

AUGUST 2024

THE
LANTERN



II Peter 1:19

OF THE SCATTERED FAITHFUL

“So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You're doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts.”

(II Peter 1:19 - GW)

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OF THE SCATTERED FAITHFUL



II Peter 1:19

AUGUST 2024

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The Crown of a King
(See page 7)

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Personal from the editor



FALL HOLY DAYS

On October 3rd of this year, we will be observing God's Feast of Trumpets. Following The Feast of Trumpets will be The Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and Last Great Day. Each of God's festivals and Holy Days show a progression of vital steps in HIS MASTER PLAN of salvation.

To many people in this world, God's Holy Days seem a bit strange. Nearly thirty-five years ago, I had an employee working for me who was quite perplexed about my observance of these festivals. She expressed her belief that observing these days was only a Jewish custom kept by orthodox Jews. However, in God's WORD we see that these Holy Days are called the "**ETERNALS**" feast Days, not "Jewish" feast days, and they have real MEANING and PURPOSE!

"These are the **Feasts of the ETERNAL**, even Holy convocations [assemblies], which ye shall proclaim in their seasons" ... "These are the **Feasts of the ETERNAL**, which ye shall proclaim to be Holy convocations [assemblies]..." (Leviticus 23:4, 37 - KJV). In the original Worldwide Church of God Bible Correspondence Course – (Lesson 41), we can view some of the scriptures that reveal how God feels about His Holy Days, and what they picture. The section below is specifically written about the Feast of Trumpets...

"To Rule With Christ

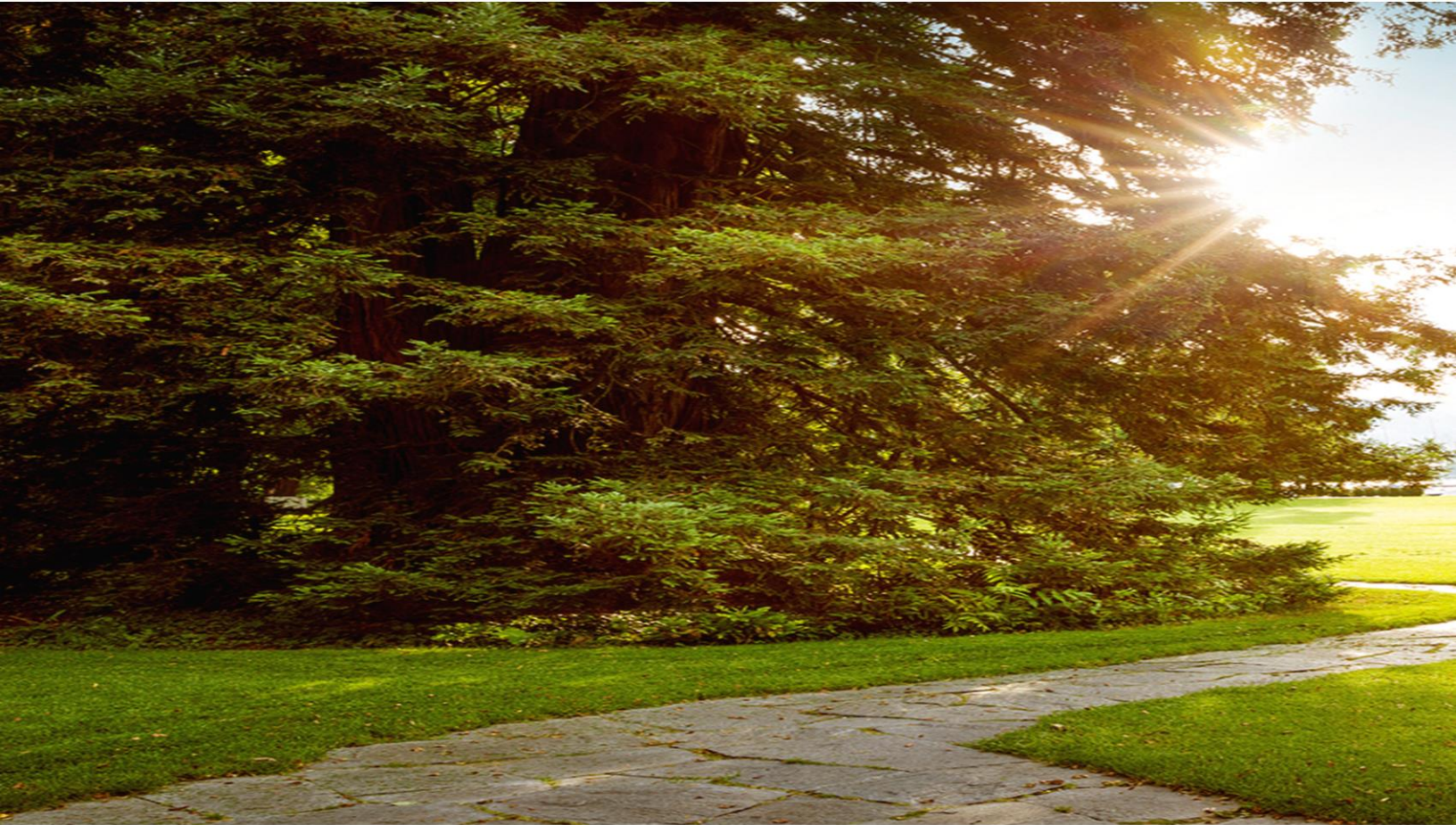
The Feast of Trumpets points to the next event in God's Great Plan. It pictures the now-imminent return of Jesus Christ to save this sick and dying world from annihilation.

At His return, the dead in Christ -- those who had been begotten and led by God's Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11-14) -- will be resurrected and made IMMORTAL -- including the prophets of old (Luke 13:28). Those Spirit-begotten Sons who are alive when Christ returns shall be instantaneously *changed* from mortality to immortality (I Cor. 15:50-54); and, together with those resurrected, shall rise to meet the descending, glorified Christ in the air (I Thess. 4:17).

These newly born-again, immortal Sons of God shall then descend *with Christ* out of the clouds to stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4-5), and to begin RULING the nations WITH CHRIST! (Dan. 7:22; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21)."

The **Day of Atonement** pictures the binding of Satan the Devil, a time when the world can finally learn to be **AT ONE** with God, no longer influenced by Satan the Devil (**Revelation 20:1-3**). The **Feast of Tabernacles** pictures the Millennial rest of peace and prosperity on this earth under Christ's rulership. God's Spirit will be poured out on ALL of mankind (**Zechariah 14:8-9, 16; Joel 2:28**). The final annual Holy Day (**The Last Great Day**) pictures a time when the dead (those who never understood God's TRUTH), will be resurrected and given their first opportunity to understand the plan of God, being offered salvation (**Ezekiel 37**). It's a time of "The Great White Throne" judgement" (**Revelation 20:11-12**). All of us should be reviewing and studying the various scriptures concerning the upcoming fall Holy Days. After all, it won't be long now, and we'll be teaching the entire world these very TRUTHS of God.

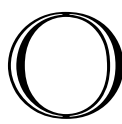
Gary R. Liebold



Essentials For Rulership in the World Tomorrow

Charles, as the Prince of Wales, submitted to a difficult program designed by his father to prepare him for the British throne. The knowledge of his future office stiffened his resolve and helped him to endure the constant glare of publicity, the antagonism to royalty from certain outspoken opponents, and the daily pressure of being a target for some crackpot.

Gary Liebold

 ur Father in heaven, Head of the Royal Family of this universe (**Ephesians 3:15**), is calling His

children to a far more important prize than Britain's famous throne. Our training program, then, must be even more vital than was Prince



Charles'. The Bible outlines several areas God wants to develop in His children.

ESSENTIALS FOR RULERSHIP



I. Among the indispensable qualities for ruling along with Christ in His Kingdom is strong, dependable **CHARACTER**.

Revelation 17:14 shows that those who rule with Christ will be "**...called, chosen, and faithful.**"

Trustworthiness nets a handsome dividend even in this physical life. Every day, unglamorous tasks that must be performed if our home, company or schoolwork is to succeed, sometimes seem small, but are nevertheless real tests of character (**Luke 16:10**). We can always take the pressure off ourselves and "cop-out" from tackling the "must do" jobs, but our character will have been weakened as a result. Our character is what we are. Uplifting activities like daily

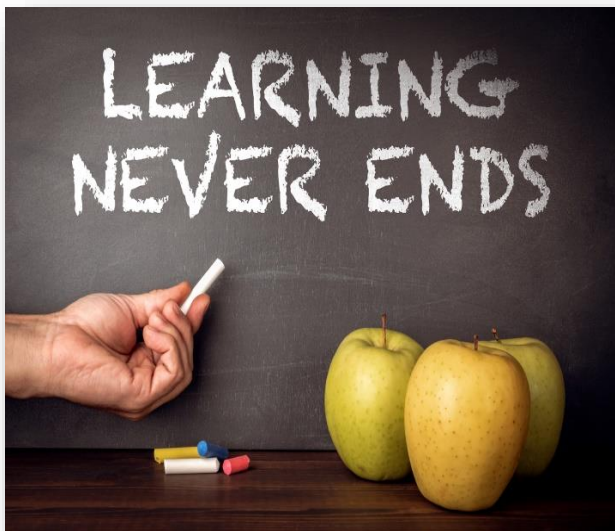
prayer, Bible study, church attendance, tithing, and being hospitable to others begin to add up to an unmistakable pattern over a lifetime. For instance, on the job with fellow workers and employers, our character is showing. Paul admonished the Ephesians, "**Servants, be obedient to them that are your master according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ**" (Ephesians 6:5). In the employment



market, good, solid, dependable men and women are always in demand. With God's loving help and our own earnest efforts, our sturdiness and resolve can be supernaturally strengthened (**Isaiah 40:31**). Yielding to God's Spirit overrules our human tendency to procrastinate and bolsters our lack of determination in the face of frustrating obstacles (**Philippians 4:13**). As we earn "**our daily bread,**" then, we are learning valuable lessons of character that will last through all time.



II. Future kings also need to develop their minds, and God is more concerned that His Children grow in **WISDOM**, the most important mental attribute (**Proverbs 4:7**), than I.Q. or scholastic ability. Solomon, the wisest king who ever lived, began his renowned career by lamenting his lack of wisdom in the clearest terms, "...**I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in**" (**I Kings 3:7**). This sincere admission helped convince His Creator that Solomon was deserving to receive the insight only God can give (**Proverbs 2:6**). Solomon's encounter with the two harlots (**I Kings 3:16-28**) is an example of dynamic wisdom in action -



- the divine insight needed to untangle many complicated situations, whether in the board room or in the living room.

Wisdom involves having the understanding to know what to say and, perhaps more importantly, when to say it (**Ecclesiastes 3:7**). Through His Word, God answers the big questions in life. Which of us hasn't lamented our lack of wisdom from time to time, or regretted the fact that we "**dropped the ball**" in certain of life's decisions, some of which we may be suffering for right now? But we should take heart if we feel this way. Admitting our lack of insight is one of the first steps in receiving true wisdom. The entire book of Proverbs is written to the "simple," the person who "**wanteth understanding**" (**Proverbs 9:4 - KJV**).



III. Good rulers need sincere **WARMTH OF PERSONALITY**. Reportedly, Abraham Lincoln refused to hire a man once because of the look on his face. Mr. Lincoln's associates protested that a man couldn't help the way he looked. But Mr. Lincoln, the wise president he was, stuck to his guns and was proven right. **Proverbs 15:13** reads as, "**A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance...**" Stop and think: The people who influence us the most possess an extra measure of enthusiasm

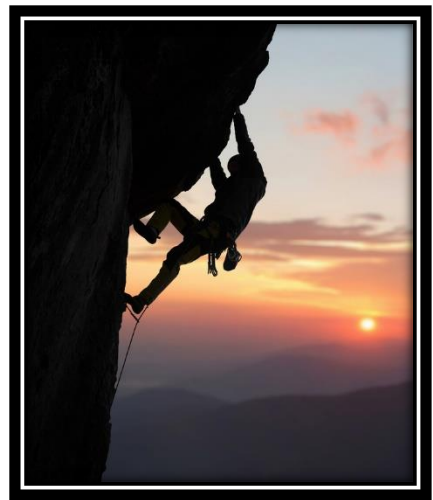
and positivity. **OPTIMISM** animates the personalities of most true leaders. A sincere, engaging personality is a powerful force all by itself. "**Infectious optimism**" was one of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's attributes of leadership. As Andrew Jackson said, "**One man with courage makes a majority,**" and the same for enthusiasm. Christ, our soon-coming King of kings, stirred the multitudes with the strength of His personality (**Mark 12 :37**) and spread His fame abroad (**Mark 5:20**). Christ's strong, outgoing personality truly made Him "**The Master.**"



IV. Future rulers in God's government must have **DRIVE**. Herbert W. Armstrong lists this as the fourth important law of

success. Many of God's greatest servants were in superb physical condition (**Deuteronomy 34:7; I Kings 18:46**). Many people have good character, sharp minds and sparkling personality. But some lack the staying power that gives outstanding leaders their winning edge. Truly, the whole creation, past and present, "**...waits for the revealing of the sons of God**" (**Romans 8:19**). We dare not drift with the rest of this purposeless, confused world. We have a rendezvous with destiny.

Konrad Adenauer, the beloved leader of postwar Germany, performed his greatest service to his fatherland between the ages of



73 and 87 when, as chancellor, he led West Germany back to a respected place in world affairs. If he had retired at 65, probably no one would have heard much about him. Jesus Christ's drive and determination awed His disciples many times, but never more so than in the last few days before His death. He "**...steadfastly set His face...**" to brave certain death in the Pharisees' stronghold of Jerusalem (**Luke 9:51**). His quiet, will and unwavering purpose even strengthened the fearful disciples (**John 11:16**). Certainly, the kings

who qualify to rule with Christ will possess a good measure of that "bulldog" tenacity that characterizes great leaders.



V. This area of development -- **LEADERSHIP** -- teaches us tact, patience and genuine mercy, which will stand us in good stead

in working with people for all eternity. Our families provide us with wonderful leadership opportunities. Do our families have positive interaction? If not, we could be stifling our development as future kings. God holds husbands responsible to cherish their wives and love them as Christ loved the Church



need to stir up (II Timothy 1:6-8). The word for "power" in II Timothy 1:8 is from the Greek word "dunamis," which means "strength," "might," or "power." This dynamic force can help us make tremendous progress in our personal lives if we continue to replenish it. "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (II Corinthians 4:16). We are to be increasing and expanding the "earnest," or small amount of the

(Deuteronomy 24:5; Ephesians 5:25). Wives are to submit themselves to their husbands and live up to the example of the virtuous woman (Ephesians 5:22; Proverbs 31:10-31). Children learn their first approach to authority figures in the home "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1).

Spirit we have now. "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who [that] is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:13-14). This is the assurance that we will be completely made dynamic SPiRiT substance at His return.

The attitude of being teachable, learned in a God-fearing, loving and disciplined family relationship gives children a head-start in the learning environment, where they can better learn from their educators instead of becoming discipline problems. In this way children start out as early as possible on the road to success in life (Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 20:11).

Paul emphasizes the relationship between family life and leadership in describing a minister's office, "...if a man know not how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?" (I Timothy 3:5).



VI. Christians must use God's Spirit wisely. Through the laying on of hands, God has given us the SPiRiT of power, which we constantly

(Continued on page 23)



THE CROWN OF A KING

*Our inheritance is to become Spirit and rule on this earth with Jesus Christ. If we have repented, been baptized, and received God's Holy Spirit, we are destined to become **KINGS** and **PRIESTS** in the Kingdom of God! "Finally, there is laid up for me a **CROWN** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (II Timothy 4:8).*

Gary Liebold

Soon, at the coming of Jesus Christ and the beginning of the World Tomorrow, true Christians will become **SPiRiT** and made **KINGS** and **PRIESTS**! "...and [Christ] hath made us kings and priests to His God and Father..." (Revelation 1:6). When we repented,

were baptized, and a minister of God laid his hands on us, we received God's gift of His Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**). We were begotten as an actual member of God's Family. At that time, the angels in heaven rejoiced (**Luke 15: 10**), just as many in the English-speaking world rejoiced

when Prince Charles became the King of the throne of Britain. Now we are BEGOTTEN as members of God’s Family. We began a training program that will culminate in our becoming joint rulers with Christ (**Romans 8: 16-17**). Our calling is much higher than that of King Charles. We will be inheriting the very throne of the universe -- a high destiny indeed. We need to strive to be worthy heirs apparent to the throne of Jesus Christ, at Jerusalem, ruling the earth (**Revelation 3:21**). We must diligently respond to the calling God is giving us, and work to develop the attributes of a king by yielding to the will of God (**Matthew 18:3; James 1:22-25**).



THE SYMBOLIC CORONATION OF KINGSHIP

When Europe became “Christianized” in the Middle Ages, some customs we see in a coronation ceremony today were grafted onto a religious service derived from the Old Testament. Descriptions of the anointing and crowning of Saul and other Israelite kings can be found throughout the Old Testament

(**I Samuel 10–11; II Samuel 12:29-30; I Kings 1: 32-40; 2:12**). One of the most famous coronation services in modern times is the coronation of the British monarch.

Oxford Professor George Garnett, in his online article entitled, “*The Coronation Is Based on 3,000-year-old Biblical Tradition*,” said, “**The coronation which developed in Europe [after the Christianisation of the Roman Empire] was clearly based on the Old Testament, and the prophet Samuel’s successive anointings of Saul and David as kings.**” Continuing in the article, we read, “**The Old Testament-based coronations introduced anointing with oil -- which later was reflected in Christian sacraments. The model was post-baptismal anointing, considered by the church fathers to make the new Christian a soldier to fight in Christ’s cause in the world, or alternatively, an athlete of Christ. It was this anointing that came to confer kingship... Through the anointing, which was at the ceremony’s core, the king was given strength to defend the church, consisting of God’s people.**” Professor Garnett points out in his article that after the anointing, the king would receive and wear a crown as a symbol of rulership.

Although King Charles of Great Britain was appointed to the office of king upon the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth, in 2022, the official ceremony coronating him as king did not take place until months later, May 6, 2023. As in all coronation ceremonies throughout the centuries, the sovereign, or king, after a long and momentous ceremony, was inaugurated into office by receiving upon his head a CROWN, which is the chief symbol of regal authority.

ATTRIBUTES OF CROWNS

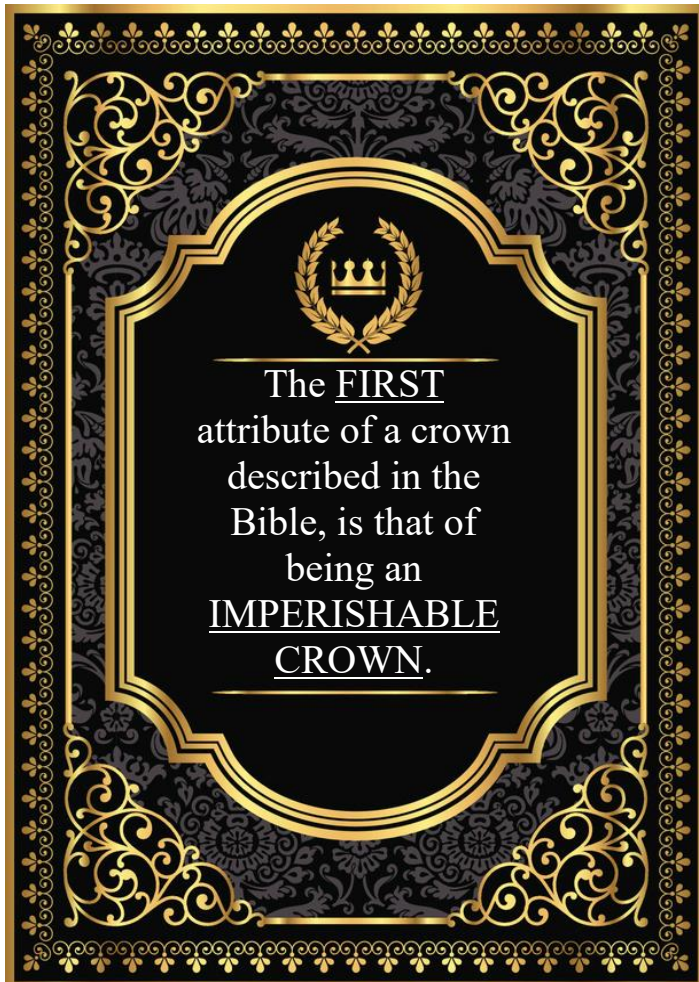
In the Bible, there are five main qualities, or attributes, of the CROWNS God’s Spirit-born rulers will wear in the soon coming Kingdom of God. As our inheritance is to become Spirit, to

rule on this earth, and to have eternal life, we will rejoice in having a glorious crown of righteousness along with our rulership. As we know, the Bible is full of duality in meaning, and the same is true with the meaning of the crowns we will be blessed with in the World Tomorrow. When reading this article, be sure to remember and think of both the physical, as well as spiritual, meanings to the attributes of crowns listed below.



The **FIRST** attribute of a crown described in the Bible is that of being an **IMPERISHABLE CROWN**.

In the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the definition of imperishable is, “cannot perish; indestructible; not subject to decay; immortal; enduring.”



I Corinthians 9:24-25 shows us, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable CROWN.” If we are diligent in overcoming now, we will receive that permanent, eternal, imperishable crown.



Next, **I Thessalonians 2:19** describes another Biblical attribute of a crown -- the act of

REJOICING! “For what is our hope, or joy, or CROWN of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” Brethren, the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to establish the Kingdom of God and His rulership will be a time of great rejoicing, as will the coronation of rulers -- kings -- in that Kingdom. Millions of people tuned in to their television sets to watch the coronation of King Charles in 2023, and there was a period of several days of excitement and rejoicing by the peoples of the United Kingdom at that time. Just think of the rejoicing that will be experienced over the whole world when we (if we overcome and qualify), will be coronated and receive our crowns in the World Tomorrow! **Crowns of rejoicing!**



Another very important quality, or attribute, of a crown is that of wearing the spiritual **CROWN OF**

RIGHTEOUSNESS. God speaks widely throughout the Bible of righteousness -- it is an important quality of His character, and He desires the same for us. Many dictionaries define *righteousness* as “Behavior that is morally justifiable or right. Behavior characterized by accepted standards of virtue, morality, justice, or uprightness.” The Bible’s standard of righteousness is God’s own perfection in every attitude, behavior, and word. Thus, God’s laws, as given in the Bible,

describe His own character and constitute the goal we must set in how we live our own lives today. We do not have the ability to achieve righteousness in and of ourselves, but we can develop the righteousness of Christ, because **“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”** (II Corinthians 5:21).



We are working even now to develop godly character within us, to be united forever with God in His FAMILY! **“But to the Son He says: *“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions”***” (Hebrews 1:8-9). What encouraging words! II Timothy 4:8

describes what we will experience at our coronation when Jesus Christ returns. **“Finally, there is laid up for me the CROWN of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”**



The **FOURTH** attribute of a crown is that it is a **CROWN OF GLORY AND HONOR**. **“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have CROWNED him with glory and honor”** (Psalm 8:3-5).

A further description of the return of Jesus Christ can be found in **Revelation 19:5-7**, **“Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great! And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory...””**

Note that the important description of Christ’s return and ascension upon the throne of rulership over all the earth when He returns includes that of the glory involved in these actions. Glory is defined in terms of honor, praise, dignity, and worship. This also applies to how He (and those who rule with him) are crowned. I Peter 5:4 reads, **“...when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the CROWN of glory that does not fade away.”**



Finally, the **FIFTH** crown can be found to be described as the **CROWN OF LIFE**. Speaking to the

Church at Smyrna, Jesus said, **“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the CROWN of life” (Revelation 2:10).** Church history abounds with the stories of believers remaining faithful in cases of severe persecution and trial, and the Bible promises them a special reward.

The **CROWN OF LIFE** -- a gift from God that will be awarded to those who, because of their love for Him, persevere in their faith while enduring trials and tests on earth. **“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the CROWN of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him” (James 1:12).**

PREPARE NOW TO BE CROWNED AS RULERS

Christians are now preparing, with Christ’s leadership, to exercise power over the nations and judge the world upon His return **(Revelation 2:26-27; 20:4; I Corinthians 6:2)**. What a wonderful set of promises! Truly converted Christians are destined to be given rulership with Christ upon His return from heaven. Thus, Peter writes that members of the TRUE Church are part of a **“...chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” (1 Peter 2:9)**. Our Father in heaven, Head of the Royal Family of this universe **(Ephesians 3:15)**, is calling His children to a far more important prize than Britain's fabled throne.

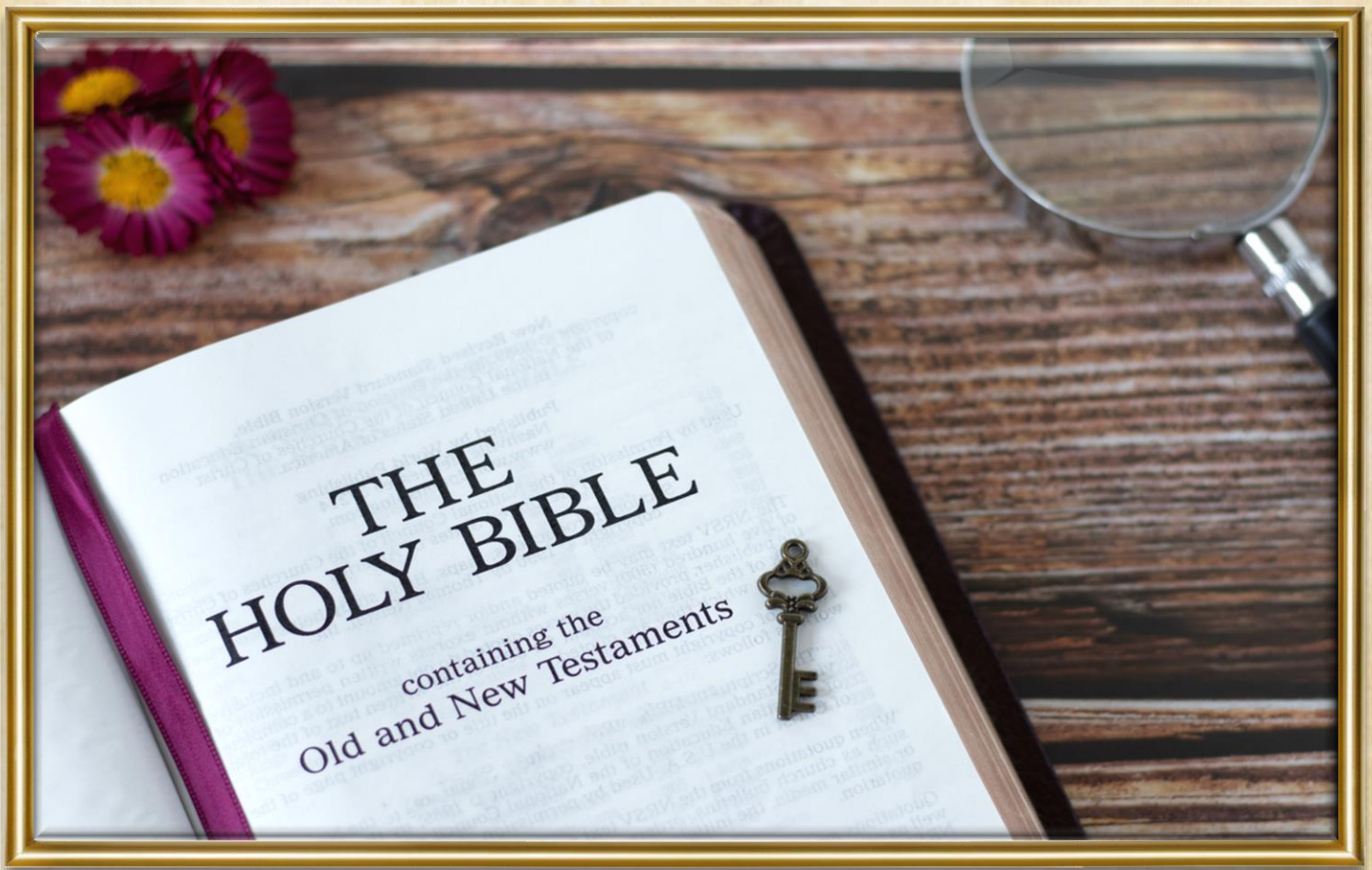
Our preparation now for our future is more essential than King Charles’ was. Truly, the whole creation, past and present, **“...eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.” (Romans 8:19)**. We dare not drift with the rest of this purposeless, misdirected world. We have

a rendezvous with destiny. We were born to be kings, kings who will be servants of the people they rule **(Ephesians 1:4-5; Matthew 20:25-27)**.



Think about this incredible potential that we have in our future. Truly, a joyous time of rulership awaits all of us for all eternity. During the days of the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles, we will be hearing more about the wonderful WORLD TOMORROW. But merely knowing about these things is not enough. We must diligently respond to the calling God has given us. We must work to develop the qualities of a king in the future, by yielding to the will of God now **(Matthew 7:21; 18:3; James 1:22-25)**. As a ruler of the future, we must look beyond the difficulties now facing us, to our ultimate reward **(Romans 8:18)**. That is what Jesus Christ did **(Hebrews 12:2-3; I Peter 2:21)**. Allow this hope to burn brightly in you, for God's plan extends even beyond what this article has covered.

(Continued on page 23)



The Two Testaments

The Bible, perhaps the most distributed book in history, is also one of the biggest ... and by biggest, it's not just the physical size or number of pages in the book, but the actual CONTENT of the Bible.

Geary Whiting

Available in various translations such as the King James, New King James, Moffatt, and others, the Bible maintains a wealth of wisdom to those who search it daily. **"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me" (John 5:39).** This includes both two main sections the Bible is divided into -- the Old Testament and the New Testament.

But what about those who claim that the Old Testament has been **"done away,"** championing only the New Testament as relevant to Christian life anymore. Is this true? Absolutely not! We will explain why not, as well as expound on how both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are not only relevant to us, but crucial for our spiritual development as well as being a vast source of information for us to utilize in our physical lives.

WHY WE NEED THE OLD TESTAMENT

Why would people throw away any part of a book -- especially the beginning -- and expect to have full understanding of that book? Does that make any sense? This is no different than Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's example of having someone heading into a movie theater in the last 10 minutes of a movie and coming out with a full understanding of what that movie was about!

The New Testament was built upon from the Old Testament. There are 263 direct quotations in the New Testament taken from the Old Testament. You simply cannot understand the New Testament instruction concerning God's expectations of man without the fundamental knowledge and wisdom found in the Old Testament scriptures. As the apostle Paul declared, **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (II Timothy 3: 16)**. Note that Paul declared ALL scripture was given by inspiration - - so that would include ALL the scriptures in BOTH Testaments of the Bible.

Just because important information to help guide our lives and studies as Christians today are only stated in the OLD Testament, and not the NEW, should we do away with them? Of course not! We've probably heard the popular question: **"What would Jesus do?"** We can know the answer because we know exactly what He expects of us if we know what the Old Testament conveys. So, like a simple equation: you cannot have one part of the Bible, either the Old or New Testament, without the other. It is extremely important to put the whole Bible together!

WHAT ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT?

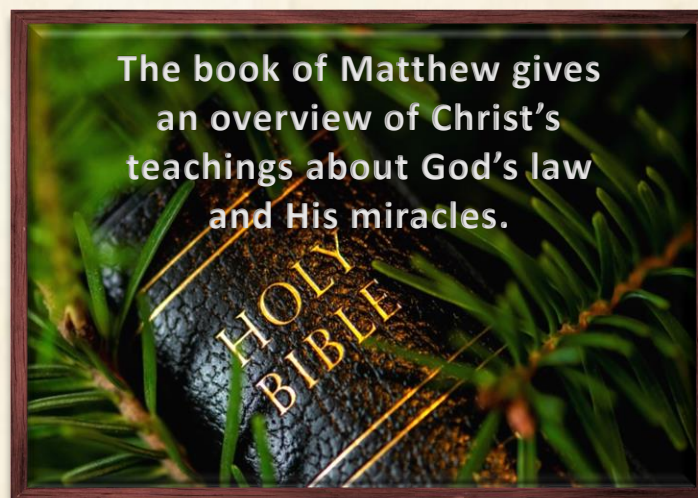
Recently, I was thinking that sometimes we get in a mood or moods where we need to be encouraged, or we need to know more about the teachings of Christ. Where do we go? Well, I thought about it, and I want to make it easy, and give a New Testament overview. I found that it's nice to know this when I'm feeling down and need encouragement!

Let's start with the book of **Matthew**. Matthew is an overview of Christ's life teachings about the law and His miracles. Through the account of His miracles, we see Christ's emphasis on his teaching of the law and His divinity. Then the book of **Mark** continues the relay of information about Christ by detailing Christ's life in action, concentrating more on events than on teachings. We will view more here on Christ's life through events and actions. The breakdowns of each of these books help us to flush out more about Christ's life and teachings, detail by detail.

Then, in **Luke**, we can read of the most detailed account of Jesus Christ's life, in which we see an

emphasis on how a person should live. The book of Luke presents a role model on how we should live. And following Luke, we see in the book of **John** that more of Christ's thoughts and discussions with His disciples are presented for our study. As with His disciples at the time of

His life here on earth, so, too, are we His disciples now. We are disciples in training, and that makes the lessons of the book of John just that much more important to us today.



In the book of **Acts**, we see the basic history and development of God's Church, as well as the problems of that Church, which leads us into the book of **Romans**. Romans covers the principles of law, grace, and brotherly love within the Church; important principles that are as valuable to us today as they were back in Christ's day. This theme is continued into the two books of **Corinthians**, which, in the earlier chapters, presents more details about Christian conduct and problems within the Church. Then, in the later chapters of Corinthians, doctrines are discussed. The actual, physical location of Corinth in New Testament times was known to be sort of like the "armpit of the world," and had a lot of problems with conflicts involving the Gentiles, so thus did the Corinthian Church. The epistles to the Corinthians addressed these problems.

Galatians then focuses on loving our fellow man through the relationship of law, grace and justification. Not law alone, but a coordination, or relationship between the principles of law and the principles of love toward fellow mankind. Continuing into the book of **Ephesians**, we see that strength through these relationships leads to strength with Christ. These two books, Galatians and Ephesians, give us examples of how we should live -- what we're doing with our lives and how we're doing it -- if we have a good relationship with Christ. We can use these books to mark where we are at this spiritual junction of life and if we have a positive mind.

There are so many negative events surrounding us in this life, so much in the news that is alarming, that the book of **Philippians** can be a

haven of encouragement for us. This book, combined with the books of **Colossians** and the two books of **Thessalonians**, teaches us to be strong and faithful and to have a positive mind.

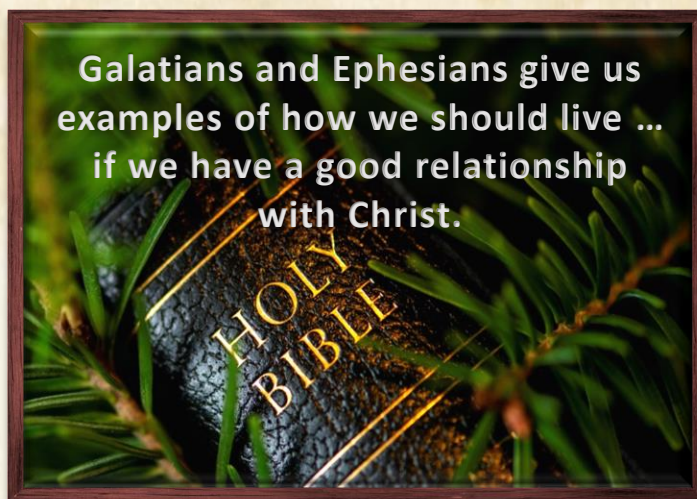
To avoid giving up during our trials and keep our mind on the return of Christ. Each of these books are powerful ones to study when we need encouragement and guidance if feeling down or discouraged.

Timothy I and II give an overview of the works of the Church and the minister's

responsibilities to the Church as described by Timothy. We, as lay members, look to the ministry for spiritual guidance as well as being our role models. This is very important because, again, we are all in training for our future at the return of Jesus Christ. Think of this -- even if we are not ministers, we are to present ourselves as if we were ministers, since they should give us an example of how we should be. These are the two books of Timothy -- very important books that detail the works and ministry of the Church. **Titus**, too, is similar in its message, and it is always good to study the three together.

The book of **Philemon** covers a couple of interesting subjects, including tests of Christians and the importance of outgoing concern for others. These are fundamental aspects of Christian lives and relationships that we should all be aware of and well-versed in.

Hebrews is an extremely important book for all of us, as it covers a vast variety of informative and historical subjects. Hebrews explains how Christ functions as our High Priest, and explains the observances of the law, both in the Old and New Testaments. This book contains chapters



that cannot be understood without the existence, history, and knowledge of the Old Testament. Together with these two Testaments, we have a more complete understanding of God's laws, how they function, and how Christ is our High Priest. There are both examples of, as well as encouragement on, how to remain faithful to God.

Following Hebrews is the book of **James**, which is an interesting book in and of itself -- dealing with the basics of Christian life, including healing. This book is an excellent starting point for study purposes, especially those who are new to the faith, as well as being good to review. Combined with the two books of **Peter**, we have a powerful overview of holding fast and maintaining zeal for God and His truth.

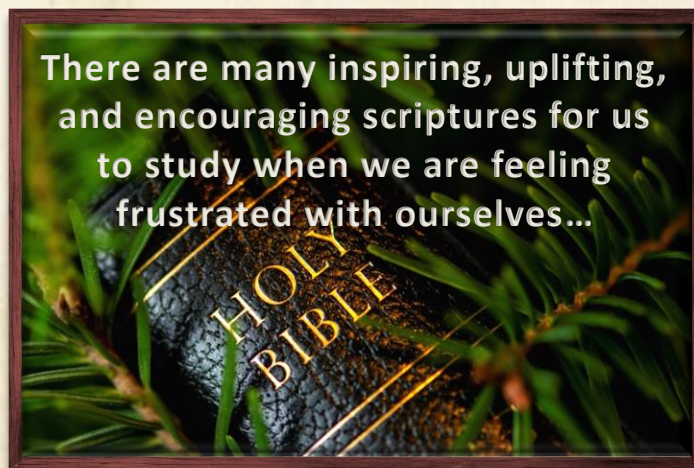
The final books of the New Testament cover critical and sobering subjects, such as battles against false teachers, love, endurance, persecution against the Church, and revelation. **I, II, and III John** depict the battles we, as Christians, face against false teachers and teachings. **Jude** details persecution, ending with the book of **Revelation**, full of future, prophetic events culminating in the most important event we can imagine, the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to establish the Kingdom of God! There are many inspiring, uplifting, and encouraging scriptures for us to study when we are frustrated with ourselves or the world and society around us.

We must examine the New Testament and ask ourselves: What was the origin of the scriptures Christ read in the synagogue every Sabbath?

Where did the scriptures that His disciples used to preach God's truth after Christ's death and resurrection come from? What scripture did the apostle Peter have in mind when he wrote in **II Peter 1:20-21**, "**...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit**"? The answer is obvious. Only the Old Testament constituted the scriptures Jesus Christ and the apostles taught from. Christ said that the scripture cannot be broken (**John 10:35**). At the time He spoke, none of the New Testament writings were yet available, or even documented thoroughly.

WE NEED THE TWO TESTAMENTS!

We can see the need for both Testaments of the Bible, as well as having the understanding and edification for our Christian journey. The Bible and its laws, its promises, its prophecies, its explanation of what life is all about -- they all work together throughout the entirety of the Bible as a comprehensive unit -- consistently and without fail -- time and time again.



The Old Testament helps us to understand the New. And, again, there are times when we all feel like we need help or encouragement, but sometimes we aren't sure where to go for the help we need. So hopefully, this

overview of the New Testament will be a help. I know it is to me. And it is so important to understand that the Bible is a whole unit, even though it consists of two main segments - the OLD TESTAMENT and the NEW TESTAMENT. You simply can't have one without the other! ♦

Below, is a comparison of the information contained within each of the Biblical testaments. The whole picture shows why we need BOTH testaments.

WHAT THE OLD TESTAMENT DOES

- The Old Testament describes creation.
- One third of the Bible is prophecy -- most of which is in the Old Testament.
- The Old Testament defines Israel.
- Identifies and tells who the prophets were.
- Hebrews 9 & 10 are explained in the Old Testament.
- Holy Days teach God's plan of salvation for mankind that are detailed in the Old Testament.
- The Old Testament shows the need for the Sabbath.
- The need for salvation is shown in the Old Testament.
- The Old Testament gives us sanitation, hygiene, safety, ethical, and humanitarian laws.
- All of God's laws are contained in the Old Testament.

WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES NOT

- The New Testament does not.
- Very little prophecy is found in the New Testament.
- The New Testament does not.
- No information about God's prophets was listed in the New Testament, other than the fact that the Church was built on the law and the prophets.
- We cannot understand Hebrews in the New Testament without the Old Testament.
- Christ's apostles kept the Holy Days. They didn't question them. If we don't understand the meaning of the Holy Days from the Old Testament, they are just days without meaning.
- The New Testament magnifies the Sabbath for our enjoyment, which begs the question -- are we truly enjoying the Sabbath or are we just going through the motions.
- The New Testament shows how we can obtain it.
- Although the New Testament does not state these same laws, we can see that people lived, as we live, by these laws. They are very important to a society's success and strength.
- The New Testament restates those laws and expands them.



In this strenuous world and society, we, as individuals, seem to be busier than ever before. Demands such as our jobs, maintaining our homes, family activities, and many other distractions, seem to consume large amounts of our time.



Gary Liebold

How often have we run through a quick prayer before dashing out the door, or realize at the end of the day we haven't communicated with our Creator as yet? We may try to rectify it by running through a short prayer before falling into bed at night. However, is this what God wants from us as His chosen people -- someone who is called, chosen and faithful in His eyes? NO!

It's not the actual length of a prayer that is the problem -- it's the lack of planning, the wrong prioritization, and the skimpiness of the content that shows too much of a casual attitude toward God, our Father and Creator. Real Christians who understand the plan of God and want to be a part of the Kingdom of God cannot permit themselves the luxury of rushing through or walking away from praying quickly just because we don't feel like it or are short on time. We are in much the same position as a professional writer, working with specific time restraints.

Our prayers are needed, and by a specific time -- within each day.

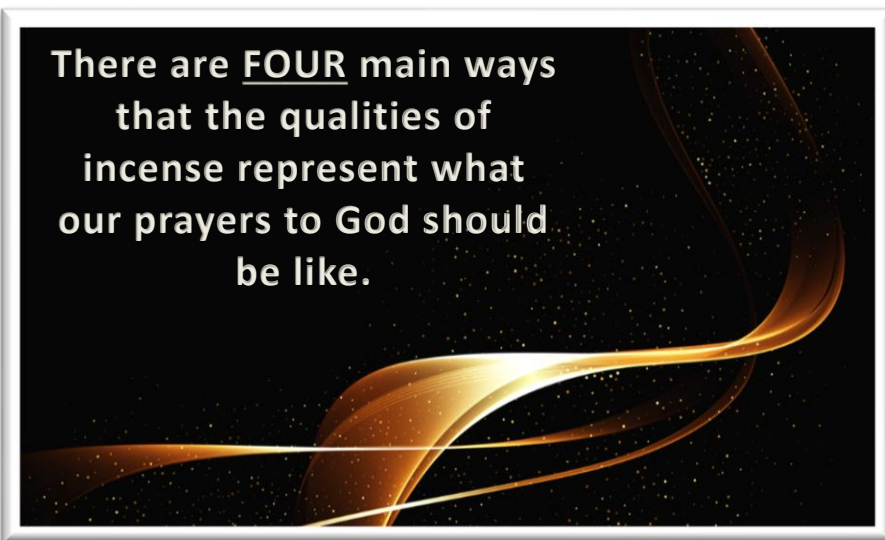
When a professional author or writer is working, they are being counted on to produce a manuscript or article on a deadline. One of the strongest incentives for a professional writer to overcome writer's block is the feeling of responsibility that he or she has toward their editors and readers. If a writer expects to be taken seriously, they must treat the responsibility of writing seriously. **"I didn't feel like writing,"** is no excuse for not having material ready on time.

It is the same with praying. Prayer is not just a religious ritual. Praying to God is a critical aspect in our lives and truly will make a difference for us. If we shirk our responsibility, that difference will not be made. If we are casual about our effort, why shouldn't God also treat it casually? After all, one cannot expect a \$10,000.00 answer to a 10-cent prayer! But, if

God sees that we take our contact with Him seriously, treating it as a responsibility that counts, He will listen to our prayers and answer them! **"...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).** Contact with God takes time, thought, planning ... AND DETAIL. Detail, like the adjectives in the written word, is crucial to answered prayer. God wants to hear the details in our lives, and He wants to see us add them to our prayers.

GOD WANTS OUR PRAYERS TO BE LIKE INCENSE

Prayer is one of the main, effective tools for spiritual growth in the Christian's arsenal. We know from years of experience in the Church that strong, effective prayers avail much. Jesus Christ kept in close personal contact with His Father in heaven and so, consequently, Jesus' life was filled with love, faith and power from God. His frequent and fervent prayers made possible His victory over sin and death. We should, as Christ did, pray daily and earnestly to God, keeping in close, personal communication with Him. **"Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17).**



So, we know that we should pray each day, and we know basically how we should pray, but do we understand just what God would like to hear

from us in our prayers -- how we can improve our prayers to God? In **Psalms 141:1-2**, God gives us an interesting answer. **"LORD, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Let my prayer be set before You as INCENSE, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."** How revealing for us -- and again, we see from these scriptures that God loves details. He views our prayers like incense coming to His **THRONE**, for according to **Revelation 5:8**, incense is like the **PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS**. **"Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."**

QUALITIES OF INCENSE TRANSLATE INTO PRAYERS

When my wife and I were first married, she worked for a tourist attraction here locally in Florida named "Tiki Gardens." One of the products they sold in the store where she worked was incense, and until she worked there, neither she nor I had any idea what exactly incense was and how it worked. But she brought some home one day so we could test it out, and from that, we learned that incense has some unique properties to it. The Old Testament of the Bible also lays out various qualities of incense for our examination. We can see that there are **FOUR** main ways that the qualities of incense represent what our prayers to God should be like.

First, our prayers must be a **PRECIOUS BLEND** of ingredients that produces a "sweet, savory odor" like incense, to God. In **Exodus 30:34-35**, the scriptures describe what God has stated as a perfect blend of physical ingredients to please Him. **"And the LORD said to Moses: "Take sweet spices,**

STACTE and ONYCHA and GALBANUM, and pure FRANKINCENSE with *these* sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, *and* holy.” God chose those exact ingredients and desired that the incense used in the tabernacle for worship should be composed of these ingredients.

In like manner, **Matthew 6:9-13** expounds upon some of the elements of prayer God desires to hear from us, **“In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”** Again, we see the same elements repeated in **Luke 11:1-4**. These instructions contain the key ingredients God finds pleasing. But they are delivered to us in a simplified version. God wants them to be far more refined!

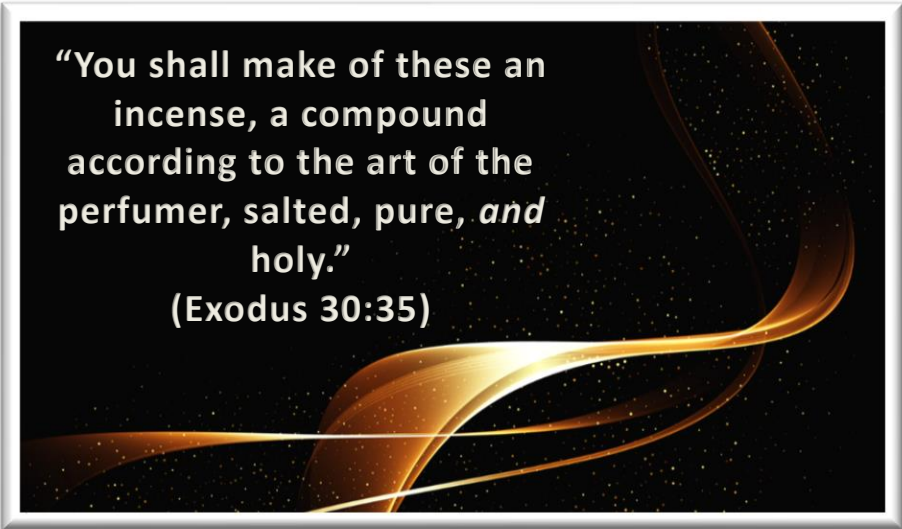
Yes, God wants these ingredients to be more refined -- they must also be **BEATEN INTO FINE DETAIL**. Just as incense crumbles into a fine powder, we need to break down our prayers

with small, specific, fine details. **Leviticus 16:11-12**, **“And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which *is* for himself. Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring *it* inside the veil. “And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that *is* on the Testimony, lest he die.”**

Notice that God commanded Aaron to beat the **sweet incense fine**. He desires fine, intricate details. Notice how the psalmist, in **Psalms 136:1-36**, breaks down his prayer of thanksgiving to God. It is in incredible detail and full of love and gratitude. God has inspired these verses to be included in the Bible. We should all take the time to deeply read these scriptures and compare them to our prayers. There is much we can all learn here. And again, in **Psalms 141:1-2**, **“LORD, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Let my prayer be set before You *as* incense, the lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice.”**

Continuing in **Leviticus 16, verse 13**, we see that God also instructed Aaron to heat the

incense by putting it on the burning coals of fire. **“And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that *is* on the Testimony, lest he die.”** To produce a desirable aroma, incense must be **HEATED UP**. The word “heated” can be described or characterized by great warmth and intensity of feeling. Descriptive synonyms for the word “heated” include



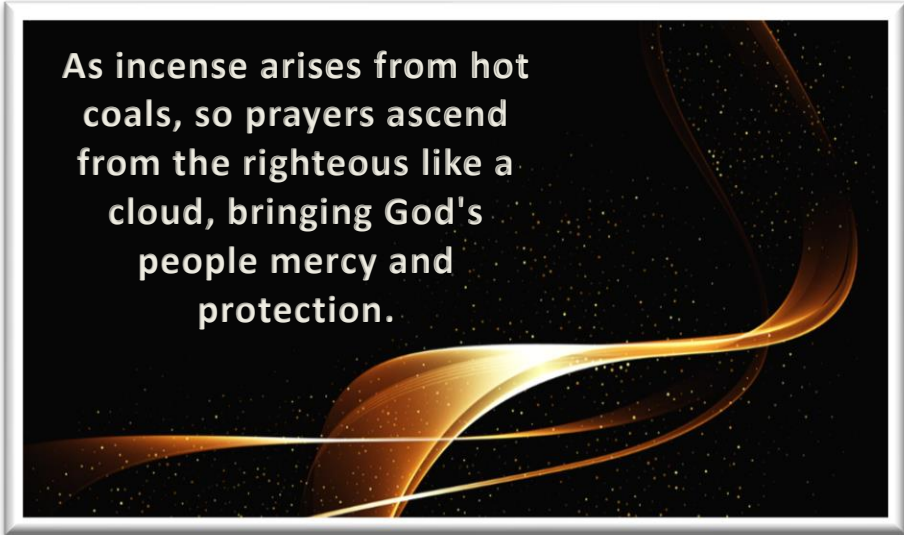
**“You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, *and* holy.”
(Exodus 30:35)**

the adjectives “ardent,” “fervent,” and “impassioned,” among others. So, we see that as incense must be heated, so must our prayers when we come before God. Again, **James 5:16** tells us, “...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” In **Psalm 62:8** we are instructed to “...Pour out your heart before him.”

When Jesus prayed, He prayed **FERVENTLY** and **EARNESTLY**. “...when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear” (**Hebrews 5:6-7**). Brethren, have we ever prayed in such a fervent and passionate way? If not, perhaps we need to heat up our prayers to do so. Christ set the example for us in many scriptures of the Bible, perhaps none more so than in **Luke 22:44**, “And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

MAKE SURE OUR PRAYERS BEFORE GOD ARE LIKE SWEET INCENSE

Finally, just as incense pictures prayer, our prayers must become a **SWEET AROMA** before God. We must apply the first three principles above. To begin with, the Old Testament priests used SWEET INCENSE; and as this was pleasing to God, so should our prayers be pleasing to Him. Next, the incense was BEATEN into fine ingredients. So should we be DETAILED in our prayers. Too many people pray for their own personal desires, then end quickly with a generalization like: “**And bless everybody else, too.**” We cannot afford to do so. We must be detailed and specific in our prayers, FERVENT and PASSIONATE. Then, just as incense arises from HEATED coals, so prayers ascend from the



As incense arises from hot coals, so prayers ascend from the righteous like a cloud, bringing God's people mercy and protection.

righteous like a cloud, bringing God's people mercy and protection. “**Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil. Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil**” (**Leviticus 16:12-13**).

In Old Testament times, only the High Priest could enter behind the veil once each year. But after Jesus' death, the veil was supernaturally torn in two from top to bottom (**Matthew 27:50-51**). This symbolically opened the way to God's throne, so that now, our prayers go right before the throne of God. We are allowed direct contact with God the Father through our own prayers, needing no intermediary except Christ (**Hebrews 10:19-22; John 15:16; 16:23**). By using Christ's name, our prayers ascend to God's heavenly throne by the permission and with the authority of our SPIRITUAL High Priest. Seeing that we have been granted this special privilege, shouldn't we want to offer our best prayers, finely detailed, refined and fervent? After all, we should remember “**...the prayer of the upright is His delight**” (**Proverbs 15:8**). Let's make sure that our prayers are, indeed, like sweet incense being given to God! ♦

THE COVENANT OF SALT



In an article of this month's Lantern Magazine titled, "Prayers Like Incense," we read an interesting Biblical scripture that describes what God states is the perfect blend of physical ingredients for incense to be used to please Him.

Gary Liebold

This scripture is found in **Exodus 30:34-35**, and reads, **"And the LORD said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy."**

The article *"Prayers Like Incense"* shows that God specifically chose those ingredients for incense to be used in the tabernacle for worship purposes. But notice a small detail that someone could possibly overlook when reading the scripture purely to investigate the main ingredients used for the incense. God instructs the perfumer to **"salt"** this blend of items for a special incense. **Verse 35 of Exodus 30** clearly shows, **"You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy."** The priests and perfumers were to salt the precious ingredients to achieve the result of this incense to God being "pure and holy." What on earth does that mean? The Bible mentions various uses for incense but gives special attention to the blend burned inside the tabernacle. God

instructed the Israelites to use this specific mixture for incense only to be used for HOLY purposes within the tent. Then, SALT is added to the blend. On a physical level, salt is pure -- its anti-bacterial properties serve to prevent decay and exemplifies the purity of the ingredients. It adds a preserving, long-lasting effect to the blend of the incense, allowing the essence of the blend to waft upwards to God. As our prayers should!

On a spiritual level, just as the salt being added to this incense enhanced the physical attributes of the incense, the salt also contributed to the *spiritual* quality of the incense. Salt made it **"pure and holy"** -- it added something symbolic, or meaningful to the blend. It was a symbolism that the Israelites were already familiar with in connection with the use of the **"covenant of salt"** as found listed in the Old Testament.

The covenant that God made with Israel is referred to as **"an everlasting covenant of salt"** We read in **Numbers 18:19**, **"All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the LORD, I have given to you**

and your sons and daughters with you as an ordinance forever; it is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD with you and your descendants with you." The Old Testament uses this phrase, "covenant of salt" to describe an unbreakable alliance between friends -- between God and His people. The covenant, like the incense in the temple, is SALTED, and therefore given a quality of longevity and integrity, like the preserving qualities that salt has.

Salt was also used in the Old Testament offerings described in **Leviticus 2:13**, "**And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.**" The salt, at least in part, was needed to denote that the sacrifice was pure as our very hearts must be (**I Timothy 3:9**). The salt was a special type of salt, the "salt of the covenant."

Another special covenant is described in **II Chronicles 13:5**. God's covenant with David is described as a "covenant of salt," and therefore unbreakable, lasting forever. "**Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?**" Salt symbolized that Israel's agreements with God were to be enduring, as are His promises to us today. These "covenants of salt," given by God, were meant to last forever. Pure, holy, and preserved, as represented by the special qualities of salt. Salt depicts permanence, integrity, loyalty, faithfulness, and preserving or staying power.

When Christ told His disciples (and us, today), in what is referred to as the Sermon on the Mount, "**You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men**

(**Matthew 5:13**), they totally understood what He was saying to them. In their day, salt was not as available as it is now. It was once so valuable that it was used as an ancient practice for paying a man's wages. So, the disciples would have understood the incredible value and rarity of salt. They would have desired to become the "salt of the earth," as we should, also. If we refer to Mr. Whiting's article, "***The Two Testaments,***" (in this very same issue of the Lantern magazine), we can see another example here of how we would have no understanding of the spiritual importance of SALT (as mentioned here in **Matthew 5:13** of the New Testament) without the information in the Old Testament (**Exodus 30:34-35, Numbers 18:19**)!

Can we see the importance of salt to the special incense devised by God in the tabernacle of the Israelites, and in the making of those sacred covenants that God intended to last? Do we understand now, even more than ever before, how our prayers to God are to be like incense?



There was *tremendous* importance to God and His people in the use of salt in their offerings to Him, in the arrangement and description of God's covenants, as well as the use of SALT in the incense for the worship process of an entire nation beloved by God. We should glean this knowledge as we strive to make our personal prayers like incense! And rejoice in that COVENANT OF SALT made all those centuries ago between God and His people. It's a spiritual covenant of salt, that is meant to last FOREVER! ♦

Essentials of Rulership...

(Continued from page 6)

This supernatural power from God helps us get the true perspective on our human life. It really changes things. God is about to clean up the pitiful mess that is this world, and right now He is busily **TRAINING** a qualified, competent staff who will have the privilege to **TEACH HUMANS** after the resurrection (**Revelation 20: 12**). We will be the ones, along with Christ, to ensure that the tragic sadness which has characterized this world will never be repeated.

HEIRS APPARENT

The Kingdom of God is all about people. Billions of people. People looking for direction and guidance, people looking for healing and physical sustenance, people looking for real, practical help for their personal problems. Are we ready to teach and train the world? **“Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).**

It's a small wonder that Christ reveals the Kingdom will be entered only by “force.” “From

the time of John the Baptizer until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people have been seizing it” (Matthew 11:12 - GW). We who are forceful with ourselves, can transform our naturally self-centered, lazy human nature into paths of true character. Motivated by God's Spirit of power and service, we can develop wisdom, warmth, inspiring drive, and right leadership.

Truly, the whole creation, past and present, **“...waits for the revealing of the sons of God” (Romans 8:19).** We dare not drift with the rest of this purposeless, confused world. We have a rendezvous with destiny. We were born to be kings, kings who will be servants of the people we rule (**Ephesians 1:4-5; Matthew 20:25-27**). Our calling is much higher than that of King Charles. We will be inheriting the very throne of the universe -- a high destiny indeed. We need to work hard to be worthy **HEIRS APPARENT** to the throne of Jesus Christ, at Jerusalem, ruling the earth: **“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Revelation 3:21).** ♦

The Crown of a King...

(Continued from page 11)

Your rulership shall ultimately extend to all the universe, awaiting it's time for life (**Revelation 21-22**)! We will be joyously inaugurated into office by a glorious coronation ceremony culminating with the receiving upon our heads a crown, an imperishable, righteous crown, which is the chief symbol of regal authority. **“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the***

***kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever...” (Revelation 11:15).** Our inheritance is to become Kings and Priests, to have eternal life, and to receive our CROWNS. Let's use this time in our lives now to prepare to be crowned as rulers in God's Kingdom! **“Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:27).** ♦

BIBLE STUDY

QUALIFYING TO RULE

In the previous two Bible Studies, we learned that we were born to rule. It is our destiny, if we overcome and grow in God's character, to rule the earth with Jesus Christ during the Millennium and then rule the rest of the universe for all eternity.

Jesus Christ was God made as flesh (**John 1: 1-2, 14**). Before He became human, He was the Creator of all things (**John 1:1-3,14; Ephesians 3:9**). When He returns to earth, He will rule under God the Father in His soon coming Kingdom (**Revelation 19:16**).

1) Just as Jesus served His fellow man while on earth (**Matthew 20:27-28**), so, too, must a deeply converted Christian want to serve others (**Matthew 26:31-40**). By training now for our upcoming, significant roles in helping to teach the world God's way of life, and administer the Government of God, we are preparing for our rulership assignments in God's Kingdom.

2) The Bible states that resurrected saints will receive positions of rulership in the Kingdom of God during the Millennium (**Revelation 3:21, 5:10; 20:4-6**). All who are overcoming now will become kings and priests, teachers and administrators, or administrative assistants in the Kingdom of God. So, Christian life today is one of overcoming, growing, and developing spiritually for service and leadership in the World Tomorrow.

3) In the course of living our physical lives and developing spiritually, God's children are to learn to rule and judge properly (**I Corinthians 6:1-3**). Spirit born sons of God will be given great responsibility with Jesus Christ, because they have learned how to rightly apply the laws of God during their mortal lives.

4) We must learn to be faithful and conscientious in whatever we do to qualify to take on responsibility in the Kingdom of God (**Luke 16:10-12**). We must live by the principles and laws we learn from God's Word.

5) The parable of the talents, in **Matthew 25:20-23**, reveals that each servant who is faithful "**over a few things**," will be rewarded with "**many things**." These attributes represent the limited talents and opportunities that are given to us in this life. Clearly, this parable pictures the rulership that Jesus Christ promised, and that God will reward us according to how we apply what we have been given.

6) In **John 14:1-3**, we see that there will be many opportunities for all who have grown spiritually. The phrase, "**My Father's House**" refers to the same house spoken of by Jesus when He drove the moneychangers out of the temple (**Matthew 21:12-13**). Jesus spoke of many "**mansions**," in that house, illustrating the concept that there will be many positions available in the Government of God on earth, with Jerusalem as the millennial capital. (**John 14:1-5**).

Jesus assures us that there will be many positions of responsibility for all who are born into God's Ruling Family. As we learn to successfully develop holy, righteous CHARACTER in this life, we continue to qualify to rule with Christ in those positions of leadership and rulership in God's Kingdom. What an exciting future awaits us! ◆

Excerpts From the Desk of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong...

For each continuing issue of our magazine, we will post various EXCERPTS from Mr. Armstrong's past writings, sermons, and Bible studies.

Brethren, Co-Worker Letter
March 19, 1981

...Paul wrote of the suppressing of the Gospel of the Kingdom at about A.D. 53. That Gospel was not preached until 1934. By 1953, a 19-year time cycle, it had gone coast to coast in the United States. In 1953 -- a century of time cycles from the suppression of the Gospel -- it went out on the most powerful radio station on earth -- Radio Luxembourg -- and has continued worldwide since. God DOES THINGS ON TIME!

Now consider the prophecy of Malachi 3:1-5. In verse 1, God will send a human messenger to prepare the way before Christ, coming as the Messenger of the New COVENANT. Now what coming of Christ is this prophecy talking about? Read verses 2 to 5. Jesus did none of those things at His first coming -- but WILL DO THEM AT HIS SOON SECOND COMING! So the prophecy is, actually, foretelling primarily a messenger to prepare the way for His SOON SECOND COMING!

...To WHAT temple will Christ come very soon now? Are the Jews going to demolish the Moslem temple, Dome of the Rock, which stands on that site now, and build a new super-glorious new temple? NO! Turn to Ephesians 2:19-22. The Church at Ephesus was composed of former gentiles. They are no longer foreign gentiles, but fellow-citizens with the saints -- a spiritual NATION. They are also a FAMILY -- of the "household" of GOD -- the GOD FAMILY. As a BUILDING they are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being chief cornerstone. As a BUILDING, they are fitly framed together (in UNIFIED ORGANIZATION) growing into a HOLY TEMPLE!

...Zerubbabel built the second temple to which Jesus came the first time. John the Baptist prepared the way before the FIRST coming. But WHO was to build the SPIRITUAL temple to which Christ shall soon come the second time? Who was to prepare the way before His Second Coming?

Remember God does things in DUAL stages. As Zerubbabel built the first temple of MATERIAL stone, wood and other materials, he was a forerunner or type of one through whom Christ would raise up or build the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE -- His Church of our time, prior to the Day of the Lord and Christ's Second Coming. As John the Baptist prepared the way, in the PHYSICAL wilderness of the Jordan River for the first coming of the HUMAN Jesus (both man and God), then coming to His MATERIAL temple, and to His PHYSICAL people Judah, ANNOUNCING the Kingdom of God to be set up more than 1,900 years later, SO God would use a human messenger in the SPIRITUAL wilderness of 20th-century religious confusion, to be a voice CRYING OUT the Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD, about the SPIRITUAL CHRIST, coming in SUPREME POWER AND GLORY to His SPIRITUAL TEMPLE, to actually ESTABLISH that spiritual KINGDOM OF GOD.

(Emphasis above, by editor of The Lantern magazine)



COMING ARTICLES



II Peter 1:19

◆ Angelic Watchers

Angelic beings have always been a mystery to mankind. But the Bible reveals fascinating details about these spirit beings. Each one has a mind of greater ability than human minds and each has a purpose! What, exactly are the angels tasked with as ANGELIC WATCHERS?

◆ Who Was Diotrephes?

Diotrephes' name is found in one chapter of the New Testament -- **III John**. Just who was he? His name meant: **"nurtured by Jupiter."** We see in III John that Diotrephes was a man in a position of authority who liked to have preeminence, loved being in charge and cast TRUE members of the Church of God, out of the Church! Have there been men like Diotrephes in the Church of God today? In this article, we'll look at Diotrephes and see just what his nature was like.

◆ Bible Study – Why Keep the Sabbath?

Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Old Testament and Creator of all things, established the Sabbath by the act of resting on the seventh day of the creation week. By His divine favor, a special 24-hour period was set to occur every seven days after the institution of that FIRST SABBATH!