

Church of God, The Eternal

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Dear Brethren:

October is already here. Due to the Feast of Tabernacles coming in the late part of September, we are forced to be slightly late in the production of this month's issue of the Monthly Letter.

What a Feast God gave to us this year! Though divided in location, a fact which none really enjoyed or wanted -- but was absolutely necessary -- the spirit of enthusiasm, purpose, and love was not abated. It was so good to see and experience the joy so many of you manifested daily. It is our hope that this spirit of optimism, joy, and dedication will see you through the dark months of the conclusion of this sacred year. Yes, it is our hope that that enthusiasm will grow more perfect and be established in minds and hearts beyond any fragmentation or cunningly devised question generated by Satan or cohorts. Remember, Satan and his demons are alarmingly active in these last days. We must be on guard against all subtlety and tendency to question the "faith once delivered."

Last month we commenced an exhaustive study of the Holy Days of God. Due to the length of the study, it was deemed necessary to submit the subject in two monthly installments. For this month the last half of the subject will be given.

By a thorough and analytical study of this completed subject, it will become most obvious that continued obedience is relevant and necessary -- even in these last days. Further, the questions generated out of a Biblical ignorance of the subject will be seen for what they are. Just plain good logic along with the powerful spiritual persuasion of revealed Truth will reassure us of the accuracy of past belief and practice. Such knowledge and inspiration will equip us for the onslaught prognosticated against that Truth and Way of Life.

How well you equip yourselves now may be the telling experience for the future. By a job well-done at this present time, you will be prepared for all eventualities tomorrow.

Now to the second half of the subject. May your study be an enjoyable one.

XVIII. God To Appear Before Israel On Holy Days

- A. Ex. 25:8 (8-21) -- A sanctuary built in which God would dwell
- B. Ex. 25:22 -- From this sanctuary God would communicate with Israel.
- C. Lev. 9:4, 6 (1-7) -- Preparation for God's appearance
- D. What are the basic times?
Compare Lev. 23:2-3, 4, 7-8, 21, 27, 35, 37, 39, 41; Deut. 16:16, and Ex. 23:14-17.

XIX. God Gave His Holy Times To Israel; However, They Existed Before Moses

- A. Abraham, in part at least, must have been aware of Holy Days.
 - 1. Gen. 26:5
- B. Seasons were designed with Holy Days in mind.
 - 1. Compare Lev. 23:4 (b'mo'adam, in their set times or seasons) and Gen. 1:14 (when God created time with seasons in mind).
- C. Spiritual things are eternal.
 - 1. Holy Days are part of the Word -- eternal.
 - a. John 6:63, 68
 - b. A part of the spiritual nomos (Rom. 7:14)
- D. Holy Days are a part of the Way kept secret from the foundation of the world: Jesus Christ taught and kept Holy Days -- as part of that revealed Way.
 - 1. Rom. 16:25-26

XX. Once The Truth Is Revealed, The Called Must Convoke Before God

- A. Ex. 12:16 -- 1st and 7th Days of Unleavened Bread are holy convocations.
- B. Lev. 23:2-3, 4, 37 -- All annual Sabbaths are holy convocations -- commanded assemblies.

- C. Num. 10:1-10 -- Blowing of trumpets to call together assemblies (Note especially verse 10.)

Note: Compare Num. 28 and 29. Sacrifices had now become required on these occasions as on all days of the year -- including the seventh day of the week.

XXI. Birds (As All Animals) Know Their Appointments

- A. Jer. 8:7

Note: Human beings, created with mind and will, are the only components of creation to resist.

XXII. Israel Failed To Obey God

- A. She was rebellious consistently.
 - 1. Compare Deut. 9:7, 24 and Ps. 107:11.
- B. By nature she could not physically obey.
 - 1. Rom. 8:7
 - 2. Jer. 10:23
 - 3. Isa. 63:17-19
- C. God knew Israel could not obey at the time of covenant ratification.
 - 1. Deut. 5:29
- D. Joshua understood Israel's inability to perform.
 - 1. Josh. 24:15-25
- E. Why carnal minds cannot obey.
 - 1. Heb. 4:2 -- A lack of faith
- F. Why did God give His Ways to Israel?
 - 1. I Cor. 10:6, 11 -- To set an example for us today

Compare Ex. 4:22-23; Hos. 11:1; Matt. 2:15, and Rev. 12:1-5 (Israel of old is the type of the new Israel, the Church).

XXIII. The Personification Of Israel, Christ, Obeyed Totally

- A. He was the manifestation of all the Word in the flesh.
 - 1. John 1:1, 14

B. He was a fulfillment of covenant promises.

1. Deut. 18:15-22

Note: A proof of Christ was that He obeyed all (Luke 24:44-45).

2. John 5:39-47 -- Responsibility had not changed from time of Moses to Christ.

C. Christ obeyed all the Words of God.

1. John 12:44-50 -- He obeyed the Father totally (compare John 8:42-49).

2. Matt. 4:4 -- Every Word of God

3. Matt. 5:17-19 -- He lived the Truth completely.

4. Isa. 42:21 -- He even magnified the Law.

5. He kept the Holy Days.

a. Matt. 26:17-20

b. John 7:1-39

XXIV. The Holy Days Are A Part Of The New Covenant

A. Prophecy of the New Covenant

1. Jer. 31:31-34 -- Same laws as in Old Covenant will be written into hearts and minds in the New.

2. Heb. 8:6-11 -- The New Covenant is the second one. It is between God and Israel.

Note: See also Heb. 10:16.

3. II Cor. 3:1-18 -- How these laws are written in minds and hearts. What was written in the Old is now in the New being written on minds and hearts of those called.

4. The Holy Days were a part of the Old Covenant and are therefore a part of the New.

a. Ex. 20:1; 24:8 -- Note the Feast Days in Ex. 23.

5. Man cannot add to or delete from the terms of that Covenant.

a. Gal. 3:15

6. What was preached in Moses' day was the same preached in Christ's day.

a. Heb. 4:2 -- Note carefully Heb. 13:8.

7. There is significant purpose for historical lessons in the pages of what is called the Old Testament.

- a. Rom. 15:4 -- Old Testament Scriptures written for us
- b. I Cor. 10:11 -- What was the act of disobedience?
- c. I Pet. 1:10-12 -- The Old Testament was written specifically for us today, not for the people at that time.

XXV. Those Called To Obey Are Made Holy

- A. A prophecy of our day
 - 1. Dan. 12:7
- B. As individuals, Christians make up the Temple of God.
 - 1. I Cor. 3:17
 - 2. I Pet. 2:5, 9
- C. Called to be holy
 - 1. Heb. 3:1
 - 2. II Tim. 1:9
 - 3. Eph. 1:4
 - 4. Col. 1:22

XXVI. What Makes One Holy?

- A. Attentive obedience
 - 1. Num. 15:39-40
 - 2. Deut. 26:16-19
 - 3. Deut. 28:9
- B. Call by God for special purpose
 - 1. Deut. 7:6-7
 - 2. I Pet. 2:5-9
- C. Fulfillment of office and responsibility for which called
 - 1. Num. 16:3-7
 - 2. I Cor. 7:14
- D. The Holy Spirit of God in us
 - 1. John 17:21-23
- E. The holy Word in us
 - 1. John 17:17

XXVII. The Called Of God Receive A Knowledge Of The Holy

- A. Prov. 30:3 -- There is a knowledge of the holy.
- B. Prov. 9:10 -- The beginning of understanding
- C. I Cor. 2:7-14

XXVIII. God Commands Those With A Knowledge Of The Holy

- A. They must appear before Him on the Holy Days.
 - 1. Ex. 23:17
 - 2. Ex. 34:22-24
 - 3. Deut. 16:16
 - 4. Deut. 31:9-11
 - 5. Ps. 42:2-4

XXIX. Once Called, Man Bears A Responsibility Toward The Holy

- A. Ex. 20:8 -- Holy time must be kept holy.

XXX. Some Grudgingly Appear Before God, But Pervert And Corrupt The Way

- A. Isa. 1:10-15
- B. Men can profane that which is holy.
 - 1. The name (regardless of language) of God
 - a. Compare Ps. 111:9 and Lev. 20:3.
 - 2. Holy time
 - a. Compare Ex. 16:23; Matt. 12:5, and Neh. 13:18.
 - 3. The Temple
 - a. See Acts 24:6
 - 4. Feast Days -- also the Sabbath
 - a. Compare Lev. 23:1-44 and Ezek. 23:38.
 - 5. All holy things
 - a. Ezek. 22:8, 26
- C. How do men profane holy things?
 - 1. By disrespect and contempt
 - a. Mal. 1:6-14

Note: Anything less than willing and total obedience is not acceptable.

2. By hypocrisy
 - a. Ezek. 23:37-39

Note: The Hebrew word for profane is chalal. It means to "bare," "wound," or "dissolve" -- used figuratively to denote profanation or the breaking of one's word.

Comment: Men profane that which is holy by breaking (abusing) the purpose for which it was created. A marriage relationship is profaned by breaking the covenant agreement -- the sacred vow. Specific days of the week and year are profaned by using them for purposes other than those for which God created them.

XXXI. Only Men Profane Holy Appointed Purposes

- A. Jer. 8:4-12

XXXII. Because Of Carnal Minds Men Have Attempted To Change Times Appointed By God

- A. Dan. 7:25

XXXIII. Regardless, Only God Can Change Times And Appointments

- A. Dan. 2:21

XXXIV. Besides Christ, The Twelve Apostles Kept The Holy Days

- A. Passover and Unleavened Bread
 1. Acts 12:1-4

Note: The word "Easter" is an incorrect translation. The Greek word is paska or pascha which means "Passover" and is so translated. See Mark 14:12; Luke 2:41; 22:1; John 2:13, and John 6:4.

- B. Pentecost
 1. Acts 2:1

- C. What was given to Moses and lived by Jesus is what the apostles kept and taught.
1. Acts 7:38 -- What Moses received was intended for the called of the New Testament.
 2. I John 1:1-3 -- Christ was the Word made flesh. What He was and did was not incongruous with what He taught. What the apostles taught is what they observed in and heard from Christ. Christ lived and taught the Holy Days.
 3. II Pet. 2:13 -- The only commanded Feasts mentioned in the New Testament are the Holy Days. The faithful were feasting before God. Deceivers who had departed from the once delivered Truth were mockingly appearing at these Holy Days. See verses 15 and 21.
 4. II Pet. 3:2 -- Considering the theme of chapter two, Peter was admonishing the faithful to remember that some would turn against the Truth (Feasts or Holy Days) and mock those who will to remain obedient. See verse three -- referring back to the setting of chapter two.
 5. Jude 12 -- What an indictment against those who turn from faithful obedience on Holy Days.

XXXV. Paul, The Apostle To The Gentiles, Kept The Holy Days

- A. Kept the Sabbath
1. Acts 13:14, 42, 44 (46-48) -- The Word taught to the Jews is the same Paul taught to Gentiles.
 2. Acts 17:2
- B. Kept Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread
1. Acts 20:6 -- Paul kept Unleavened Bread at Philippi.
 2. I Cor. 5:7-8 -- A command to keep the Days of Unleavened Bread following fitting observance of Passover
 3. I Cor. 11:23-30 -- Paul had received direct instruction of that which He was to deliver.
- C. He kept Pentecost.
1. Acts 20:16 -- The Day of Pentecost still existed at this time. If possible, Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem for its observance.
 2. I Cor. 16:8 -- Paul kept Pentecost at Ephesus -- not Jerusalem.

- D. He kept the Day of Atonement.
 - 1. Acts 27:9 -- The only fast day of the Holy Days is Atonement. See Lev. 16:30-31 and Lev. 23:27-32.

- E. General application to all the Holy Days
 - 1. Acts 28:23 -- The Law and the Prophets are two sections of the Bible. The Law refers to the writings of Moses. Within those writings are all the Holy Days.
 - 2. Gal. 2:1-2, 6-10 -- Paul carefully compared what he taught the Gentiles (uncircumcision) with that which the Twelve taught to the circumcision. There was no difference -- the Gospel was the same.
 - 3. I Thess. 2:13-14 -- Paul taught the Thessalonians to emulate the churches in Judea. Those churches were observing the Holy Days.

XXXVI. Gentiles -- Those Called Of God -- Are Commanded To Observe The Holy Days

- A. The Sabbath
 - 1. Acts 13:42-48 -- What was taught to the Jews was now taught to the Gentiles.

- B. What was taught?
 - 1. Acts 28:23 -- The Law of Moses -- the writings of Moses. The Gospel taught to Gentiles. See verse 28.
 - 2. Gal. 2:1-2, 6-10 -- When Paul compared the Gospel he preached to the Gentiles with that which the Twelve Apostles preached to all Israel there was found no difference.
 - 3. I Thess. 2:13-14 -- The Gentiles emulated the churches of God in Jerusalem.

- C. In fact, the Gentiles must "become Israelites."
 - 1. Eph. 2:10-12 -- Those who were Gentiles before conversion must become spiritual Israelites. See Gal. 6:15-16.

Note: Israelites must obey all the Law -- even under the terms of the New Covenant (excluding sacrifices, washings, etc. -- Heb. 9:10).

- 2. Rom. 9:4 -- All things belong to Israel -- Including the Covenants (there are only two -- Heb. 8:6-7). In

that there are only two, the second is obviously the New one. The terms of the second are exactly the same as those of the Old.

- D. From the beginning, God made no difference.
 - 1. Ex. 12:49 -- Regarding the Holy Days
 - 2. Lev. 24:22 -- God is not partial.
 - 3. Num. 15:14-16 -- Remember, Gentiles must become, today, spiritual Israelites.

- E. The hope of salvation is Christ in us.
 - 1. Col. 1:27
 - 2. Heb. 13:8 -- That Word never changes -- regardless of in whom it is found. Christ is not living one thing in some and exactly the opposite in others.

XXXVII. The Holy Days Will Be Observed During The Millennium

- A. Spiritual things are eternal.
 - 1. II Cor. 4:18

- B. All God's Law is spiritual -- not just the Ten Commandments.
 - 1. Rom. 7:14

- C. God's Word reveals Feast Day observance in Millennium.
 - 1. Zech. 14:16-19
 - 2. Ezek. 44:24
 - 3. Ezek. 45:17, 21-25
 - 4. Ezek. 46:3, 9-11

Note: No one would deny that these events are for a future time. Most assuredly they have not yet occurred. The context shows the setting to be after the return of Christ. The book of Revelation reveals this time to be the seventh millennium (most frequently referred to as just the Millennium).

- D. The Sabbath: By Israel and Gentiles
 - 1. Isa. 56:3-8 -- One Hebrew word for "stranger" is nekar, which means "foreigner," "foreigner," or "heathen." In the New Testament these are referred to as Gentiles.

- E. During the Millennium all will know the Lord.
 - 1. Ezek. 20:11-12 -- Those who know God are keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days.

Note: Remember point XIV. The definition of Sabbath obedience is the keeping of all the Holy Days.

XXXVIII. During The Millennium, Israel Will Be Taught The Difference Between The Holy And The Profane

- A. Ezek. 44:23

Note: The Feast Days are holy -- holy to God. They must become holy to us. Israel, and Gentiles, must finally learn this profound Truth.

XXXIX. Holy Days Reveal (Foreshadow) The Plan Of God -- Salvation For All Mankind

- A. The heavenly bodies reveal the Plan.
 - 1. Rom. 1:20 -- Spiritual things are made known through the physical.
 - 2. Ps. 19:1-4 -- The heavens speak the language of God's Plan.
 - 3. Col. 2:16-17 -- Holy Days depict the Plan

Note: What message?

- B. The whole Plan of God
 - 1. Passover: The sacrifice of Christ and man's redemption (I Cor. 5:7; Rom. 5:10; John 1:29)
 - 2. Unleavened Bread: Obedience -- coming out of sin (I Cor. 5:7-8; Matt. 16:6-12)
 - 3. Pentecost: Receipt of and begetting by the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:1; John 3:1-8; I Cor. 15:36-54)
Firstfruits: Lev. 23:10-11; Rom. 8:23; I Cor. 15:23; Jas. 1:18
 - 4. Trumpets: Second Coming of Christ (Num. 10:1-10; Ps. 81:3; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:52; Rev. 11:15)
 - 5. Atonement: Purification of the earth and eliminating a basic cause of man's problems (Lev. 16:1)
Compare Rev. 20:1-3.

Note: Two goats represent two beings who bear responsibility. Both cannot represent the same being. Lev. 16:8 clearly shows that only one lot was for the Lord. This one paid the required price by death.

The purpose for the other one, accomplished by banishment, yet remains alive. This one is not a scapegoat. The Hebrew word for "scapegoat" is 'az'azel. 'Az'azel comes from two Hebrew words -- 'ez (a she-goat) and 'azel (a primitive root; to go away hence to disappear). 'Ez comes from the word 'azaz (to be stout, hardened, impudent).

Conclusion: This live goat represents someone banished because of hardness, impudence, indifference. Can this represent Christ?

The 'az'azel fulfills its purpose by remaining alive in exile due to hardness and arrogant impudence. The other goat fulfilled its purpose by dying -- becoming a sin-offering (II Cor. 5:21). The Greek word hamartia "may equal sin-offering here, as Lev. 4:24 . . . or Jesus is viewed as representative and bearer of the world's sin" (A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature; Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, 1952).

Christ as Creator (Col. 1:16; Rom. 8:20) bears some responsibility. Man himself bears some share of the responsibility. Yet Satan, as the deceiver of all mankind (Rev. 12:9; 20:3), must bear some responsibility -- a responsibility not covered by the shed blood of Christ. For, surely he will be required to pay for his own rebellion.

Atonement eloquently speaks for all atoning responsibility.

6. Feast of Tabernacles: A foretaste of the Kingdom of God under the rule of Christ (Rev. 3:10; Dan. 2:44; 7:18, 21-27; Heb. 4:1-11; Rev. 20:4)
7. The Great High Day: A time when God will deal with the masses of this world who have died prior to Christ's Second Coming. See Rev. 21:5-12 (the Book of Life is also opened), and Ezek. 37:1-14 (here life everlasting is offered).
The conclusion: I Cor. 15:24-28.

XL. Holy Days Are Inseparably Bound Up In God's Covenant With The Heavenly Bodies

- A. Gen. 1:14 -- The basis of the calendar. Holy Days are regulated by this calendar (Gen. 1:4-2:3; Ex. 12:2; Lev. 23:1-44; Ps. 104:19).
- B. Lev. 23:4 -- The yearly calendar was basically designed with Holy Days in mind (compare Ex. 12:2). The Feasts are not an afterthought of God.
- C. Ps. 19:1-4 -- The heavenly bodies speak the message of God -- a message hidden from the beginning (Rom. 16:25-26). See Rom. 1:20.
- D. Rom. 1:25 -- The unconverted mind and those who knew but rebelled against Truth worship the created instead of the Creator.
 - 1. The Greek word ktisis means "the created," whether creature or body (Mark 10:6; 13:19; 16:15; Rom. 1:22; II Pet. 3:4).
- E. Jer. 33:19-26 -- God said that His covenant with David was just as sure as His covenant with the heavenly bodies. What was that covenant (Gen. 1:14)? And what was the purpose of days, months, and years? The appointment of Holy Days! To break God's promise to David and the House of Israel or the requirement to observe the dictates of the message of the heavenly bodies requires nothing less than the monumental task of destroying those great bodies.

Since the sun, moon, and stars are still in place speaking the same message as always, the converted have no alternative but to obey willingly (Isa. 1:19).

XLI. Obedience Requirements For The Last Days

- A. The message taught today must be the same as that taught by Christ.
 - 1. Matt. 28:19-20 -- The message is the same from the beginning to the end.
 - 2. Deut. 18:15-22 -- What was the message of Christ? Compare John 5:39-47.
 - 3. John 17:18 -- What Christ taught He delivered to those who followed Him. Compare John 20:21.

4. I John 1:1-4 -- The apostles taught exactly the same message Jesus did.
5. Heb. 4:2 -- The message taught to ancient Israel, to those in Christ's day, and to those in the days of the apostles is exactly the same.

XLII. The Ultimate Proof Of The Validity Of God's Holy Days Today

- A. The more vehemently and vociferously men rebel against laws, statutes, and judgments of God, the more they prove their current authenticity and validity.
 1. Rom. 8:7 -- The carnal mind is not subject to the Law of God.
- B. Today's rash of anti-Holy-Day reasonings prove the validity and existence of the Holy Days.
 1. II Cor. 10:3-5
- C. Doing that which seems right to the natural mind
 1. Prov. 16:25 -- Christians must resist the impulse to pursue the natural way.
 2. Gal. 5:17 -- The battle between the spirit and the flesh is constant.

XLIII. Conclusion

Why should not Holy Days be observed today? The Law is spiritual and holy. The Holy Days are a part of that which is embodied in the dimension of nomos -- the Law. That Law is eternal, unchanging. The very heavenly bodies were designed with God's Holy Day Calendar in mind. They were a part of the Old Covenant. All that formed a part of the old agreement is included in the second -- the New Covenant. That Old Covenant was made with Israel.

Christ kept the Holy Days. The Twelve Apostles kept and taught obedience to these Feast Days. The Apostle Paul taught and obeyed them. That which Christ taught, that which the apostles taught, including Paul, is the basis of that which must be taught and practiced today. Emphatically, the Holy Days will be observed universally during the Millennium. Why would an unchanging God make an exception for our time?

Indeed, He did not. God's Holy Days are as binding upon the Christian today as they have ever been. The truly converted will cease to argue and resist. He will become obedient to the Ways of God --

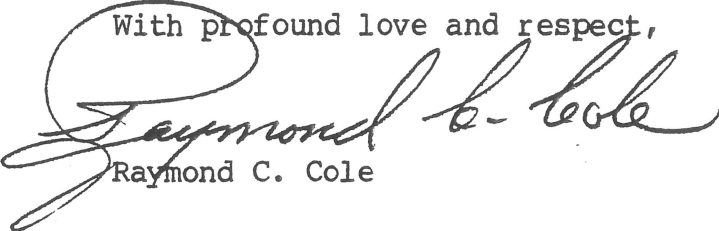
including His perfect statutes. The heavenly bodies still speak to us of a perfect calendar -- requisite for the observance of God's Holy Days.

We sincerely hope that you have found the study both illuminating and inspirational. Be sure the material is well ingrained in heart and mind. Satan is active and will become increasingly determined to destroy all vestiges of the Truth -- the Way of Life. Only those with good faith and courage will weather the violent storms of doubt, protest, and ridicule. You know what the picture of the future is as well as we do. Do not be found unprepared.

All our love, respect, and thoughts of good cheer are extended to you all. May God's richest blessings be realized. Keep the mind under control. It is the mind, not any other part of the body, which will cause us intense problems.

Our prayers are always with and for you. May we commend you into the love of God until you hear from us next month.

With profound love and respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name. The first letter "R" is particularly large and loops around the beginning of the name.

Raymond C. Cole