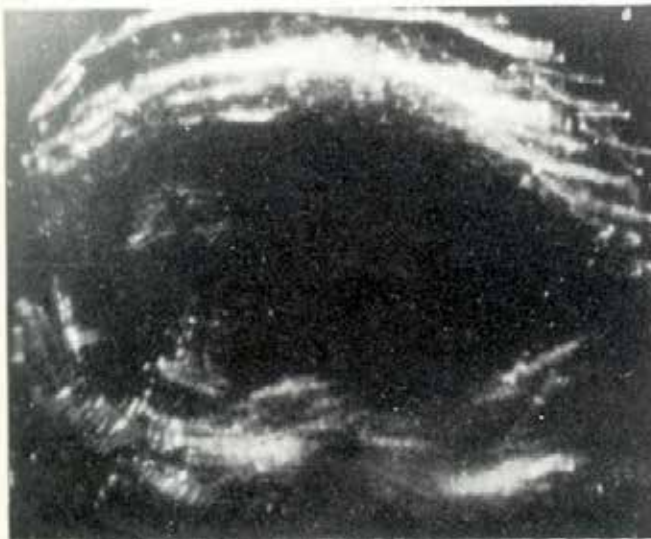
The intense interest in the new case has already generated a virtual tsunami of pre-argument commentary. Much of it, coming from the pro-abortion side, has adopted a remarkably vituperative tone, and apparently been designed to intimidate pro-life members of the Supreme Court. Further heightening the tension was the hubbub accompanying the Texas “heartbeat” law argued before the court November 1. The Texas law bans abortions after the point at which a fetal heartbeat becomes detectable — usually, the fifth week of pregnancy.

Up to now, the Supreme Court has been asked to consider only procedural issues concerning the Texas law rather than the central question: Is it constitutional? Some abortion providers are seeking the court's green light to bring suit against the law even



Fetus at 20 weeks

The pending cases highlight technological advances and how they have increased our knowledge and understanding of the unborn.



Above left is an ultrasound showing echoes from a 14 week fetus (head on left) when the technology was in its early stages of development. Right is a modern 2D ultrasound at 13 weeks.

before it is enforced against them. And the Justice Department, taking its cue from President Biden's declaration that the law is an "unprecedented assault" on the right to kill the unborn, wants authorization to sue the state.

Whatever the Supreme Court does about these matters, lower court battles over the Texas law's constitutionality come next. Besides Texas, several other states are already in line — and more are on the way — asking the Supreme Court to say yea or nay to their laws restricting abortion. But Dobbs will be first, and the Supreme Court most likely will keep Texas and the others waiting until it has established new legal ground rules in deciding that case.

Guessing how individual justices will vote is risky. But with that qualifier, a pattern seems clear enough. Three — Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan — are certain

pro-abortion votes. Three others are good bets to favor overturning Roe/Casey — Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Neil Gorsuch.

That leaves three — Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. All are pro-life, but one or more of them might favor some modification of Roe over outright reversal. Give it six months or so, and we'll find out.

Meantime, a line from an *amicus curiae* brief — one of many submitted in the Dobbs case — sticks in memory. Recognizing the personhood of the unborn, say legal scholars John Finnis of Oxford and Notre Dame and Robert George of Princeton, would not require "unusual judicial remedies" but would simply "restore protections deeply planted in law until their uprooting in Roe."

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Man's Way or God's Way?



by Michael Armstrong

From the very beginning, man has had a tendency to ignore the instructions of his Creator and try things his own way. Has that worked out? By the sixth chapter of the Bible we have read about the forbidden fruit, Cain's murderous jealousy, Lamech's bigamy, and are assured the whole of humanity was so corrupt as to warrant destruction. Because of the exceeding and continual wickedness of man, God flooded the earth with water. How's that for man-made climate change?

God has never left man ignorant of His will. Generations may choose to ignore it, perceived necessity or tradition may run contrary to it, but it will endure to the end of this age and beyond. Unlike many of our predecessors, we even have a written record to refer to. The Bible is a book of life, for life, and about life.

We live in a world brimming with the modern technological advancements of man, and to be sure they are a great blessing. Constant progress through research, science, and technology give the impression that we have done this entirely on our own. Evolution would lead one

to believe that man is the highest form of intelligence to have ever existed. Is it not easy to slip into the attitude of, "I have done this," whenever we are met with success?

All too easily man forgets that what he builds on and from is not his own. The Bible will not teach you engineering, anatomy, or algebra. That's not its purpose. It is a foundational document, teaching us the most basic requirements for interacting with each other, the Creator, and His creation. Is there something man has achieved that doesn't involve one of those? Consequently, whatever we build or do must rest firmly on this foundation for enduring success. How many big businesses, innovators, or politicians stop to consider that?

The controlling interests of this world, be they private or public, always seem absorbed with "solving problems." Disease, crime, and hunger remain serious issues despite their best efforts. Is it possible that mankind has overlooked something crucial? We are going to look at a few areas where man is trying to do things his own way.

Obviously, farming is critical to humanity's survival. Mechanical innovations around the turn of the 20th century revolutionized the way food was grown. Tractors and other heavy equipment allowed an explosion of industrial food production, eclipsing the traditional family farm almost entirely. Profit hungry entrepreneurs turned to what is called monoculture, intensively farming the same crop on the same ground, year after year.

To this day, the majority of food available in stores is produced in this manner. While it has the many benefits that uniformity and constancy bring to the economic side of things, there are serious downsides to this practice. Leviticus 25:3-4 reads, "Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard."

The same statute is found in Exodus 23:11. Allowing land to rest is essential to prevent the depletion of nutrients. It can also

prevent pests and plant diseases from getting out of hand. The common practice, however, is to compensate for nutrient loss with high doses of fertilizer and insect outbreaks with pesticide. Plants are now designed to tolerate higher doses of these substances (GMO's) but the repercussions of this are not fully known. Like many innovations, there can be unintended consequences. Two of the herbicides these crops are designed to resist, glyphosate and paraquat, are the subject of massive lawsuits regarding cancer and Parkinson's disease. There are many strong opinions on both sides of these arguments but no dispute would be necessary if we simply followed the protocols God put in place for our protection and benefit! Another notable and largely accepted deviation from God's prescribed method is found in our criminal justice system. Incarceration is not a punishment you will find listed in God's



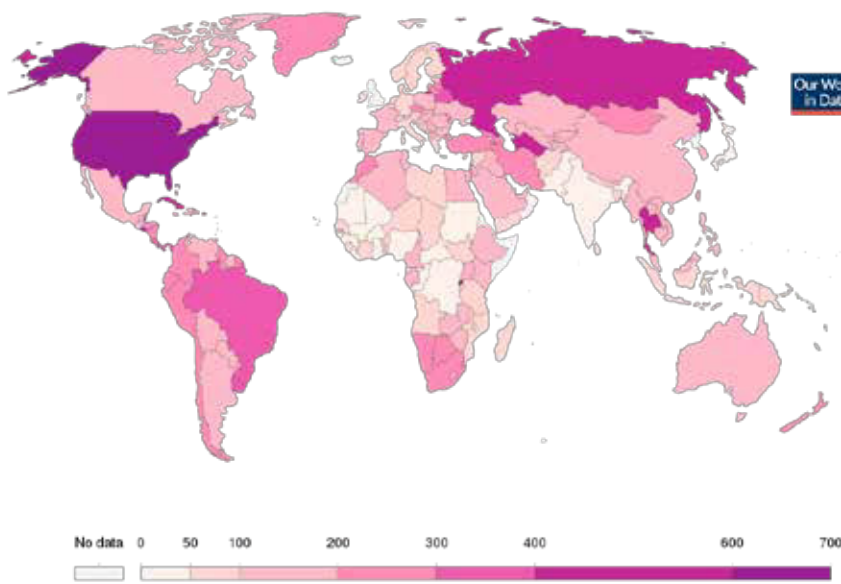
Bees are the most effective pollinator for many of our crops, but their numbers have been decreasing, due in part to the overuse of pesticides and herbicides among industrial growers.

law. When prison is mentioned in scripture it is generally under the authority of a nation like Egypt or Rome. Our own country relies upon it heavily, with over 2 million individuals estimated to be in custody at this time. To what end?

The thinking that led to this contends that imprisonment is a type of treatment where a person

can be released once "cured" as much as it recommends it as pure punishment. The change that it seeks to effect is the type that can only come from within, out of true sorrow and repentance. God's law gives place for this, but focuses more heavily on restitution, on making up for the crime to those who were injured by it. It also calls for the death penalty in more cases than we apply it today.

Some recoil at this and many nations have abolished capital punishment altogether. Is God not just? Is there not a chance for repentance, even for the condemned, like the thief that died next to Jesus? The problem is that for those who don't believe in God, this life is all there is. To take it away is the ultimate crime for the faithless. They imagine their compassion exceeds that of the Almighty. God knows better. His concern is for the victim and society as a whole first. All will stand before the judgment with some measure of guilt and His



Prison population rate: prisoners per 100,000. Shown is data for 2018 or latest data before 2018. Source: World Prison Brief

mercy is the only hope for any of us. His laws were designed to protect and preserve the innocent in peace and harmony.

One of God's cleanliness laws obviously got overlooked in the last couple of years. Leviticus 11:26-27 tells us, "The carcasses of every beast which divideth the hoof, and is not clovenfooted, nor cheweth the cud, are unclean to you: everyone that toucheth them shall be unclean. And whatsoever goeth upon his paws, among all manner of beasts that go on all four, those are unclean unto you: whoso toucheth their carcass shall be unclean until the even." Now, every once in awhile you have to bury your favorite dog; that happens. Often things die from illness that is potentially harmful, and to mitigate the risk of catching or spreading it you should wash thoroughly and keep your distance for awhile.

Maybe they think those rules don't apply in Wuhan but the world would be a better place if they did. This is not the only area where medical science has

gone off the rails so to speak. A long standing criticism, particularly of western medicine, has been the propensity to treat symptoms rather than address the root causes of disease. Proper diet and a healthy lifestyle are the best preventative.

God's word deals with much of that, like which meats should and shouldn't be eaten. Even the command to rest is prefaced with "six days thou shalt labor." Man was designed to be productive, not to sit around all the time, and there is no denying the benefits of being active. Pharmaceutical companies specialize in "managing" these problems rather than solving them. Kickbacks for physicians have rendered many of them complicit.

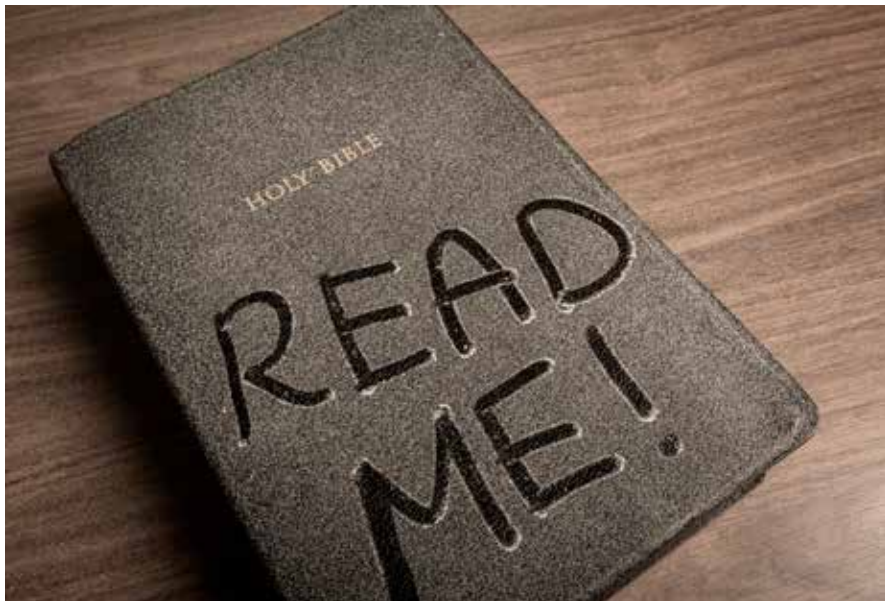
The profit motive, when devoid of principle, becomes greed. The tenth commandment, "Thou shalt not covet," is routinely overlooked. Advertising allures you with images of people like you (i.e. your neighbor) enjoying products you just can't live without. They'll sell them to

you, whether or not you can afford them, at exorbitant rates of interest. The good book refers to this as usury, another big no-no.

Time and again the problem is that man relies exclusively on his own knowledge and reasoning. The fault lies not with advancement or success, but in the manner in which it is achieved and the foundation it relies upon. God's knowledge has not decreased because man's has increased, we are merely discovering more about the astonishing system He put in place! Our triumphs are His triumphs when they are pure and righteous.

David wrote, "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14) He made us in His image. Think of the enormous implications of that! Before God separated the nations at Babel He said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them." (Genesis 11:6)

What man can attain, with the best and the brightest from all over the world working on the same problems, building on the efforts of their predecessors generation after generation, remains to be seen. The progress of the last hundred years already borders on the miraculous. For the future, we can only pray that the unchangeable precepts of God are observed and honored along the way. Otherwise, no good thing will come of it. □





BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON TEN: HOLY DAYS

Just as it keeps the weekly Sabbath, the Church of God also observes the annual holy days that were ordered by God, kept by the ancient Israelites and continued by the early New Testament Christians. These seven annual “appointed feasts” picture God’s plan of salvation for man!

DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW:

The annual holy days are named Passover, the First Day and Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. These days occur on specific dates of the current Hebrew calendar, with the exception of Pentecost which is counted in a biblically prescribed manner. Like the weekly Sabbath, each holy day is reckoned from the evening sunset to the evening sunset.

The primary importance of the holy days is their function as spiritual symbols, outlining God’s plan of salvation for the individual and the world. These days include religious instruction and worship which provide for spiritual renewal on a regular basis.

The holy days serve as spiritual, psychological and social high points of the year. They allow people to get together in an atmosphere of leisure and enjoyment. In addition, these days provide opportunity to rest physically. Psychologically, the human need for change of pace and a time to forget the ordinary concerns of day-to-day life is met by these periodic festivals.

However, the central concern of these days is spiritual. Supplementing the weekly Sabbath services, there is still a need for intensive concentration

on spiritual matters over a period of days without the distraction of the normal routine of making a living. The spring and autumn festival seasons supply this, especially the Feast of Tabernacles which is customarily held only in a few central locations. The holy days fulfill the spiritual objective of being holy convocations for the Church today. They also are “shadows of things to come,” pointing to and outlining the substance of God’s great plan of salvation for all mankind. This is briefly summarized as follows:

The Passover represents the sacrifice of Christ which pays for the sins of all who repent and accept it in faith. It also represents partaking of eternal life through Jesus Christ (shown by the bread and wine which symbolize His body and blood).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is symbolic of the continual removing of sin from the spiritual sphere of one’s life and the continual practicing of a new, godly way of life represented by Christ, who was “unleavened,” — that is, without sin.

Pentecost pictures both the foundation of this New Testament Church and the sending of the Holy Spirit for the individual.

The Feast of Trumpets symbolizes the spreading of the gospel to the world like the trumpet call of a watchman. It also looks forward to the return of

Jesus Christ to set up the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Day of Atonement, a solemn day of fasting and self-searching, represents the time when sin shall be placed upon the head of its ultimate source, Satan the devil. The removal of the cause of evil allows God's Kingdom to hold unopposed rulership over mankind.

The Feast of Tabernacles is symbolic of the millennial rule of God through Jesus Christ and His saints. It shall be followed by an opportunity for salvation for all who have lived and died and were not previously called to have a part in the first resurrection — this is the meaning behind the Last Great Day. The culmination shall be the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21), in which all creation shall be renewed in preparation for the humanly unfathomable eternity beyond.

DOCTRINAL EXPOSITION

Apart from the Sabbath there is no explicit mention of the annual festivals in Genesis. However, the Hebrew word translated "appointed time," (*mo'ed*) used elsewhere in the Old Testament to specifically refer to the annual festivals, occurs in Genesis 1:14 in reference to purposes for God's creation of the heavenly bodies.

Exodus 12 is the first clear biblical reference to annual festival days. The institution of the Passover at the time of the Exodus is well known and need not be rehearsed in detail here.

Exodus 23:14-17, a part of the Old Covenant passage, describes "three times," or seasonal observances, in a year within which the seven annual holy days fall. These "times," include the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Harvest (Pentecost) and the Feast of Ingathering (Feast of Tabernacles). Similarly, Exodus 34:18-24 lists the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) and the Feast of Tabernacles. Originally, God established these festivals around the system of agronomy in the ancient Near East. By following this logical system, the holy days gain significance and their spiritual purport, can be more easily understood.

Several passages give a more complete and detailed description of the annual holy days. The most complete is Leviticus 23; others include Deuteronomy 16 and Numbers 28-29.

OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES AND HISTORY

The rejoicing and the enjoyment of the bounties of the land were made possible and accentuated by the coincidence of festival season and harvest time. That is, all of the annual holy days fall at the beginning, during, or at the end of a harvest period. Furthermore, the Israelites were told to set aside a certain part of their harvest produce for use exclusively at the festivals.

Joshua 5:10-11 describes the first Passover after Israel crossed the Jordan. Chapter 6, which tells of the destruction of Jericho, may envision the seven-day siege as the seven days of unleavened bread; but this is nowhere explicitly stated. Nothing is stated in the book of Judges — which describes a period of partial anarchy and feudal chaos — except for 21:19: "Behold, there is the yearly feast of the Lord at Shiloh." The exact feast is not named.

The first chapters of 1 Samuel show a functioning sacrificial center at Shiloh where the ark and the Tabernacle were located. None of the festivals are mentioned by name. However, the general description plus the mention of Elkanah's coming up annually suggests that the annual festivals were being observed in some manner. The ark continued to be a religious symbol, but the actual extent of a fully functioning religious system is not clear. Only after David captured Jerusalem and transferred the ark was there an atmosphere which both allowed and encouraged the traditional observances. David proposed to build a temple but was prevented.

Under Solomon, with the construction of the Temple, a full temple service was instituted. This is the first explicit mention of festival observance outside the Pentateuch. I Kings 8:2 states: "And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month." It was at this Feast of Tabernacles that the ark and the holy vessels were brought up to the Temple (see also II Chron. 5-7).

The temple service was continued through Solomon's reign and for a time afterward (e.g. II Chron. 8:12-13). However, with the split of the kingdom under Rehoboam, the northern kingdom of Israel ceased to go to Jerusalem to worship. Instead, Jeroboam set up calves of gold in Dan and Bethel and ordained a festival in the eighth month

(I Kings 12:25-33). After this there is a period of approximately two centuries in which worship at the Jerusalem Temple by the northern tribes evidently fell into oblivion. At various points the books of Kings mention that individual kings over the northern kingdom continued to follow “the sin of Jeroboam the son of Nebat” (e.g. I Kings 15:34; 16:26; 22:52; II Kings 3:3; 10:31).

The next mention of a major festival observance is under Hezekiah, shortly before the fall of the northern kingdom (II Chron. 29-31). But evidently this revival was short-lived, undoubtedly because of the acts of Manasseh, his son. It was not until the time of Josiah that the Temple was repaired and the services begun again. At that time a copy of the law was found and its instructions followed. This shows the depths to which worship of God had degenerated (II Kings ch. 22-23). A Passover was observed according to the law “...no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah” (II Kings 23:22).

It was almost a century before another festival observance is mentioned. With the return of the exiles from Babylon, worship services were set up again, the Feast of Tabernacles was kept in that first year even before the foundations of the new Temple were laid (Ezra 3: 1-6). Yet some three quarters of a century later, at the time of Ezra, we find the temple service evidently requiring some revival. Despite the new Temple, the law was still in need of promulgation. Exactly what had happened in the meantime is not clear; it is clear that the law was being little observed. Even though the Feast of Tabernacles was observed with the first return of the exiles, this seems to have been forgotten until Ezra made it known again to the people in the time of Nehemiah (Neh. 8).

After the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, there are long periods for which we have very little information. Yet the Temple survived and the service continued to a greater or lesser extent. With the second century B.C. our information becomes much fuller. Despite the attempts at extirpation by Rome, the temple service continued basically unabated for two centuries before the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D.

HOLY DAYS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In scholarship it is widely acknowledged that the early Church continued to observe the annual holy days of the Old Testament: “In the early Christian Church the propriety of celebrating the Festivals together with the whole of the Jewish people was never questioned, so that it needed no special mention” (*The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, vol. 1, 628).

However, it is obvious that the annual festivals took on a new significance in the apostolic Church and were transformed into celebrations. Jesus Himself played a great part in this by His teachings and example.

The gospels show a number of examples of Jesus observing various festivals. It was so expected that He would be in Jerusalem for these occasions that people waited to see whether He would come when His life was in danger (John 7:11; 11:55-57). In addition to His last Passover, He came to Jerusalem on at least one other Passover (John 2:13), as well as spending one in the region of Galilee (John 6:1-4). John 7 describes happenings during a particular Feast of Tabernacles. Unnamed feasts are mentioned in John 4:45 and 5:1. He also attended the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah), even though this was not one of the Old Testament institutions.

By far the most important festival of Jesus' life was the one at which He was betrayed. On this occasion, He met with His disciples at the beginning of the 14th of Nisan. It is clear not only from the gospel of John that He had the Last Supper a day earlier than the Jews (John 18:28), but this is also indicated by passing remarks in the Synoptic gospels. (While it is recognized that there are still some unanswered questions in any attempt at harmonizing all four accounts, it is evident that Jesus took His Passover a day earlier than the Jews.)

In any case, Jesus at this time changed the symbols of the Passover for Christians and also went through the ceremony of washing the disciples' feet. Then He died as the Passover Lamb of God.

The apostolic Church had its own beginning some several weeks later on the day of Pentecost. Again, an Old Testament observance immediately took on deep new Christian Significance for the

Continued next page

Church, because the Holy Spirit was first sent on that day.

Various of the festivals are mentioned elsewhere, though generally only in passing. Pentecost is mentioned twice besides Acts 2 (Acts 20:16; I Cor. 16:8). The Day of Atonement is called by its common designation of the time, “the Fast” (cf. Acts 27:9). These all indicate an environment in which the holy days were known, accepted and observed.

One passage is basically undisputed as showing holy day observance in the early Church. This is I Corinthians 5:6-8:

“Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

As most commentators and scholars who have written on verse point out, observance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is presumed. Otherwise, the play on being physically versus spiritually unleavened, and the reference to “let us celebrate the festival” would have no meaning. Again, this passing reference shows a time when festival observance was taken for granted.

Of course, the most detailed discussion is devoted to the celebration of the Christian Passover. I Corinthians 11:17-34 gives detailed directions on how to take the “Lord’s Supper” (*kuriakon deipnon*) or “communion.” The memorial celebration was conducted “on the night when He was betrayed,” that is, the evening at the beginning of the 14th (v. 23).

SPIRITUAL MEANING

The holy days serve as an outline or picture of God’s salvation plan — both for the individual and for mankind in general. This understanding is based on a multitude of scriptures and is ultimately derived from the examples of Jesus and the New Testament writers who expound the meaning of some of the celebrations in unequivocal terms.

The holy days not only teach us God’s plan of salvation, they point us directly to our Savior Jesus Christ. Christ is our Passover. It is by putting on Christ that we put out sin (Unleavened Bread). Christ was the first of the first-fruits, and it was

through His resurrection that we can receive the Holy Spirit as Counselor, Comforter, or Advocate (Pentecost). It is Christ who is going to intervene in world affairs on the Day of Trumpets and become King of kings and Lord and lords. Those who have accepted Christ are now at one with Him through baptism and His Spirit, having their sins forgiven (Atonement). Christ is coming to set up His government in the Millennium and rule this earth, and His people are now preparing the way for and are representatives of that Kingdom by following in Christ’s footsteps (Feast of Tabernacles). Finally, Christ shall make salvation available to everyone in the last great step of His plan, which is the ultimate conclusion of His personal sacrifice as our Savior (Last Great Day).

The Church keeps God’s annual holy days in their true spiritual intent as constant reminders of the plan of God. It stresses their spiritual meaning just as Paul did in I Corinthians 5 when he wrote: “Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” Passover: The bread and wine which Jesus instituted at His last supper and which are taken yearly by the Church today are explained symbolically both by Jesus Himself and by the apostle Paul. The wine represents the shed blood of Jesus who gave Himself as an offering to pay for all the sins of mankind. That full and complete sacrifice makes it possible for one to have any and all sins forgiven upon repentance. The wine also represents the New Covenant made between God and the Christian by the blood of Christ.

The bread represents the body of Jesus which was torn and beaten for us all, in Christ’s ultimate sacrifice for mankind. Perhaps the fullest discussion of its meaning is found in John 6, in which it is shown that Jesus is the “bread of life.” The eating of the bread and the drinking of the wine represent partaking of the eternal life which only God can give. The beaten body of Christ also represents the stripes He took on His back enabling us to claim the gift of divine healing for our physical infirmities (Is. 53:4-5; I Pet. 2:24).

The purpose of the foot washing ceremony is explained by Jesus Himself as being to show true humility and the proper sense of service (John

13:12-17). No one can be greater than his Lord, who is Jesus Christ; yet Jesus was the greatest servant of all and gave more than anyone else for mankind. This spirit of Christian love and service is expressed symbolically by washing another person's feet and then allowing that person to reciprocate.

Thus, the Passover represents Christ's sacrifice for all — both the individual and the world — and pictures the initial step in salvation. Only through acceptance of this sacrifice can one repent and be forgiven. Repentance is the first stave in individual conversion.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread: Leaven is used to symbolize a number of things, both good and bad. In relation to this festival it is a negative symbol, representing sin (I Cor. 5:6-8). The putting out of leaven from one's house pictures ridding one's life of sin as a continual process. It also represents the action of the new convert in attempting to leave the world (symbolized by ancient Egypt) and in removing sin from his life. Conversely, the positive act of eating unleavened bread represents our conscious desire to actively seek a sinless way of life in following God's laws.

Pentecost: Pentecost is the anniversary of the founding of the New Testament Church. It initiates God's plan of salvation for the world. Just as Pentecost marked the spring or first harvest, so Pentecost symbolizes the first small harvest of individuals through God's Church. In the salvation of the individual, Pentecost represents his receiving of the Holy Spirit after baptism. This Holy Spirit enables him to do what he could not do before, just as the disciples were able to go forward in spreading the gospel in a way totally impossible before the Holy Spirit came. An example is Peter's boldness in proclaiming the gospel so soon after clear cowardice when Jesus was betrayed. (A late Jewish tradition holds that ancient Israel received the law from God at Mount Sinai on Pentecost. This would make sense, since only through God's Holy Spirit can a person keep God's law in its true spiritual intent.)

Feast of Trumpets: Trumpets were an instrument often used to sound the alarm for war. They were also the instrument of the watchman to arouse the sleeping populace if danger threatened. This festival represents the preaching of the gospel to the

world by God's faithful watchmen who have the responsibility of arousing the people from their spiritual slumber (Ezek. 33:1-16). At this point, God has ceased to let mankind go his own way. The time has come to save not just a few in His Church, but all peoples — to save man from himself. Otherwise, man would succeed in destroying himself.

The Day of Trumpets also symbolizes the resurrection of all who died in Christ and the change of all who will be living in Christ. This stunning event — the achievement of eternal life for millions through birth into the Family of God — will occur simultaneously with the return of Jesus Christ at the last trump. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Cor. 15:52).

Day of Atonement: The Day of Atonement symbolizes both the reunion of God and man after Christ returns to earth, and the binding of Satan to render him inactive. The evils of human nature are the attitude of Satan the devil. As long as the source of evil remains active, evil will have a part in subverting the world. At this time, the sins of the world shall, correctly, be placed on their source, as symbolized by the Azazel goat which was sent away into the wilderness. Satan shall be chained and no longer allowed to deceive the world (Rev. 20:1-3). This is not to diminish our own role in sin, for the Day of Atonement also represents the reuniting of God and man through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of mankind.

Feast of Tabernacles: This festival analogously acts out the Millennium — the 1,000 years of Christ's reign on earth. The true harvest of mankind can now take place. Without Satan around — the source of evil — all nations can be brought to God. For 1,000 years, a Golden Age shall reign: happiness and peace shall be reality and worldwide salvation shall be. This harvest of persons is far larger than the first, just as the fall harvest is a much larger harvest season in the agricultural cycle. The Millennium shall be the time when God sets His hand to save the world. It shall be a time of rebuilding, the forging of a new modern society under God's laws.

The Last Great Day: Despite a thousand years of peace and happiness, it must be remembered that

untold millions have lived and died without ever having had the knowledge to understand salvation. The Last Great Day represents the time when they shall be resurrected and given that chance — not a second chance but a first chance, a chance they will not have had before. Only then shall God's initial plan for mankind be at an end. Thus, this last great holy day of God pictures the greatest period of salvation for mankind — the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

The culmination of the plan of salvation is marked by the renewal of the whole creation in the new heaven and the new Earth (Rev. 21). Death and destruction are now no more; human history is now at an end. The Kingdom of God has become eternal.

OBSERVANCE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD

The Church observes these same holy days given by God in the Old Testament, and upheld and kept by the Church of God and the apostles in the New.

The major distinguishing feature of the annual holy days is their spiritual function and significance. They provide the opportunity to forget the mundane day-to-day cares of the world and to concentrate on the things of God. In addition to private worship and devotion, church services are held just as on the weekly Sabbath. At these services, the spiritual significance of the particular festival or holy day is generally the theme of the sermons.

The need for periodic festival celebrations seems intrinsic to all human beings. It is doubtful whether there has been a human culture in recorded history without certain annual or periodic observances. This need is met in the Church today in the manner our Creator ordained, by continuing to maintain the annual festivals kept in the Old Testament and by the early Church. Like the weekly Sabbath, these days have necessary spiritual, psychological and physical purposes.

The functions of the annual holy days are partly the same as those of the weekly Sabbath. They provide physical rest from the regular routine. Yet there are a number of differences on the purely physical plane of observance. The annual festival periods provide high points of the year as social occasions on which to see friends and relatives and during which one can have the means and the

leisure to enjoy good food and recreation.

Psychologically, the annual festivals usually allow a more lengthy break from regular routine than does the weekly rest day. They are something to look forward to. They provide the occasion for doing things as a family unit. While they differ somewhat from the traditional modern holiday or vacation, their psychological function is very similar, especially for those who do not have other vacation periods during the year.

One of the major differences of the annual festivals from the weekly Sabbath is that Church members are enjoined to follow the biblical injunction of Deuteronomy 14:22-26, and set aside up to one-tenth (or tithe) of their income in a special fund for use in celebrating these days. This provides the opportunity for the enjoyment of extra-special food and drink. During the non-holy days of a festival, suitable recreation is also encouraged, especially for the family unit. A special offering is taken on the annual holy days in accord with Deuteronomy 16:16-17.

In addition to regular church services on each of the annual holy days, the following festivals have their own special observances:

The Passover [Lord's Supper] is observed in the evening at the beginning of Nisan 14 in a very solemn ceremony, the most structured of any of the annual assemblies. The order is first the foot washing service, then the taking of the bread, and finally the drinking of the wine. Before each part of the ceremony appropriate scriptures are read. The service is concluded by a reading of selections from John 13-17. The next night, the evening at the end of the 14th and the beginning of the 15th, is marked by a joyous celebration of small groups in individual homes. This is, of course, the time of the Exodus of Israel from Egypt. The entire seven-day period is a time of eating only unleavened food products. All leaven is removed from the homes before sunset [even] at the end of the 14th.

The Day of Atonement is kept by a complete fast (no food or drink) from sunset [even] to sunset [even]. (Exceptions are of course made by the individuals themselves in cases of serious illness and the like.)

The Feast of Tabernacles is considered the highlight of the sacred year. It is primarily for this

festival that Church members save special funds. Since the Feast of Tabernacles is celebrated only in certain central locations, most members must travel a certain distance to attend, and spend the entire time away from home. While actual booths are no longer built, the same symbolism is maintained by the fact that Church members live in temporary dwellings (motels, hotels, campsites) away from home. Of course, in order to spend the eight days away from home, as well as to meet the expense of travel to and from the place of assembly, saving ahead is necessary (cf. Deut. 14:22-26).

Along with the weekly Sabbath, these festivals place worship and service of God at the forefront of the minds of Church members. Rather than taking over former heathen celebrations which have been syncretized with Christian observance or making up celebrations without any precedent, the real human need of regular festive celebrations is met by age-old, God-ordained observances clearly attested in the Bible itself. The days carry a symbolic teaching which looks forward as well as backward and places God squarely in the center — the focus of its range of vision.

SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:

- **Leviticus 23** - Description of the Holy Days.
- **Joshua 5:10-11** - Describes the first Passover after Israel crossed the Jordan.
- **John 2:13** - Jesus keeps Passover in Jerusalem.
- **John 6:1-4** - Jesus keeps Passover in region of Galilee.
- **John 7** - Jesus keeps Feast of Tabernacles.
- **Acts 2** - Church begins on Day of Pentecost.
- **Acts 27:9** - Day of Atonement mentioned.
- **Acts 20:16 - 1 Cor. 16:8** - Pentecost mentioned.
- **1 Corinthians 5:6-8** - "Cleanse out the old leaven"
- **1 Corinthians 11:17-34** - Detailed directions on how to observe the Lord's Supper.
- **Colossians 2:17** - Paul states that Holy Days are a shadow of what is to come — the plan of God.
- **John 6** - Jesus is the "bread of life."
- **Isaiah 53:4-5, 1 Peter 2:24** - By His broken body we are healed.
- **John 13:12-17** - Jesus institutes foot washing service.
- **1 Corinthians 15:52** - The Resurrection.
- **Revelation 20:1-3** - Satan chained for 1,000 years.
- **Revelation 21** - New heavens and new earth.
- **Deuteronomy 14:22-26** - Set aside a tenth of your income to enjoy the Holy Days.
- **Deuteronomy 16:16-17** - Bring offerings before the Lord on the Holy Days.

MILLENNIUM

The Old Testament prophets looked forward to the rule of God's Kingdom on the earth (a time identified as the 1,000 year rule of Christ described in Revelation 20). Some of these prophets describe holy day observance in several passages.

One of these passages is Ezekiel 40-48, in which an eschatological temple is pictured in detail. Along with the weekly Sabbath (described under Sabbath), the annual festivals are referred to in a general way in several verses (45:17; 46:9,11). The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles are named specifically (45:21-25) as being kept in the prophetic Kingdom of God. Zechariah 14:16-19 pictures a time when all nations shall come up to Jerusalem to worship at the Feast of Tabernacles. Those who refuse shall be punished by natural disaster until they repent and worship as God desires. This demonstrates that the annual festivals of God are not restricted to Israel but rather are designed for the entirety of mankind. □

(This lesson was abbreviated for space. Contact us for a free copy of the full lesson.)

QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):

1. The primary purpose of the Holy Days are: a) to afford the church more opportunity for fellowship. b) test our obedience to God. c) to reveal the Plan of God.
 2. Complete this sentence: The Passover represents the sacrifice of _____.
 3. The bread we take at Passover represents the _____ of Christ. The wine represents His _____.
 4. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is symbolic of: a) putting sin out of our lives. b) Christ. c) the entire Salvation Process. d) practicing a new Godly way of life. e) all of the above.
 5. Pentecost pictures: a) the foundation of the New Testament church. b) the sending of the Holy Spirit for the individual. c) both. d) neither.
 6. The first clear reference to the annual festival days is found in:
a) Exodus 10 b) Leviticus 23 c) Exodus 12 d) Leviticus 26
 7. The most complete description of the annual Holy Days is found in:
a) Exodus 12 b) Exodus 23 c) Leviticus 23 d) Leviticus 26
 8. Which of the following are true of the Days of Unleavened Bread:
a) 7 days long. b) member eats no leavened products. c) no leavened products are to be found in the home. d) includes two Holy Days. e) all of the above.
 9. Pentecost is the only day which is determined by counting 50 days beginning with:
a) the Sabbath. b) the day after the Sabbath. c) the Monday after the Sabbath.
 10. In counting Pentecost, to determine which day is the Holy Day, we count 7 Sabbaths beginning with the day after the Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread. We count from:
a) a Saturday to a Saturday. b) a Sunday to a Sunday. c) a Monday to a Monday.
 11. Hence the Day of Pentecost is always on a: a) Monday b) Saturday c) Friday d) Sunday
 12. There are no specific examples of the Holy Days being kept in the Old Testament times (Joshua-Malachi). True or False?
 13. The primary reason one does not see extensive discourse in the New Testament on the Holy Days is because everyone was keeping them. True or False?
 14. Jesus never actually kept any of the Holy Days while He was on earth. True or False?
 15. Which of the following are true statements about Jesus: a) betrayed during the Passover. b) scripture records Him keeping at least 3 Passovers. c) kept the Feast of Tabernacles. d) all of the above.
 16. On what Holy Day did the New Testament church begin?
 17. The imperative to keep the Holy Days is far greater now than ever. True or False?
 18. The drinking of the wine and eating of the bread at Passover (Lord's Supper) represents:
a) partaking the Law of God into our minds. b) partaking Grace into our hearts. c) partaking eternal life into us.
 19. The purpose of the footwashing service is to show:
a) piety and righteousness. b) humility and service. c) repentance and forgiveness
 20. The Passover represents Christ sacrifice. This sacrifice was:
a) for a chosen few. b) the 144,000. c) the whole world.
 21. The Feast of Trumpets symbolizes: a) the return of Christ. b) the spread of the gospel. c) the first resurrection. d) important judgment time for mankind. e) all of the above.
 22. What day symbolizes the putting away of Satan for 1,000 years?
 23. The Atonement Azazel goat represents: a) Christ b) Satan c) sin d) all of the above
 24. The Feast of Tabernacles pictures: a) the life of Jesus Christ on earth. b) the putting away of Satan for 1,000 years. c) the millennial reign of Christ. d) the first resurrection.
-

25. The Last Great Day represents a time when all who lived but never truly knew Christ will be resurrected. True or False?
26. The Second Resurrection, in which billions will be brought back to life represents...
 a) their second chance at Salvation. b) their first and only chance at Salvation.
 c) a first chance for some and a second chance for others.
27. The Last Great Day also pictures eternity after the time of the Second Resurrection. True or False?
28. God commands that we bring a Holy Day offering before Him on each of the Holy Days. Where in scripture do we find this: a) Matthew 24 b) Revelation 20 c) Deuteronomy 16 d) Isaiah 40
29. On which of the Holy Days are we to keep a complete fast (no food or water) for 24 full hours?
30. The Feast of Tabernacles will be kept in the Millennium. Where do we read this in the Old Testament?
 a) Leviticus 23 b) Joshua 13 c) Zechariah 14 d) Isaiah 53

LESSON TEN — ANSWERS:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 30. (c) | 20. (c) | 10. (b) |
| 29. (Atonement) | 19. (b) | 9. (b) |
| 28. (c) | 18. (c) | 8. (e) |
| 27. (True) | 17. (True) | 7. (c) |
| 26. (b) | 16. (Pentecost) | 6. (c) |
| 25. (True) | 15. (d) | 5. (c) |
| 24. (c) | 14. (False) | 4. (e) |
| 23. (b) | 13. (True) | 3. (body, blood) |
| 22. (Atonement) | 12. (False) | 2. (Christ) |
| 21. (e) | 11. (d) | 1. (c) |



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