


# THE Sabbath Sentinel

July–August 2003



***The Exodus—  
Which route did it take?***

**BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association**  
***“The Sabbath was made for man...” — Jesus, the Christ***

# **The Sabbath Sentinel**

**July–August 2003 Volume 55, No. 4 Issue 502**

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**Cover Photo:** The Sinai and Arabian Peninsulas  
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**Donations** are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible in the United States. Those who choose to voluntarily support this international work to promote the Sabbath and proclaim gospel of the kingdom of God are welcomed as contributors.

**Annual membership contributions:** regular membership \$25; Family Membership \$30; Life Membership \$500. All memberships include an annual subscription to *The Sabbath Sentinel*. Make all checks, drafts and money orders payable to *The Bible Sabbath Association*. (VISA and MasterCard accepted).

**The Bible Sabbath Association** is dedicated to promote the seventh day Sabbath. As a nonsectarian association for Sabbath-observing Christians, BSA accepts members who acknowledge Jesus Christ (Yahshua the Messiah) as their Savior, believe the Bible to be the Word of the Eternal, and uphold the seventh day Sabbath. BSA takes no official position on other theological issues, and publishes *The Sabbath Sentinel* as a forum to promote understanding and to share items of interest to Sabbath observing groups and individuals.

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# ***Deliver Those Who are Drawn toward Death***

In the beginning, God carried out two great acts designed to preserve the spiritual and social health of the nations. He created the Sabbath to bring man into fellowship with Himself and into a bond with his fellow man. All mankind was to come together and appear before their Creator on that blessed day each week. God also created marriage between a man and a woman to guarantee that His laws and His values would pass to each succeeding generation. Since the beginning of time, whenever any nation has cast aside the Creator's grand design for the nations, it has fallen into moral debauchery and chaos. As I write, God's first great institution, marriage between a man and a woman, is being pulled down in, of all places, the world's largest Christian nations.

How does one react to the destruction of the very foundation of society? Right now I'm wrestling with that issue. My sense of grief for this nation is as profound as at any time I can remember. As many know, in late June, the Supreme Court of the United States declared unconstitutional a Texas state law that made sodomy a criminal offense. If this were not bad enough, the Supreme Court not only overturned the Texas law but declared that any law attempting to outlaw sodomy or any other mutually consensual, private sexual conduct was, on its face, unconstitutional. A truly stunning decision from a court that had previously been viewed as tilting to the conservative side! This same court, less than ten years ago declared a similar law in the state of Georgia to be constitutional, because the state had a "compelling interest" in regulating such behavior.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision comes just a few short weeks after Canada's highest court declared that any law in that nation which restricted the definition of marriage to a man-woman relationship was null and void.

One of the most remarkable aspects of both court decisions is that they were made by bodies of officials who were not directly elected by the people. In both cases the legislative bodies, which are elected according to the will of the people, were bypassed in order to impose upon the two populations decisions that were directly contrary to the wishes of their citizens. The decisions of both courts to follow current depraved social trends exhibits their utter contempt for the Constitution, for current law and common law.

The day following the U.S. Supreme Court decision, the same court majority issued an opinion that the state

of Kansas should vacate the conviction of a young adult man who sodomized a retarded 14-year-old because the act appeared to be have been consensual, even though such an act in any case is considered to be statutory rape.

I do not know what remedies might be possible in Canada, but in the United States there is only one remedy (short of replacing all members of the U.S. Supreme Court that voted in favor of the abolition of sodomy laws). That is to change the Constitution—to amend it—an arduous and lengthy process to be sure. Even before the court decision, a marriage amendment, defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman, was being considered by many in the U.S. Congress as the only method of truly preserving the sanctity of the home, the foundation of every stable civilization throughout the history of mankind. To be sure, the urgency of passing such an amendment will greatly increase, but the process requires a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress and ratification by the state legislatures of three-fourths of the states—a procedure that generally takes several years to complete.

If you have not thought about what these cases mean to your families and to the preaching of the gospel, please take some time to meditate on the consequences of these court decisions. These are not inconsequential or insignificant matters. Will the Church of Christ be able to preach against all sins, or will declaring that same-sex relationships are a sin become a hate-crime punishable by imprisonment? Will gay marriage become the law of the land? Will any type of union between consenting adults now be legal—including incest and polygamy? As you can see, the potential for mischief is almost limitless, and already, on the covers on some popular news magazines, these very same arrangements are being examined.

We have observed for many years the snipping away at the fabric of society, but now the way is open to rip it to shreds. To many Christians this whole societal slide toward Gomorrah is seen as inevitable, albeit regrettable—a necessary precursor to the return of Christ, a matter of unchangeable ancient prophetic pronouncements. Others will stand and fight against such trends because they foresee their effects on their children, their grandchildren, and their neighbors. Let me tell you how I view this matter in light of Bible prophecy.

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*Continued on Page 16*

# The Danger of Fear

by Tom Justus



There is a scripture in Revelation 21:8 that I couldn't understand for many years. "But the FEARFUL, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

I just could not understand why God would list a person that is fearful with unbelievers, murderers and those other horrible sins. I decided to make a study of FEAR. It is amazing what I came to understand.

There are two kinds of fear. There is a healthy fear and the fear that is spoken of in Revelation. We are told in the scripture in many places to "fear God" (stand in awe) of His greatness. Christ states in Matthew 10:28: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The reason fear is so bad is that it is used to control people. We usually don't think of it in this manner. Man's governments use fear to manipulate us every day. Look at what has happened since September 11, 2001. The U.S. has invaded another country because its citizens were told the country had weapons of mass destruction, which, so far, have not been found. Out of fear, 70% of the American public backed this decision. The U.S. Homeland Security Agency advised people to buy duct tape and plastic sheets to seal off a room to prevent chemical poison from entering. Out of fear, hundreds of thousands of people made a run on the stores to buy these products, never stopping to think that if you could seal off a room that tight, it would only take a short time for those in the room to suffocate.

Because of fear of terrorists, America's freedoms are being taken away quite rapidly. Take a look at the Patriot Act. If you haven't read it, I suggest that

you do so. And, the U.S. Attorney General is even asking for more power. We as Christians should not make decisions based on fear but rather on our trust in God. Your chance of being killed by a terrorist is nowhere near as great as your being killed in an automobile accident. Fifty thousand people were killed in car wrecks last year in the U.S.

Churches use fear to control their congregations. Members are told that if they leave the group, they will lose their salvation. Many people do not keep the Sabbath out of fear they may lose their job. Many others fear what other people may say if they observe the Sabbath. I grew up in a church that taught if you were bad, you would burn forever and ever in a hell fire. I was so fearful of hell that it twisted my life. This was a teaching used to control people through fear. Later in life I realized that God was love and that fear was put away.

As I looked around and saw how so many people lived in fear and how it interfered with their trust in God, I began to understand why God made the statement about the fearful. We should search our lives and see to what extent the wrong kind of fear controls us. We should come to the point where we can see how bad fear really is.

Fear can hold us in bondage. Hebrews 2:15 states, "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Millions do not understand God's plan and cannot have peace of mind about death, but rather dread it. This is just another form of fear.

I John 4:18 states, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." I hope we can understand more fully why God speaks of the fearful in the way He does. If we are fearful, it is because we have not come to the place in our lives where we completely trust in God. Remember Christ said, "FEAR NOT." □



# Samson

by Dr. Daniel Botkin



Of all the stories in the Book of Judges, the story of Samson is the one story with which church people are most familiar. What most church people do not realize is that the story of Samson is the story of the Church.

In Samson's youth the Lord blessed him, and "the Spirit of Yahweh came mightily upon him" (Jdg. 14:6). Samson brought deliverance to God's people, but he had a roving eye: "And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines ... Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her ...

And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah" (Jdg. 14:1; 16:1 & 4). And Delilah was his downfall, as any Sunday-school child can tell you. Samson fell asleep in the lap of Delilah and was stripped of the seven Nazarite locks of hair which marked him as one set apart to Yahweh. With the stripping away of his locks came the stripping away of his power. Then the Philistines put him in bonds he could not break, blinded him, and forced him to grind grain in the prison house. Finally, they praised their pagan gods and mocked Samson in his weakened, defeated state.

Is this not the sad history of the Church? In the Book of Acts we see the Church in its youth, filled with the Holy Spirit. Just as young Samson was able to tear apart a roaring lion with his bare hands, so the Early Church was able to tear apart its "adversary the devil [who was] like a roaring lion" (1 Pet. 5:8). And just as Samson soon afterward enjoyed sweet

honey out of the carcass of the lion, so the Church enjoyed its sweet victories over the devil — until it developed a roving eye. Peter had warned the Church to "be sober, be vigilant" because of the roaring lion, the devil. But the Church ignored Peter's warning and let itself be attracted to idolatrous pagan ideas which eventually enslaved the Church, just as Samson was attracted to pagan women and ended up enslaved to the Philistines.

Samson grinding grain in the enemy's prison house is a sad, pathetic picture of many people's lives.



Rembrandt's depiction of the capture of Samson by the Philistines.

Their life is a rut, an endless cycle of moving forward but with no direction or progress or purpose. They are like a hamster running on his exercise wheel. They are running like crazy and think they are going somewhere, but they are not really going anywhere. Their existence makes no significant difference in the world. The purpose of their existence is to perpetuate their existence. They exist to pay their bills, and do little else. They live and they die, and the

world and eternity remain unchanged, as if they had never been. Remember the Beatles' song *Nowhere Man*? "Doesn't have a point of view, knows not where he's going to, isn't he a bit like me and you?"

This is the enemy's goal for us — a defeated, meaningless life that makes no impact on the world or eternity. If we wish to thwart the enemy's plan, we must heed Peter's words and be sober and vigilant. We must not let ourselves be seduced by the outward beauty of this Delilah-like pagan world, like Samson was. Samson embraced Delilah, but we must

refuse to embrace a world system that is at enmity with God. We cannot get comfortable in the lap of the world and let the devil bewitch us and sing us to sleep with his lullabies. If we do, we will be at the mercy of the devil, just like Samson was at the mercy of the Philistines. We will be in bondage to sins we cannot overcome, we will be robbed of our spiritual vision, and we will be enslaved to this world's grain mills.

People today read the Book of Acts and wonder why the Church isn't like that anymore. Why are miracles and supernatural events so rare after the First Century? Where did the holiness and godly fear and power go? Why do we not see anything that even remotely resembles the awesome power which that Early Church had? Sure, miracles still occasionally happen, but if we are honest, we have to admit that they are extremely rare compared to what we see in Acts. What happened?

With hindsight we can see what happened. Just as Samson fell asleep in the lap of Delilah, the Church fell asleep in the lap of the world — the lap of luxury and ease which comes by obtaining worldly political power. Samson let himself be seduced and bewitched by a wicked woman's outward beauty, and the Church did the same thing. It listened to the world's soothing lullaby and fell into a deep spiritual slumber. Then, just as the Philistines stripped away Samson's power, so the enemy stripped away the Church's power.

Let's consider the significance of Samson's Nazarite locks. It is obvious that the locks themselves did not inherently contain some magical power. Yet when the locks were stripped away, the power of God departed from Samson. This is very significant. The locks were important because they were the outward sign that marked Samson as a Nazarite, one set apart for the Lord. They were the mark of his separation, the thing that showed he was called to be different. Not all of God's people are called to be Nazarites in a literal sense as Samson was, but all of God's people are called to be set apart. Furthermore, Yahweh has given various outward signs which are supposed to mark His people as a people set apart for Him.

Christians are quick to point out that our most important identifying mark should be love, and this is true:

"By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). However, love itself is not exactly an outward sign. It is an inward quality that motivates and inspires us to perform actions which will please the one we love. The loving action is the outward sign, the evidence of our love. This is why outward signs are important. They serve as the visible evidence of the invisible spiritual realities.

Outward signs also show ownership. Samson's Nazarite locks showed that he belonged to Yahweh. Nazarite locks are not a universal sign; only Nazarites need to wear the locks of a Nazarite. However, there is a universal sign which Yahweh has declared to be the outward sign of the relationship between Him and His people, and that sign is the Sabbath:

"Verily My sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am Yahweh that doth sanctify you ... Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep

the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed" (Ex. 31:13, 16f).

When God's people let the enemy strip away the outward signs that denote their set-apart status, the Lord's power and protection gradually depart. A careful reading of Judges 16 shows that Samson's strength gradually weakened each

time Delilah seduced him. He went from being able to break the bonds "as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire" to merely "like a thread." The third time he was bound, he had to flee with the bonds still on. The fourth time, he awoke from his nap on Delilah's lap and said, "I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself." The next statement is probably the saddest statement in the story: "But he knew not that the LORD was departed from him."

If we study Church history, we see that the Church's power gradually weakened as she let herself be seduced away from the Torah in general, and from the Sabbath in particular, to embrace a counterfeit Sunday Sabbath. In A.D. 321 Constantine, the sun-worshipping Emperor of Rome, made the official decree for Christians to "rest upon the venerable



*Samson tearing down the pillars of the temple of Dagon. Plate from a German Bible, 1882.*

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# Sabbatarian Young People: What Is Their Future?

by Norman Edwards

*Editor's note: Although Mr. Edwards deals with the problems facing Sabbatarian youth from the point of view of the Sabbatarian Churches of God, the problems and the principles needed to solve them are the same across denominational boundaries.*

Christian parents hope that their children will come to love and follow God—and attend the same kind of congregation that they do. But a large percentage of Church of God young people do not follow their parents' beliefs. This problem has existed throughout the history of the large corporate groups, and it exists in the small independent groups now. While parents are studying the fine points of various doctrines (God's nature, calendars, etc.), they are sometimes shocked to find their young people have totally rejected their congregation's teaching, the Sabbath, the Bible or even God Himself.

The reasons for this are complex and varied. But in this article, we will discuss the most important ones and make suggestions whereby parents may live at peace with their young people, and help them to follow God.

## **See How God Works with Us**

Have you ever realized that the way God works with people is much different than the way parents usually work with their children? While little children certainly need to be told what is right to do and have obedience enforced, how many parents fully grasp that the teen years are a time to give up control and to let their teens make decisions? Yes, they will inevitably make some mistakes. Parents need to try to simply prevent their older teens from major disasters—they should not try to prevent them from all sin.

Does that sound radical? The Bible and history show that God does not give all truth to every person—or even every Christian. The churches in Revelation 2 and 3 had different problems, but Christ worked with them all. But He did not jump in and stop them from each sin. He observed how they behaved, He showed them what was wrong, and He commanded them to repent. Most mature Christians realize that it took many years for them to recognize and overcome some of their sins—and that they still are not finished. We should not expect our children to be much different—nor should we cut off

communication with them because they have some sin. God does not cut off communication with us when we sin.

## **Why Young People Leave**

Young people often leave their congregations because parents expect more out of their young people than they expect out of themselves. Sabbatarian groups place great emphasis on commanding obedience to law and so Sabbatarian parents command their children to obey law. But “doing” the laws is a much better teacher than commanding them (Rom. 2:13; Jms. 1:25).

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• **Major reasons why young people leave their church groups include:**

**Parental hypocrisy.** Parents hold their children to higher standards of Sabbath-keeping, cleanliness, cheerfulness, etc. than they personally practice.

**Church hypocrisy.** Church leaders preach a higher standard than they personally follow. Church headquarters are much more tolerant of minister's sins than the ministers are of member's sins.

**Lack of fruit.** Young people may hear many good doctrinal sermons, but find their church group lacking in love and lacking the positive works that Jesus said His followers would have. Indeed, some Sabbatarian groups come across as extremely self-righteous: "we are better than the others."

**Situation impossibility and/or lack of faith.** This problem is part the fault of parents and part the fault of young people. The "fault percentage" varies—only God knows. Many parents have simply not thought out what they really expect their children to do with their lives or whether their goals for their children are even possible to achieve. On the other hand, some parents present very realistic alternatives. Young people, of course, vary greatly also. Some have the faith to live up to the most difficult of biblical, church and parental requirements; others do not believe God will see them through comparatively easy situations.



Church youth gather for food and fun.

**Making It Possible**

Young people typically have the following questions about their future:

**What is my relationship to God?**

**Where am I going to school/work?**

**Where am I going to live?**

**Whom am I going to marry?**

Parents need to realize that becoming a Christian is more than just baptism and attending the same church. Young people must be serious enough to dedicate their lives to living God's way—they may learn a few things "the hard way" before seeing the value of God's way.

Parents often forget what a struggle they had with their job when they began to keep the Sabbath. In general, jobs are harder for young people to get than they were 30 years ago, and first jobs for Sabbath keepers are even more difficult.

"Whom will I marry?" is often greatly underestimated by Sabbatarian parents. Thirty years ago, there were Ambassador Colleges, huge Feast sites and big church meetings. A young person had many chances to find somebody they liked and who was "in the church." Today, with many small groups, some young people may not know even one person whom their parents would accept as a spouse—not to mention somebody whom they love.

The practice of most Churches of God (CoG) of inviting all Sabbatarian singles to their singles outings is a good start. Hopefully, parents have the wisdom to let their young people attend. Unfortunately, if a cross-CoG dating relationship ends in a marriage, the young people will still find that most church organizations will not let them freely attend both husband's and wife's groups on a regular basis. (See articles on "Hierarchical Leader Letter" in the six *Servants' News* issues from Sept/Oct 2001 to July/August 2002.) If they are to ever have any position of responsibility, they must attend primarily one group and forsake the side of the family in the other. **The church organizations must solve this problem by allowing members to attend similar groups.**

**Parents Must Rethink**

Rather than think "how much they can demand of their children," parents need to think about what their children can do, ask that they follow the basics of Christianity, and hope they will desire to do more. This is much better than parents forcing older teens to "do everything right," then seeing them leave home early, or depart from God completely. Parents must remember that they learned truth as their life went on—so will their children. The article sent out with this issue, *Love That Lasts*, is a good example of the basic information that teens and their parents should know. □

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Reprinted from *Servants' News*, Nov.-Dec. 2002.  
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# Story of Grace

by *Delmar Leger*

Allow me to tell you a story. We can start this story in the winter of 1935. The nation was in the throes of the great depression. It's hard for us to imagine in today's affluent society just how desperate those days were. Well do I remember, as a child, people knocking on our back door begging for food. Mom would always feed them. Long lines of hungry people were standing in front of soup kitchens waiting for something to eat. Jobs were virtually non-existent, and money was as precious as it was scarce.

There was a man by the name of Fiorello LaGuardia who was the mayor of New York City during those dark days. LaGuardia seemed to have a genuine, heartfelt love for the common man, especially the downtrodden. One time, during a newspaper strike, he spent his Sunday mornings reading the funny papers over the radio—and with all the appropriate inflections. Why? He didn't want the children of New York to be deprived of that little bit of enjoyment. He was well known for his blustery outbursts against the "bums" that exploited the poor. He was completely unpredictable and full of surprises.

One night he showed up at a night court in one of the poorest wards of the city. That's where this phase of our story begins. He dismissed the presiding judge for the evening and sent him home to his family. Then the mayor himself took over the bench.

On that bitterly cold night, a tattered old woman stood before the bench accused of stealing a loaf of bread. You must understand, those were desperate times. A lot of people were going hungry.

With quivering lips and tear filled eyes, she admitted to the theft. But, she added, "My daughter's husband has deserted her, she is sick, and her children are crying because they have nothing to eat."

The shopkeeper, however, refused to drop the charges. "It's a bad neighborhood your honor, she's guilty," he shouted. "The law must be upheld, she's got to be punished to teach other people a lesson." LaGuardia knew that her accuser was right. The very office that he swore to uphold required that he enforce the letter of the law.

LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the old woman and said, "I've got to punish you; the law makes no exceptions." He then pronounced the sentence. The old

woman shuddered when she heard the words "Ten dollars or ten days in jail." But already the judge was reaching into his pocket. He pulled out a ten-dollar bill and threw it into his hat. "Here's the ten-dollar fine, which I now remit. Furthermore, I'm fining everyone in this courtroom fifty cents, for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant."



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Sitting in the courtroom that night were about 70 petty criminals, a few New York policemen, and her accuser, a fuming, red-faced, storekeeper. The bewildered old grandmother left the courtroom with \$47.50. That was enough money to buy groceries for several months.

That's a very good story. It's a true story; but how is that relevant to us today? Let's review the event and see what really took place that cold winter evening.

- Was the storekeeper correct in his accusation? Yes. The old woman had committed a crime.
- Was guilt confessed? Yes. She admitted the theft.
- Did her reason for stealing make any difference to the law? No. The law can make no exceptions.
- Was the judgment decreed and sentencing pronounced? Yes. The old grandmother was found guilty and sentenced to a fine she could not pay.
- Was justice carried through, thus satisfying the law? Yes. The fine was paid in full.
- Was grace extended? Yes. The guilty party walked out of that courtroom completely free and her penalty paid.
- Did the guilty party do anything at all to deserve or earn the grace received? Not a thing. It was free, and there for her to accept.
- Was the law done away? No. The law is still intact. It's still against the law to steal bread in New York City. The law was neither changed, adjusted, side-stepped nor done-away.
- Having received grace, is the grandmother now free of the law to go steal again? As Paul would say, "God forbid!"

Could we, therefore, conclude:

- The law was fulfilled.
- Justice was done.
- Her accuser was silenced.
- Compassion won out over the law.
- Yet the law is still intact.

I think we have no other choice. What about you?

Actually, we started this story in the middle. Have you ever walked into the middle of a movie, and then have to sit through the beginning in order to understand the ending? You see, our story actually began nearly six thousand years ago, in the Garden of Eden, with the fall of man.

Can you see the parallel? Can't you imagine Satan standing before God's throne shouting, "**Guilty! Guilty!** You must enforce the law! There can be no exceptions." And there was mankind, the weight of guilt too heavy to bear, a penalty too horrible to contemplate.

Does it matter how justifiable the reason for our crime, or what excuse we offer? Like LaGuardia said, "The law can make no exceptions." Just as LaGuardia had to uphold the laws of New York City, God had to uphold His heavenly laws.

Satan had succeeded it seemed, in forcing God to choose between destroying the law and destroying mankind. It's either/or. For God to be true; for God to be righteous; for God to be God; action had to be taken. Otherwise the law is effete [depleted of vitality, force, or effectiveness] and of non-effect. The very foundation of the government of God was challenged. For no government can function without law.

What, then, must be done? It was man who sinned; therefore, man must pay. But if man pays then man will be no more. Satan will have accomplished his objective; which was then, as it is now, to destroy mankind.

But what if there came a second Adam? What if another Adam should come who is totally obedient to God, completely sinless, and qualified in every way to pay the death penalty for all who come to Him in humble submission. Could He—would He—step into man's place and die in his stead?

We read of just such a Man in Revelation 5:5 where it tells us of the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, who has qualified to open the Book of Life. As a matter of fact, we read of Him from Genesis to Revelation. The scarlet thread of His redeeming blood can be traced throughout the Bible. He is described in Philippians 2:6–8 as being in the form of God, but humbled Himself to the likeness of man. He came to serve, not to be served, and was obedient unto death.

Just as Adam's sin sentenced every human to death, so this Man offers eternal life to everyone who believes in Him. And having accepted and believed the works

## **Notice**

### **For the 2004 Scholarship Essay Contest**

Essay Contest Questions sought:

If anyone has any suggestions for essay questions for the scholarship contest, please send them to June Narber at [jnarber@hercurian.com](mailto:jnarber@hercurian.com) or 6325-9 Falls of Neuse Road, #193, Raleigh, NC 27615. Questions should be directly related to the Sabbath: observance, "how to," symbolism, meaning, history, or similar topics.

Judges Sought:

Volunteer Judges are sought for the 2004 BSA Essay Contest. Applicants need 1) to have at least a Bachelor's degree and some experience with education, writing, grammar, or English; 2) to be dedicated Sabbath observers from any group believing in Jesus Christ/Yahshua; and 3) to have email access and be available during May 2004 to do the judging via email. Contact June Narber at [jnarber@hercurian.com](mailto:jnarber@hercurian.com).

that God has done through His Son, we then become buried with Him in baptism into his death. Paul tells us in Romans that "...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection" (Romans 6:4-5).

God's inspired word tells us in Romans 5:19, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous." And in 1 Corinthians 15:22, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." Also in verse 45, "And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."

What would our answers be if we asked the same questions about the grace extended to us as we did about the grace extended to the old grandmother? Well, let's do that and find out:

Is our accuser correct in his accusation? Yes. All mankind has sinned.

Was guilt confessed? Yes. We have confessed our sins before God.

Did our reason for sinning make any difference to the law? No. The law can make no exceptions.

Was judgment decreed and sentencing pronounced? Yes. All mankind was found guilty and sentenced to a penalty we could not pay.

Was justice carried out, thus satisfying the law? Yes. The death decree was paid in full.

Was grace extended? Yes. The guilty party rose up from the waters of baptism completely free and the penalty was paid in full.

Did the guilty party do anything at all to deserve or earn the grace received? Not a thing. It was free, and available to all mankind.

Was the law done away? No. The law is still intact; and it's still against the law to disobey God. The law was not side-stepped, and not one jot or tittle was changed, adjusted, eliminated, or passed from the law. That includes the Ten Commandments. Review Christ's own words in Matthew 5:17-48 if you have any doubt. Having received grace, are we now free of the law to continue in sin?

As Paul said in Romans 3:31, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

Also Romans 6:15-16, "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" But haven't we been told, maybe even read, that

the law was nailed to the cross? Does it really say that? Well let's go to the source and find out. We read in Col 2:14 "having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" (New American Standard Bible).

What is a certificate of debt? The law is not a certificate of debt. It is never referred to in those terms. A certificate of debt is like an I.O.U. or a mortgage; a note that has to be paid. It was our decree of guilt—not the law—that was nailed to the cross. The Man who was nailed to the cross paid the penalty that was decreed to us. If the law could have been done away, why would it have been necessary for Jesus to die?

You see, it's not really an either/or question as Satan thought. It was not necessary to destroy mankind, and grace does not destroy nor replace the law.

Paul tells us in Heb 8:10, "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people" (KJV). He repeats the same statement in chapter 10 and verse 16.

Paul is quoting Ezekiel. These are the same laws God gave Israel. By putting them in our minds, God has opened up our knowledge and understanding of them. By writing them in our heart we will never forget them, and our hearts desire will be to obey them. In Romans 6:17 Paul tells us we obey from the heart. If God's laws are not in your heart, you will find many logical sounding reasons not to obey them, just as Eve did.

Can we, therefore, conclude:

The law was fulfilled.

Justice was done.

Our accuser was silenced.

Compassion (grace) won out over the law.

Yet the law is still intact, and always will be. Isaiah, speaking of Christ, writes, "...He will magnify the law, and make it honorable" (Isa 42:21, KJV).

I think we have no other choice but to say "yes" to all of the above. What about you?

Certainly our salvation is secure in Jesus Christ, but our blessings come from obedience.

Well, that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

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*Reprinted from Servants' News, Nov.-Dec. 2002. Delmar (Del) Leger is the pastor of the Christian Church of God in Grand Junction, Colorado. Del Leger may be contacted at [dlleger@montrose.net](mailto:dlleger@montrose.net) (970-249-6857).*

**Editor's Recommended Web Site:** If you are a "netizen," one who spends a lot of time on the Internet and are looking for a very good daily Bible study/devotional, point your cursor to <http://www.keyway.ca/>. I ran across this site by accident and found it to be excellent. I later discovered that its founder and Web master, Wayne Blank, is an observer of the Sabbath. The following study is the "Daily Bible Study" for Monday, June 16, 2003. (The words underlined in the Web page are links to other information.)

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## Daily Bible Study

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### The City of David

The City of David, also known as the Fortress of Zion, or Stronghold of Zion, is the oldest Israelite-settled part of Jerusalem, captured by King David from the Jebusites: "And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off" - thinking, "David cannot come in here." Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David." (2 Samuel 5:6-7 RSV)

#### The Capital

The earliest City of David was located on the southeast ridge of the Jerusalem plateau, with the Tyropoeon Valley to the west and the Kidron Valley to the east. Only a few acres in total, it actually covered a much smaller area than what later came to be known as the City of David section of Jerusalem.

As first established, the City of David consisted of David's palace, which overlooked the tent that David had set up to house The Ark Of The Covenant (Solomon later built the original Temple of God there - see Temples). South of the palace was the citadel and the city itself (see diagram below).

References to the City of David from the pages of Bible History:

"And David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the city of David. And David built the city round about from the Millo inward. And David became greater and greater, for The Lord, the God of hosts, was with him. And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house. And David perceived that The Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel." (2 Samuel 5:9-12 RSV)

"David built houses for himself in the city of David; and he prepared a place for The Ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry The Ark of God, for The Lord chose them to carry The Ark of The Lord and to minister to Him for ever." And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem, to bring up The Ark of The Lord to its place, which he had prepared for it. And David gathered together the sons of Aaron and the Levites" (1 Chronicles 15:1-4 RSV)

"And it was told King David, "The Lord [see The Logos and Rock Of Ages] has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of The Ark of God." So David went and brought up The Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing ... And they brought in The Ark of The Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before The Lord." (2 Samuel 6:12,17 RSV)

Then David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat





upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was firmly established.” (1 Kings 2:10-12 RSV) (see [Bible Places](#))

Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt; he took Pharaoh’s daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had finished building his own house and The House of The Lord and the wall around Jerusalem.” (1 Kings 3:1) (see [Layout Of Solomon’s Temple](#) and [Solomon’s Kingdom](#))

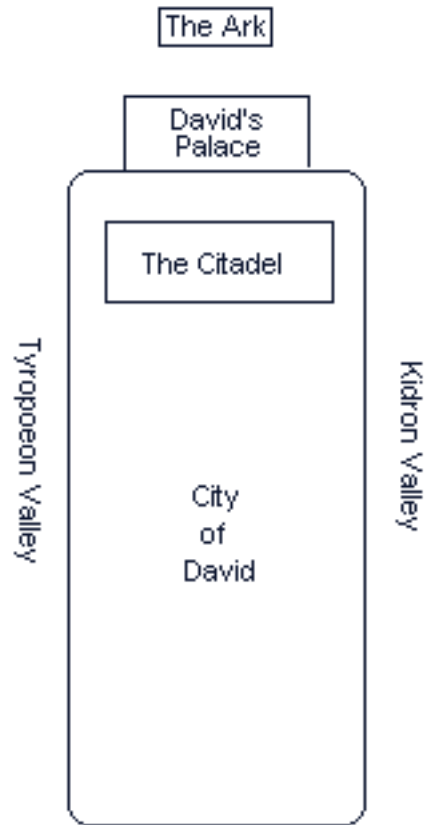
Then [King Solomon](#) assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers’ houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up The Ark of the covenant of The Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion.” (1 Kings 8:1 RSV)

This same Hezekiah closed the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the city of David” (2 Chronicles 32:30 RSV) (see [Hezekiah’s Tunnel](#))

He prayed to him, and God received his entreaty and heard his supplication and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh [see [Kings of Israel and Judah](#)] knew that The Lord was God. Afterwards he built an outer wall for the city of David west of Gihon, in the valley, and for the entrance into the Fish Gate, and carried it round Ophel, and raised it to a very great height; he also put commanders of the army in all the fortified cities in Judah.” (2 Chronicles 33:13-14 RSV)

**Fact Finder:** Was King David’s birthplace, [Bethlehem](#), also known as the city of David?

Luke 2:4,11



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**Hymn of the day from our [Christian Music Page](#)**

[Prepare Thy Way, O Zion](#)

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### **This Day In History, June 16**

**455:** [Rome](#) was sacked by the Vandal army.

**1539:** Protestant Reformer [Martin Luther](#) declared: “Faith justifies not as a work, nor as a quality, nor as knowledge, but as assent of the will and firm confidence in the mercy of God.”

**1654:** Queen Christina abdicated the Swedish throne after converting to Roman Catholicism.

**1567:** Mary Queen of Scots was locked up in Lochleven Castle prison.

**1671:** Cossack rebel leader Stenka Razin tortured, executed in Moscow.

**1932:** The ban on Nazi storm troopers is lifted by the von Papen government in Germany.

**1955:** At [The Vatican](#), Pope Pius XII excommunicated Argentine President Juan Peron.

**1977:** Leonid Brezhnev was named president of U.S.S.R.

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### **Link Of The Day:**

[Western Wall Camera](#)

A live view of Jerusalem.

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### **Daily Bible Study**

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## Fundamentals of Effective Prayer from Scripture

*John 14:14*, "If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it."

Jesus' statement is clarified in *1 John 5:14-15*: "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us. And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

*1 John 3:22* tells us, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

"In My name" can be understood to mean asking anything according to God's will that is asked with an obedient heart.

*James 4:3* says, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." "Lusts" in the Greek can also be translated "wants," "desires," or "pleasures."

James says in the next verse that people like that are adulterers and adulteresses in a spiritual way.

*Psalms 66:18* says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

*Isaiah 59:1-2* says, "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear."

God commands that His children be obedient and holy—"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation: Because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:14-16*).

*John 15:7*: "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

*Matthew 6:9-13*: "Thy will be done."

The promise of God's blessing is conditioned on obedience. *Deuteronomy 28:2* states "And all these blessings shall come on thee and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."

*Proverbs 28:9*: "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."

## Rethinking the Route of the Exodus

Recently Peter Elmer, a forklift driver from England, was scuba diving among the coral in the Gulf of Aqaba and discovered what he thinks are archeological treasures—chariots and chariot wheels. Though not a trained archeologist, Elmer believes he has discovered the burial ground of Pharaoh's army that attempted to chase Moses and the Israelites across the Red Sea when God parted the waters.

Elmer told **WorldNetDaily.com** (6-27-03), "I am 99.9 percent sure I picked up a chariot wheel. It was covered with coral." He declares further, "I believe I actually sat in an ancient chariot cab" in what he describes as an underwater scrap yard. "Without question, it is most definitely the remains of the Egyptian army."



Source: WorldNetDaily.com

The late, controversial explorer and archeologist Ron Wyatt claimed to have excavated a chariot wheel some years ago in the Gulf of Aqaba. The gold-plated, eight-spoked wheel was taken to the director of Antiquities in Cairo where it was photographed and declared to be from the 18th Dynasty of ancient Egypt, which would date it at about 1400 B.C. The wheel has since been lost, but the Antiquities director is on video tape declaring the wheel to be authentic.

One of the problems in confirming Peter Elmer's claim is that today the government of Egypt will no longer permit explorers and scientists to remove artifacts from protected areas, making it virtually impossible to prove or disprove the authenticity of an artifact.

Where the Israelites crossed the Red Sea is anyone's guess these days. Some contend that it was north, in the area of the Suez Canal. Others side with Wyatt in his contention that the crossing had to take place in the area of the Gulf of Aqaba. Wyatt claimed that Israel most likely crossed the Gulf of Aqaba over the natural, submerged land bridge that connects Egypt to the Saudi Arabian peninsula. One thing is for sure. Until Egypt allows scientists to retrieve and test artifacts that are brought up from the bottom of the Gulf, the debate continues in academic circles.

# Lincoln's Message for Today's America

by Brian Knowles



American president Abraham Lincoln once said, "...it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

Of course he had in mind Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." In context, the Psalmist may be speaking of Israel. Yet only a few verses earlier, he had written, "Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him" (verse 8). Clearly that is a verse of universal application. Verses 13 and 14 further describe the universal purview of God: "The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh down upon all the inhabitants of the earth." Then he says, "There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength...Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine" (Psalm 33:18-19).

## Not by might

The United States, over which Abraham Lincoln once presided as President, has become the most prosperous and powerful nation in the history of mankind. At the touch of a button, our President literally has the power to obliterate all life on this planet. This nation is blessed, not because of who it is, but because of how it has been – a predominantly God-fearing, Christian nation that has provided a safe haven for Jewish people. As the forces of evil gather strength in the modern world, it is only the good graces of a good God, not our military might that will save us from destruction.

There is only one God – the Creator, YHVH, the God of the Bible. There is only one Messiah (Anointed One) — one Mediator between God and man, and that's Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5). God does not show favoritism. He chastens every son he loves (Hebrews 12:5ff.).

Abraham Lincoln was also aware of that. He said, "...insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, na-

tions like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People?"

Lincoln had a degree of God-consciousness not shared by any modern President except possibly Ronald Reagan. I wonder what he would have said were he alive today? How would Lincoln have viewed the barbarities of Pearl Harbor and 9/11? Would he have viewed these outrages as divine chastening?

## Too proud to pray?

Lincoln's God-consciousness was of an inspired sort. One of his most famous statements is as fresh and applicable today as when it was first made: "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which has preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!"

Lincoln then declared a national fast.

Can you imagine any modern president, including the incumbent, echoing closely Lincoln's thoughts and declarations? Time was when U.S. Presidents were not ashamed to kneel humbly before God and acknowledge him as the source of national blessings – as well as national chastisements. Nor were they shy about calling for national repentances.

## Complacency in the face of evil?

Today, the United States (and indeed the whole Western world) is facing the greatest evil it has ever faced. Regrettably, since 9/11, many Americans have

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*Continued on Page 21*

First, I see the vast majority Bible prophecies as predictive warnings. That is, God is saying, “Straighten up or else!” I do not view most prophecy as rigid edicts—although there have been times when God has said to the people, “You are out of chances; you have already ignored too many warnings for Me not to act.” God has always been willing to listen when the people repented, but there does come a time when the “critical mass” of sin reaches the intolerable stage with God. I do not believe that we are at that point because the influence of Christians and Christian values and principles in society is still important and relevant to most people.

The Church of God is weak but not dead in the U.S. and Canada, and its members must not roll over as if they were dead. As sin abounds, the gospel and grace of Christ should abound all the more. The Church is at war with the kingdom of satan, and it is our duty to rescue out of the enemy’s kingdom those who are being drawn away toward death and destruction. Many Christians are “burned out” with preaching the gospel. If you are burned out, go to the source of living water and renew your strength in Him. Too many of us have tried to draw on our own strength for this exhausting battle for the hearts and minds of men and women (including our own children). Refresh and renew yourself in Christ, the Captain of the armies of the Living God, and go out again to fight for the souls of men. While we have breath, it is never too late to save another soul from death. Long ago, our Lord gave us our marching orders: “Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter” (Pro. 24:11). Maranatha! —Kenneth Ryland

*Late-breaking News*

**BSA Scholarship Winners  
for 2002-2003**

*Nicole Gaffney, First Place*

*James Springer, Second Place*

*Christopher Reed, Third Place*

*Trenton JaVon Doss, Fourth Place*

In upcoming issues of *The Sabbath Sentinel* we will be presenting the essays written by our winners. Our thanks to everyone who participated.

## Can Others See Jesus in You?

*What have they seen in thine house? Isa. 39:4*

King Hezekiah sensed that, unless God intervened, the festering boil would take his life. It must have been in desperation that he asked the prophet Isaiah to inquire of the Lord on his behalf, hoping that God would respond favorably. His disappointment must have been great, therefore, when the prophet entered the royal bedchamber and announced, “Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live” (Isa. 38:1).

His last hope crushed, the king “turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord” (verse 2). The Lord heard his despairing cry. “And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out of the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah, ... Thus saith the Lord, ... I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee” (2 Kings 20:4, 5).

As an evidence that his recovery would be speedy, God caused the shadow on the sundial of Ahaz, king of Israel, to “return backward ten degrees” (verse 10). This strange phenomenon was observed in Babylon, 800 kms. away. Merodach-baladan, the Babylonian king, heard about the unusual occurrence and that it was connected with Hezekiah’s illness and recovery (Isa. 39:1). Eager to learn more about the God who could do this, he sent a delegation to visit Hezekiah (2 Chron. 32:31).

What an excellent opportunity for a believer in the true God to tell his heathen neighbors about Jehovah, who “turneth the shadow of death into the morning” (Amos 5:8). Instead, the record says that Hezekiah’s “heart was lifted up” (2 Chron. 32:25) and he showed off his material possessions (Isa. 39:2). But hardly had the heathen delegation departed when the prophet Isaiah entered the palace of the king and inquired pointedly, “What have they seen in thine house?”

The same question might be asked of you and me: What have your neighbors, your friends, your own children, seen in your house? Have they seen those graces of character that witness to the transforming power of God in your life, or is it otherwise?

We profess to be members of the last church before the coming of the Lord. Laodicea, the last of the seven churches of Revelation, was rebuked for displaying her wealth—“I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing” (Rev. 3:17). Is this true of us? If it is, we need to “be zealous ... and repent” (verse 19).

What you and I need above all else is the “gold,” the “white raiment,” and the “eyesalve” (verse 18) that the heavenly Merchantman offers to us as He knocks at the door of our hearts.

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*Reprinted from New Every Morning, p. 159. Author: Donald Ernest Mansell. Publisher: Review and Herald Publishing, 1981.*



Day of the Sun," viz., Sun-day, the first day of the week. Constantine wanted Christians to "have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd" (See Philip Schaff's *History of the Christian Church*, vol. 3, 3d period, ch. 7, sec. 75, p. 380, fn. 1 and Eusebius, *Life of Constantine* 3, 18-19.) The Church had been drifting toward this seduction for quite some time, and when Church leaders foolishly agreed to Constantine's decree, the Church's Nazarite locks were finally stripped away. This left the Church like Samson at the mercy of the Philistines — bound to the world, robbed of spiritual vision, and enslaved to a Roman system that honored pagan gods and mocked the God of Israel.

"But there's no inherent power in keeping the Sabbath on the seventh day," some people object. "Anybody, even a heathen, can keep the Sabbath if he wants to."

There was no inherent power in Samson's locks, either, yet when they were stripped away, the power of the Lord departed. And a heathen Philistine could have grown seven Nazarite locks just like Samson's, but it would not have brought the power of God into his life. For the outward sign to be of any value, the call to a set-apart status must also be there. And to receive the full benefits of the set-apart status, the outward sign has to be there and be honored.

The good news in the story of Samson is that "the hair of his head began to grow again," and his strength was restored. The good news today is that the hair is beginning to grow again on the Body of Messiah. As more and more Christians are beginning to learn how to honor the Torah, the seventh-day Sabbath is being restored as an outward sign of our set-apart status. Along with the Sabbath, God is also restoring other Torah-based outward signs that proclaim His ownership of His people—things like the celebration of biblical Feasts and New Moons, dietary laws, fringes on men's tallits, modest dress and head coverings on women, etc. Samson's strength was gradually restored as his locks grew back, and the Church's power will gradually return as we allow the Lord to restore the Sabbath and these other outward signs that mark us as Yahweh's people.

Christians may argue and insist that outward "ritual" things like the Sabbath make no difference. But the fact remains that Samson's strength was not restored until the visible mark of his set-apart status was restored. What gives us the right to ex-

pect the Church's power to be restored without the restoration of the visible signs that make us different from the rest of the world? If Samson had continued to trim his hair in prison, he would have remained weak and defeated, and he would have continued going in circles around the grain mill, in the service of the Philistines. Christians who resist the things which God is restoring can expect to remain spiritually weak and defeated. They can expect to stay bound to the world's grain mills, going in circles, with no hope of escape from the rut they are in.

It is sad to see so many of God's people in a rut, bound to sinful habits they cannot break, serving the enemy against their will as Samson did. Let me close by making this appeal, patterned after the Apostle Paul's appeal to the Romans:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your local bodies as a living sacrifice, and let the Nazarite locks grow back. Let the Lord restore the Sabbath and the other outward signs of His ownership and of our set-apart status. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind. Don't view these things like as world does, as something archaic and irrelevant to modern life. Let the Lord renew the way you think about these things, and your life will be transformed. □

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*This is the ninth in a series of articles on the Book of Judges. Reprinted from **The Gates of Eden** newsletter, May-June 2003. Gates of Eden, P. O. Box 2257, East Peoria, IL 61611-0257. Website: <http://www.gatesofeden.org/>*

## **Bible Trivia Quiz**

**What are their other biblical names?**

- 1) Simon Peter
- 2) The apostle Paul
- 3) The prophet Daniel
- 4) Gideon
- 5) Lebbaeus
- 6) Matthew

Answers: 1) Cephas (John 1:42); 2) Saul (Acts 26:14); 3) Balthazzar (Daniel 1:7); 4) Jubbac (Judges 7:1); 5) Thaddaeus (Mat. 10:3); 6) Levi (Mark 2:14)

# Constitution and Bylaws of The Bible Sabbath Association

## Preamble

Recognizing the God of the Bible as the Ruler of the universe and obedience to His will as fundamental to the best welfare of humanity both for time and eternity; and

Assured that the Creator provided a definite day for the purposes of rest, worship, contemplation, service and fellowship by hallowing the seventh day following His creative work of the first six days; and

Holding it to be self-evident that appreciation for God's law as contained in the Ten Commandments is fundamental to any well-ordered society; and

Accepting that Jesus Christ, Who died for the sins of the world and offers the gift of salvation to all who believe on His name, and His apostles upheld the seventh day Sabbath by both their teaching and example; and

Realizing that the foregoing rational truths are substantiated by Scripture and that their validity is independent of other doctrines and denominational distinctives; and

Believing that great benefit can be accomplished by the dissemination of knowledge concerning the Bible Sabbath through proper cooperation and organization; therefore,

We do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of upholding the sublime truths which establish the seventh day of each week (Saturday) as the only true, biblical Sabbath Day.

## CONSTITUTION of The Bible Sabbath Association

### Article 1. Name

The name of this Association shall be "The Bible Sabbath Association"— hereinafter referred to as "Association" or "BSA."

### Article 2. Objective

The purpose of this Association, shall be to increase the knowledge and observance of the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as the Sabbath of the Bible—a sacred and inherent element of the Christian faith. Specifically, the BSA will devote itself to (1) teaching the origin, history, purpose and value of the seventh-day Sabbath; (2) bringing together believers in Jesus Christ and the Bible Sabbath in a non-sectarian, inter-denominational manner for the purposes of fostering observance of God's Sabbath, as well as fellowship and good-will among them; (3) disseminating knowledge of the seventh-day Sabbath to those who accept Jesus (Yahshua) but who don't know the Sabbath; and (4) devising strategies to accomplish these ends through regional groups, foreign branches, and other projects and means as shall seem expedient. The BSA shall not constitute a church or a denomination.

### Article 3. Membership

#### Section 1. Individual

Any believer in Jesus Christ (Yahshua the Messiah) who approves and supports the objectives of the Association may become a member by contributing the annual membership fees determined by the BSA Board. Life membership is granted to any individual who contributes the amount determined by the Board during any calendar year.

#### Section 2. Corporate

Any school, church, business or other organization may become a corporate member by contributing the annual corporate fees determined by the BSA Board. Each corporate member, through its chosen representative, shall enjoy the same voting privileges of an individual member, but shall not be eligible for life membership.

## **Article 4. Direction of Affairs**

### **Section 1. General assembly**

Direction of the Association's affairs rests with its general membership whenever they are duly assembled. A general meeting of the BSA membership may be called by the Board of Directors or by a group of at least ten percent of the members; written (including electronic) notification of such a meeting shall be given to the members at least sixty days in advance, and shall state the time, place and purpose of the meeting. Ten percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for any duly announced meeting. If a quorum is not present, any decisions of the members present must be presented in writing to the general membership by approval by a majority of the votes cast.

### **Section 2. Board**

When the membership is not in session, direction of the Association's affairs shall be vested in its President and Board of Directors. However, upon request by any three of the Board, or five percent of the Association members, the Officers shall place before the entire membership any matter in question.

### **Section 3. Operation**

All membership and board meetings of this Association shall operate in accordance with the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with this constitution or any special rules or orders this Association may adopt.

### **Section 4. Restriction**

Under no circumstances shall any official or member use this Association, its local, regional, or foreign branches, nor any of the meetings, publications or mailing lists thereof to promote any tenets of faith other than those stated in Article 2. However, this restriction shall not prohibit the Association from disseminating information about issues or doctrines that are of interest and concern to the membership, provided such information is presented in an objective and even-handed manner, with opportunities given for various points of view to be fairly represented, and with a clear statement that the Association takes no official position on the issue under consideration.

### **Section 5. Local, Regional, and Foreign Branches**

Various branches of the Association may be granted charters of recognition in harmony with stated purposes of the BSA. The purpose of these branches is to allow members to work together toward the goals of the Association in smaller or distant geographic areas. The Board of Directors shall establish policy for the chartering of groups, but shall not limit their territories.

## **Article 5. Board of Directors**

### **Section 1. The Board**

The Board of this Association shall consist of twelve directors, elected to four year terms by the BSA membership. Regular elections shall be held in the third quarter of every fourth year, beginning in 1999. Members of the Board shall take office immediately upon being declared elected by the outgoing Board, shall be eligible for re-election, and shall serve until their successors are declared elected. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled as the Board may choose.

### **Section 2 Officers**

The directors shall elect from among themselves the following officers: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and any other officers as may, from time to time, be deemed appropriate. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this constitution and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association. Officers are eligible for remuneration for services as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 3. Nominations**

Prior to or very early in the third quarter of an election year, the Board of Directors or its designee(s) shall solicit nominations of candidates for the new Board of Directors. A nominee shall (1) be a member in good standing; (2) be validated by two other members, and (3) be willing to serve on the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 4. Elections**

The Directors shall be elected by ballot, prepared by the sitting Board or its designee(s). The ballot shall contain the names of all candidates with brief, appropriate information about each one. Each Association member may vote for no more than twelve candidates. The twelve nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to the Board. In the event two or more candidates have the same number of votes, causing membership on the Board to exceed 12, the outgoing Board shall break the tie(s). The candidate who receives the greatest number of votes shall serve as chairperson until the new Board shall organize as described in Section 2.

#### **Section 5. Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall hold periodic meetings, at the call of the President or of any three Directors. For on-site meetings, notice shall be given at least 60 days in advance, stating the time, place and purpose for the meeting. Meetings by phone or other electronic medium may be held with a 72-hour notice, provided that reasonable effort is made to contact every board member with the time, method and purpose of the meeting.

#### **Section 6. Quorums**

Seven members of the Board are required to transact business at any meeting. If less than seven are present, any action must be validated by a postal or electronic mail vote of the entire Board, or in a subsequent meeting. Board actions shall be approved by a simple majority, or by five votes when nine or fewer members are present.

#### **Section 7. Reports**

The Board of Directors shall make periodic reports to the membership of the Association and shall provide for the auditing of the BSA books at the close of each fiscal year.

#### **Section 8. Committees**

The Board of Directors may delegate such matters as it chooses to Committees composed of BSA members.

### **Article 6. Publications**

#### **Section 1. Periodicals**

The Association shall publish such periodicals as it deems appropriate to further the objectives of the Association. The nature and frequency of these shall be established by the Board, which shall also be responsible for identifying editor(s) for these publications, and establishing appropriate remuneration for the same.

#### **Section 2. Permanent literature**

The Association shall maintain a supply of books, booklets, tracts and leaflets that promote its objectives. The Board shall serve as a committee to review the content of any materials, or it may delegate that work to another committee or sub-committees. [Option: The Board shall be responsible for the content of any Association material.]

### **Article 7. Amendments**

This constitution may be amended only by a postal-mail ballot vote of the membership of the Association when a 30-day previous notice to all members has been given of the proposed amendment. A two-thirds majority of ballots cast is required to amend, except that Articles One and Two require a two-thirds vote of all members to amend.

### **Article 8. Dissolution**

This Association may be dissolved only by a postal-mail ballot vote of the Association's membership when a 30-day previous notice to all members has been given of the proposed dissolution. A three-fourths majority of all members is required to dissolve. At that time, the entire assets of the BSA shall be liquidated. Out of the proceeds, all existing liabilities of the Association shall first be satisfied, and the entire remainder shall be forwarded to the American Bible Society and/or (an)other similar organization(s) as the Board may select.



## ***The Church in the World***

### **House Church Leader Dying in Prison in China**

NANJING, China, June 17 (Compass) — Amnesty International issued an emergency appeal on June 11 for Pastor Gong Shengliang, leader of the banned South China Church, who is reportedly dying in prison.

Members of Gong's family last saw him on April 14, when they noticed a marked deterioration in his health. Visits since then have been banned, supposedly due to the SARS virus, although family members believe this is only a pretext to prevent them from seeing Gong.

A source inside the prison told the family that Gong had been "beaten and seriously injured by the police." Members of the South China Church then sent an urgent appeal to friends in the West, claiming Gong was "passing blood and has lost his hearing." Gong reportedly had been unable to leave his bed for two weeks and was in a coma for several days after a severe beating.

Gong was beaten for professing his faith, refusing to admit his guilt and requesting an appeal against his verdict. Three prison guards are assigned to keep constant watch over his cell.

Gong and four other house church leaders were originally sentenced to death in December 2001 for their membership in the South China Church, which was labeled an "evil cult." The labeling preceded a "Strike Hard" campaign from May to August of that year, during which hundreds of members of the South China Church were arrested and tortured.

Gong and several other leaders were arrested on August 8, 2001. Officers of the Public Security Bureau had bugged the telephone line in the house where they were meeting. A phone call to the house by another church member revealed the whereabouts of Gong and led to his arrest.

After an international outcry against the persecution of Pastor Gong, he was retried by the government. All church-related charges against Gong were dropped. However, police brought charges of rape against him, using statements from several female members of his church who had been arrested and tortured during the "Strike Hard" campaign in 2001. Judges sentenced Gong to life imprisonment for multiple rape charges.

The young women who gave these statements later testified that they were beaten, tortured and humiliated with electric rods to obtain their "confessions." Although they withdrew their statements, the charges against Gong were not dropped.

Criminal charges against house church leaders are a common tactic in recent years. International pressure has made the Chinese government wary of purely "religious charges." As a result, leaders are accused of rape and other criminal activities to justify their arrest.

Sixty-three members of the South China Church remain in prison, while approximately 500 others are "on the run," according to a letter written by members of the church. Gong's daughters, both of them full-time evangelists, continue their work in hiding and have no permanent home.

Gong's wife is suffering from mental instability, a result of the great fear and intimidation she has experienced over the past two years.

Family and church members have expressed deep gratitude for the prayers and practical support they have received from Christians worldwide and ask for continued prayers for his safety. Gong hopes to appeal his sentence to China's supreme court. □

*"Lincoln" continued from Page 15.*

sunk back into complacency. As a people, we are still busily "making provision for" the flesh (cf. Romans 14:13 KJV). With one ear, we are waiting for the other terrorist shoe to drop (and it will), and with the other we are listening for "smooth things."

Scripture tells us that "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Proverbs 16:7). The same is true for nations. If our national ways pleased God, the terrorists would be put to flight. If we as a nation would first submit to God, the devil that is behind terrorism would flee from us (cf. James 4:7).

Those who murder innocents think they do God a service. They believe that for committing these heinous acts, they shall receive a reward in Paradise. The apostle John wrote, "...no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15). The way of the true God is love, not hate. John was also inspired to pen the words, "God is love."

John made it plain that, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother" (1 John 3:10). Terrorism is wanton murder. It is the lowest form of unrighteousness. Death is its only reward (Romans 6:23).

Death will continue to breed death until the world turns to God. Let it begin with the Church. Let it begin with you and me. After all, judgment begins at the house of God (1 Peter 4:17), and if we would judge ourselves, we would not have to be judged (1 Corinthians 11:31).

*Brian Knowles is a writer and commercial artist and is a regular contributor to the ACD Website at <http://www.godward.org/>.*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Send your comments about **The Sabbath Sentinel** to [tss\\_editor@biblesabbath.org](mailto:tss_editor@biblesabbath.org), or write to Kenneth Ryland, editor  
1204 N. First  
Mulvane, KS 67110, USA



I loved the "Issue 500." We are going places with the Sabbath Sentinel now. Wonderful articles. June Narber is a dear. She writes to the heart as well as the head. All articles were excellent.

Leroy Bass  
Florida

Please discontinue sending the Sabbath Sentinel to me. I no longer believe that an all loving God would demand people to observe strict rules and throw them in an ever burning hell if they didn't obey them all. Ancient writings are not more holy than modern books. God speaks today too. Check the holy scriptures the people in the middle east learn. They are to kill us if we don't believe as they do. About as bad as some things in the Bible... if your son does not obey you take him to the elders and everyone shall stone him to death! Lots of other things in the Bible don't make sense. Avoiding what doesn't fit and taking by faith the mysteri-

ous, is just like other religions. They too have holy scriptures and hard to believe stories. So I have found a God of Love. I am reading Conversations With God and am enjoying life like I was meant to. Thanks for your help in the past on my spiritual journey. But don't send any more of your literature, I just throw it away.

Betty Miller  
Arkansas

I have been receiving the Sabbath Sentinel for several months. I have found it to contain many interesting, informative, and well-written articles.

Thank you many times for what you are doing. May our Heavenly Father bless each one of you there in a mighty, marvelous, and magnificent manner.

Percy John Dralle  
Davis, CA

Thank you for including "Spiritual Outages," an article I wrote "way back when." It came

at an opportune time. My wife, Darlene, and I were in need of encouragement... I retired in 1985. How I miss my work, both as copy editor at Review and Herald Publishing Association and work on the Sabbath Sentinel...

Keep up the good work. Maranatha!

Eugene Lincoln (former editor of *The Sabbath Sentinel*)

**The following is a poem by Eugene Lincoln.**

**A Prayer for My Tongue**

*Lord, grant this one request, I pray:*

*Guide Thou my tongue!*

*The words I say*

*Can never be called back again;*

*Should they cause anger, sorrow, pain,*

*Then in an ever wid'ning sphere*

*They spread their havoc far and*

*near.*

*So guide my tongue in ev'ry word,*

*That it may bless where it is heard.*

## Why Do Insects Have Six Legs?

The book *Microcosmos* by Claude Nuridsany and Marie Perennon tells us: "Insects use their six legs, which may appear to be a uselessly complicated technique... It stands on a tripod formed by the first and third leg on the one side and the middle leg on the other, while the three legs move forward, legs on the alternate side are then moved. The advantages of an alternating tripod movement so impressed engineers that they based designs for crawling machines on insect locomotion. These designs may one day be used to propel remote-control reconnaissance units for the exploration of other planets."

## Who Invented the Wheel?

The book *Microcosmos* asks us, "yet what about the wheel?... Now here's an invention designed uniquely by man. Yet, if we observe a common dung beetle at work, another surprise lies in store for us. Starting with an unshaped clump of cow or sheep dung, it uses its head as a shovel to flatten the chunk, then its legs to form a virtually perfect sphere. It then rolls its creation along... The dung beetle did not invent the wheel, but certainly came close to it; we will grant it the invention of the ball." —C. Frazier Spencer's "Creation Corner," excerpted from "Shelter in the Word" newsletter (Nov.-Dec. 2002).

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If you received a bad copy of Part 3 of The Seventh Day video please call toll free 888-687-5191. The company has informed us that some of the copies had a poor duplication quality and they would like everyone to have a quality copy. Shirley Nickels, office manager.



## **The Sabbath Under Crossfire**

by  
**Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi**

A biblical analysis of Recent Sabbath/Sunday developments; \$15.00. The common anti-Sabbath arguments of Joseph Tkach, Dale Ratzlaff, and others are thoroughly answered.

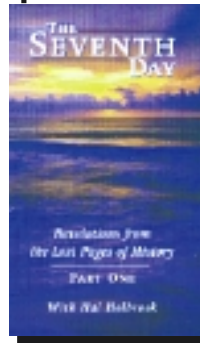
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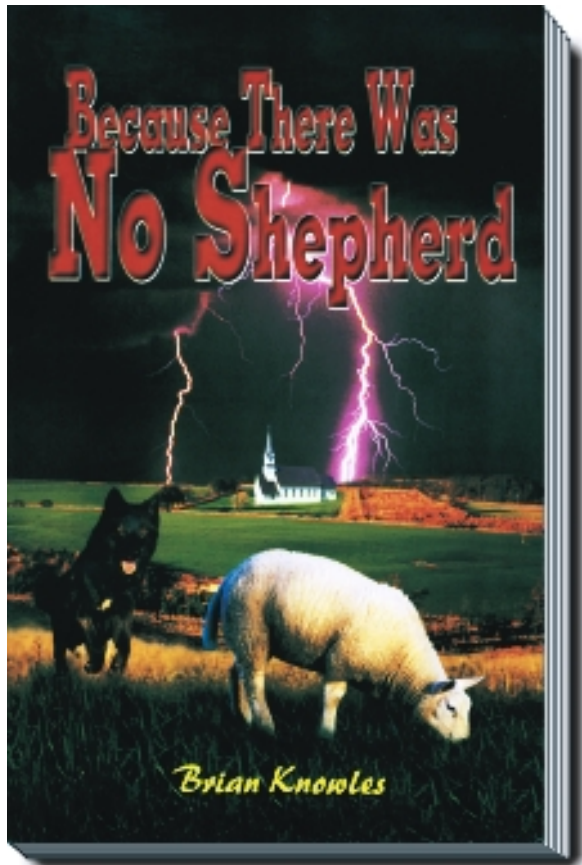
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## ***The Sabbath Sentinel***

***A Bi-monthly Publication of***

***The Bible Sabbath Association***

***HC 60 Box 8, Fairview, OK 73737 USA***

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ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
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