

Why Lord, Why?

A time is coming when many of God's people, if not most, will see the heavenly signs of Jesus Christ's arrival in the clouds **for** His Bride, and then watch them depart without their involvement. Around the world the question will then be, Why Lord, why?

God's word contains the answers, and it seems that many relate to our lack of Active Faith – our willingness **to love God's word sufficiently**, and actively stand up for it - to put our belief into practice, when most tend to accept and rely upon the traditions of their church, Matthew 7:21, 'Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.' Is it vitally important to discover and obey God's will? Jesus said, Luke 18:8, 'Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?'

Such faith is not easily found! Luke 12:32, 'Fear not, **little flock**; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give **you** the kingdom.' It is so much easier for us to accept Church traditions as I did myself for several years, without closely checking all my beliefs in the Bible. It's easier to follow the man or woman at the front, whose words maybe helped in our calling, and continued to guide our lives, or those who follow the traditions of the denomination which attracted us, which gave them their leading position, but 'easy' won't help us into God's Kingdom!

Some of the reasons go as far back as the **faith once delivered** to the Celtic Church in Britain, by Joseph of Arimathea. (See our illuminating article, "Joseph of Arimathea," Page 2, no.70, 'Articles') They too kept the Sabbath and Holy Days, and the following **principles** guided their keeping, for *unlike today's Christians*, they could not monitor the natural calendar events in Israel, as we can, today.

"To keep the Hebrew calendar synchronous with the seasons an extra month was occasionally added...When this month was to be intercalated was determined by the Sanhedrin by means of a simple rule. The precipitating factor was the offering.... of "the first fruits" of the barley harvest... (ie. The Wave Sheaf offering, Leviticus 23:10-11, my comment)...

According to the law, the Passover had to be sacrificed on the fourteenth or **full moon**, and from the fifteenth the feast of unleavened bread continued for a week... During the closing days of the preceding month, Adar, the barley, in a secluded field near Jerusalem, was carefully observed. Should it appear impossible for it to ripen in time for the presentation, [of the Wave Sheaf] an extra month, Ve-Adar, was added. The Passover was therefore, a moveable feast which always occurred during the spring on any day of the week, but it had to fall on the full moon." (Which it always would, 14 days after the first visible crescent.)

From “The Celtic Church in Britain” by Leslie Hardinge, TEACH Services, Brushton New York. That was *until* the Temple was destroyed, and the Pharisees began to rely solely upon and adapt the calculated Rabbinic Calendar, after the Romans drove them from their land. It then took the Rabbis 900 years to develop it into its present inaccurate form, which they plan to replace with lunar observation once more.

Today, however, just two **Scriptures** continue to define God’s **true** Holy Days, just as they did at the time of Christ. **God’s instructions for the Wave-Sheaf** continue to **determine** the first month of the year, Leviticus 23:11, ‘**And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath** [during the Feast of Unleavened Bread] **the priest shall wave it.**’ *Those instructions* still apply, and so now, we are able to obey them, and the example and pattern of the Feasts Jesus Christ kept, if we love God’s words enough! 1Peter 2:21, ‘**For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:**’ Did you get that? We were called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ’s pattern, not man-made traditions, no-where found in the Bible!

The faithful still carefully watch the ripening barley *in Israel* towards the end of the twelfth month, **exactly as at the time of Christ**, along with other of God’s secondary signs, to establish the beginning of the New Year, when the barley harvest in Israel can start, and the first sheaf, the Wave Sheaf, could be offered during the feast of Unleavened Bread.

Having determined when **God’s New Year** starts, the appearance of the **new moon** at the end of the month *in Israel* **signals the start of the month of the Abib**, which means ‘ripe barley.’ (See our film, shot in Israel, “The Month Of The Abib”). Psalm 104:19, ‘**He made the moon to mark the seasons;** (4150. ‘moedim’, appointed feasts) **the sun knows its time for setting.**’

Simple, isn’t it? As Jesus said, ‘**Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest?** [a calculation] **behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields;** for they are *white already to harvest.* (How they appear when ripe).

Jesus Christ lived and died observing this God-made calendar system, with it’s correct Holy Days, **not the false traditions of the later Rabbinical Calendar.**

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Other reasons in answer to the title, are more recent. The Church of God raised up by H. W. Armstrong started well, based on the Bible, but was persuaded to introduce an idol, the idol of hierarchy, which oppressed God’s people and brought about the departure of God, and the destruction of the WCG, Ezekiel 8:3-6,

‘**And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where**

was the seat of **the image of jealousy**, which provoketh to jealousy. And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain. Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at **the gate of the altar** this image of **jealousy** in the entry. He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, **that I should go far off from my sanctuary?**' We saw it happen!

When I saw the police, wearing guns, enter an Australian COG congregation, led by the minister, who pointed out the deacon and his two children, who were escorted out, **I should have left** then to demonstrate disagreement, but like the rest of God's people I was so shocked that I just sat there, remembering other recent unhappy events in the church; families split, people crying in groups, caused by this new hierarchical power lording it over the brethren over imaginary 'offences'. Not all COG churches suffered such evil, but it did not take long to be put out myself for speaking against that dominion, (Matthew 20:25) and for continuing to visit my friend who had been put out and "marked". So came about the work of CGI Australia, where my friend was ordained as minister, as I was, a little later, in CGI Britain.

We have the word of God. We have the courageous example of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who never flinched from acting against neglect, oppression, extortion, false teaching, or evil of any kind. God help us to have the same courage in the face of un-biblical tradition.

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We in the COG have also failed to adequately study and accept the End-Time Scriptures in [Daniel](#), [Matthew 24](#), [Revelation 6](#), and [Revelation 14 and 15](#), while **assuming** the scenario we had been taught, of a Tribulation of just 3½ years, with the First Resurrection at the end of the 7th Seal, was correct. (Cf. Matthew 7:26.)

Dare you risk testing your belief? Make a simple chart for yourself, combining those scriptures in chronological order, and see if it became obvious that the resurrection is **at the 6th Seal**, immediately **after** the first 5 Seals and the Heavenly Signs, when the Bride to be is carried to Heaven for the final 3½ years, of the 7th Seal Great Tribulation. (Revelation 14:1-5, 15:2).

Notice that in Revelation 11:15, we see the start of Christ's reign on the earth. There is **no** mention there of the Resurrection! '[And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.](#)' It is another **false assumption!** There, an *angel* blows the trumpet, though *at the resurrection*, **God Himself blows the trumpet**, 2 Thessalonians 4:16, Matthew 24:31 margin, Zechariah 9:14. See also Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words, under 'Trumpet', Page 160.

... Next, **the COG has not acknowledged**, prepared or **obeyed** the clear, merciful commands of God regarding our End-Time commission to provide His **commanded broadcast of hope** to captive Israel *after* their coming invasion. These are just a few of God's instructions about that broadcast.... "For thus says the Lord..." (v7)

Jeremiah 50:33, Jer. 3:18, Jer. 30:2-3, 7, 24, **Jer. 31:1-12**,

Isaiah 11:11, Is. 40:9-11 NIV, Is. 43:5-7,10, Is. 49:9-12, Is.62:6

Ezekiel 20:34-38, 42-44, Ezek. 36:17-19, 24-31, Ezek. 39:23-29

Amos 9:13-15.

Why have we heard nothing of this? [Is it because the false 3½ year Tribulation does not permit any time for that merciful broadcast?]

Why has this not been challenged by COG brethren? While **the broadcast is yet future**, it will obviously need serious, complex and **legal preparation**, *prior to* the Second Seal, the fall of Babylon (America and Britain), which will come as a total surprise at God's hand, Revelation 18:8, 'Therefore shall **her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.** The time to prepare is NOW!

Our God is merciful and will not begin the **7-year** Tribulation until He is assured that the broadcast is ready to go, for the few 'innocents' then alive, after the Second Seal in captive Israel, will long to know that there is still hope, 'light at the end of the tunnel' for those who will repent. No wonder our Saviour is disappointed with us, in our lack of action and empathy for the deceived and relatively innocent! Why would He marry anyone who is not capable of that kind of love? And so he tarries, while we all slumber and sleep. Matthew 25:5, 'While the bridegroom tarried, they all **slumbered and slept.**' Isaiah 52:1, 'AWAKE, awake! ...v7. **That means us!**

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As a result, many who believe they have the Holy Spirit have allowed it to wane, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, 'Quench not the Spirit.' (Cf. Acts 5:32, Matt. 25:1-10), but then, I have watched people wave their arms in 'spiritual' 'devotion' but just minutes later see the minister throw the Bible on the floor to illustrate his belief that the Law is done away, without any response from the congregation.

We have to realise that, as we should expect, Jesus Christ's requirements of His Bride to be, are very, very demanding!

See **Proverbs 31:10-29**. How many of us will reach that kind of *spiritual* standard, or is it present to encourage us to do **our very best** with our calling? Either way, I do

not see the urgency in **the Church** to make sure that we have obeyed those scriptures we have examined today, maybe because, in the process, the ministry would be exposed as hiding from what they know to be the Truth! Isaiah 56:10, Ezekiel 34.

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What a position to be in, as we see the End-Time approach! Please brethren, do not be deceived by the false teaching that all those listed in Revelation 7 will be in the First Resurrection! There are 2 quite different groups of 144, 000 and only one is found on the Sea of Glass! We, as God's repentant and baptised people possess the Holy Spirit now, already! Ephesians 1:13, 'In him **you** also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.'

Those listed in Revelation 7 repent and are only sealed AFTER the resurrection, after Christ has appeared in the clouds to collect His Bride, Matthew 25:30-31, 'And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.' And Revelation 14:14-15, 'And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And Revelation 6:16, 'And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.'

We should notice that the resurrection occurs **just before** "the great day of his wrath is come," *in the very next verse*, verse 17. The "Day of the Lord", the GREAT TRIBULATION is aimed at warning sinners among the remnant people of God, of the danger of trust in the traditions of the Church, without faithful commitment to His words. Notice too, that the people in the verses of Revelation 7 are described in verse 14 as "these are they which **come out of great tribulation** and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." They are not those on the Sea of Glass, are they?

They repent too late for the First Resurrection, and likely at the cost of their lives, as the Beast attacks them in frustration at the loss of one of his armies, Revelation 12:17, 'And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with **the remnant of her seed**, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'

Dear brethren, let us make sure that none of these failings apply to us, by staying close to and loving God's words enough to actively apply them in our lives, so that when Christ returns from Heaven with His Bride as "King of kings", we may be with Him, for they 'that are with him are called, and chosen **and faithful.**' Revelation 17:14.

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