



INSIGHT

Volume 9 Number 3

March 2018

How much are your taxes?

International Congregation of Yahweh

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A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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INSIGHT has been published by the International Congregation of Yahweh ("ICY") since 1991 as part of ICY's efforts to fulfill the commission given the New Testament assembly (Mark 16:15).

A nonprofit, religious organization, ICY is dedicated to the restoration of the original doctrines of the Apostolic assembly. ICY follows the practice of the New Testament assemblies who kept the Law of the Old Testament. The true assembly is built on the foundation of the apostles' and the prophets' (Eph. 2:20), message of obedience to Yahweh's Law (Isa. 8:20; Jer. 26:4-6; Ezk. 20:19).

Our major doctrines include the name of the Creator, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua. Only these names are to be used in worship rather than Jesus, God, Lord, Jehovah, etc. Ample Scriptural and historical evidence support this belief; not the least of which is the commandment against taking the name of Yahweh in vain (Ex. 20:7).

Other major foundational beliefs are the atoning sacrifice of the Messiah Yahshua, and the inspiration of both Old and New Testaments. An ICY hallmark doctrine is the restored truth that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is from dawn-to-dark; not from sunset-to-sunset as commonly taught. Yahweh's true Holy Days and New Moons are to be observed as well. Insight is sent free of charge to all who subscribe. Since ICY does not teach tithing on money, this is made possible through free-will offerings of ICY members and other contributors. Circulation presently includes over 30 foreign countries and the USA.

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It Really is YOUR MONEY!

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

For nearly thirty-five years we have been hitting a nerve; a religious nerve. Our purpose, however, is and has always been simply to share the exciting truth we learned which freed us from a very expensive deception. Wanting others to enjoy the same freedom has always seemed worthwhile and even a duty.

So what nerve are we pressing? The tithing nerve; specifically, tithing on money. “What else would it be; is that not our “increase?” is a common reply. An article in this issue answers that question.

A surprising twist of irony has been that church members who are feeling the pinch and the pain of the false doctrine of tithing on money are generally in a state of denial on the matter.

Once convinced tithing on their paycheck is required, it takes a miracle for believers to understand they can keep that ten percent, which *rightfully and Biblically belongs to them*. The tithe leached from their families each payday under the guise that “the Bible teaches tithing on money” is really **their money**...not Yahweh’s. He does not demand it. Men do. It does not belong to the church. Truth often takes some getting used to; even when the benefits are obvious. That was never more true than on tithing.

In this issue of *Insight*, we provide the facts of Yahweh’s word on tithing, and show how the trap is laid to ensnare sincere and honest people seeking to do what is right. Once caught in their web of deception, leaders know the victims will invariably follow their money.

Imprisoned with little hope of relief, Yahshua can and does set these captives free. He has been doing so since He read: “...to preach deliverance to the captives...” (Luke 4:18; Isa. 61:1-2).

Liberation of those held captive by any deceptions that war against the truth of Yahweh’s word, is part of His mission, including the false doctrine of tithing on money.

As you read the article, “Why Do You Tithe on Money?” (page 19) prayerfully look at the clear facts of Scripture objectively, and keep in mind, *it really is YOUR MONEY!*

Also, with Passover and Easter not far away, the “*Quartodeciman*” controversy gets another hearing in our article, “The Legal Case of *Passover vs. Easter*” (page 4). That Latin word refers to the “fourteenth

controversy”; meaning celebrating Passover on the 14th day of the first month versus the Easter rite. History is not silent on the matter and neither are we. “Let the other side be heard.” was the sound advice of atomic scientist Robert Oppenheimer. We agree.

This year Passover and Easter fall within one day of each other, which is very unusual. The Nicean Council’s dictum (A.D. 325), setting Easter as the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox throws Easter Sunday virtually on top of Passover this year.

The facts of history are undisputed that a growing apostasy perpetrated a massive fraud on the true church by claiming the Passover observance was following “the blindness of the Jews.” As the apostasy spread, false teachers peddled this lie gradually gaining control of the church at Rome through subterfuge and perversion of Scripture (such as Matt. 16:19).

Another fact of history is worth mentioning: The true church never observed Easter! *And it never will.*

Speaking of Passover, we also show in the article, “Yahshua was crucified on Wednesday, the 15th of Abib,” (page 11) that is what really happened...using the Bible alone. No secular history is needed. The case is airtight...if we believe our own Bible and reject traditions coloring the facts of that fateful week. We must let go of the 14th crucifixion *tradition*: “...Full well you reject the commandment of Yahweh [“God”; *KJVB*], that you may keep your own tradition.” (Mark 7:9).

Another article (“Who is the Woman of Revelation 12:1?” page 8) focuses on the wave of interest late last year in a prophecy featuring a woman clothed by the sun (Rev. 12:1). This intriguing prophecy, hyped on YouTube, was interpreted as the conjunction of several cosmic events in the constellation Virgo on September 23, 2017. The *Biblical interpretation* of this event may surprise you. As the Bible so often does when we let it interpret itself.

On a political and economic note, we also include information on the H.R. 1, known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (“How Much are Your Taxes?” page 16). Here we include the new federal income tax percentages and other “stealth” taxes.

There is a great deal to ponder and study on these and other topics that are seldom free of “private interpretations” (I Pet. 1:20), and the traditions of men.

★★★★★★



The Legal Case of *Passover vs. Easter*

Every year a long-standing tradition is celebrated in a vast worldwide spring ritual. Churches and cathedrals are filled as *millions* make their annual pilgrimage to observe this religious rite.

Basking in the warm smiles and friendly handshakes of friends and relatives, eager worshippers don their brightest Easter dresses and suits in this gala festival. This Rite-of-Spring provides the social acceptance and display few can resist. The draw of it all is powerful, mesmerizing!

Easter Sunday impassioned sermons tout the Easter narrative as sanctioned by the Almighty since it is *really* all about the resurrection of the Messiah of Scripture and acceptance of His Messiahship. Quoting Acts 12:4: "...intending after Easter to bring him forth...", some claim Biblical evidence for New Testament Easter observance. But is this the Biblical truth?

For the record, the word translated "Easter" in the New Testament (*KJV*) is the Greek "Pascha" (SEC 3957) meaning "Passover."

Honestly, what do Easter Eggs and Bunny Rabbits have to do with the Bible? For that matter, what does *Easter* have to do with the Bible?

Where and *when* this tradition started is seldom questioned. Many would argue: "Is it not all about love anyway... not some obscure historical references? Surely the Apostles condoned celebrating the Messiah's resurrection."

Surprising perhaps, but no, they observed the Scriptural, Lawful Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month (Matt. 26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7-8; Ex. 12:6-7):

Who decided Easter should replace the Biblical observance of Passover? If Easter is not in the Bible, which it is not, by whose authority was Passover dropped from the list of Holy Day observances in favor of a patently pagan spring ritual now called "Easter?"

Whoever they were, rest assured one day they will stand before Almighty Yahweh in the Great White Throne Judgment and give an account of their actions (Rev. 20:12-15). And they will not be happy with their sentence: "...I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matt. 7:23; *NAS*).

Have you ever stopped and asked why you accept your religious beliefs? Do religious traditions you observe replace Yahweh's commandments? "Howbeit in vain do they

worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...Full well you reject the commandment of Yahweh ["God" *KJV*], that you may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:7, 9).

Often the religion taught from childhood includes: Easter is Christian—it truly celebrates the Messiah's resurrection, and is approved by the Almighty Creator.

Perhaps as a child you were told that even though many of the trappings of Easter were not in the Bible, it is the *attitude* of remembering and celebrating the resurrection that matters most.

"There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers..."

Perhaps, because so many others believe the same, you are comfortable with hot cross buns, "Good Friday, Holy Week," Lent and Easter sunrise services. Does that feeling make it right, and is the Creator, Yahweh, comfortable with these Easter traditions?

Perhaps too, *you have not been told the whole truth*, the complete Scriptural and historical truth, about Easter.

THE TRUE ORIGIN OF EASTER

In the movie, *A Few Good Men*, [1992 American legal drama starring Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson], the one on trial tells the prosecutor, "You can't handle the truth!" The Bible and history are the prosecutors in the case of *Passover vs. Easter*. They have the truth. Question is, "Can we handle the truth?" Here are the charges and evidence:

Charges: Easter is a fraudulent, pagan celebration perpetrated on the churches under the pretext of church authority to change Biblical laws.

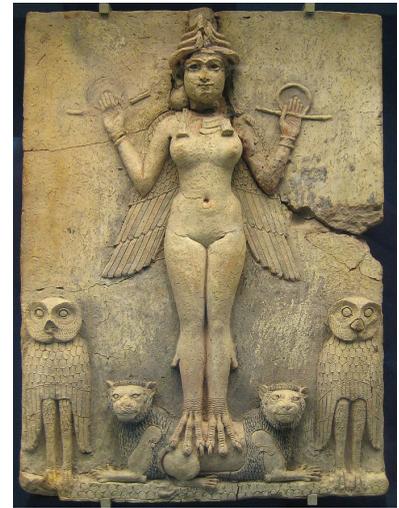
What follows is the evidence in this case.

The term "Easter" is of Anglo Saxon origin and is a slight variation of Eastr, the spring or dawn goddess.¹ Eastr was the goddess of spring, the spring deity. When is

the “Christian” Easter celebration?

The word is also the modified English spelling of the goddess, Ishtar, worshipped by the ancient Assyrians. She is also associated with Astarte: “An ancient Semitic deity, goddess of *fertility* and *reproduction* worshipped by the Phoenicians and Canaanites, corresponding to the Hebrew Ash-toreth and the Babylonian and Assyrian *Ishtar*, and regarded as a moon goddess by the Greeks and Romans.”² (emphasis mine; For Ashtoreth, see also Jdg. 2:18; 10:6; 1 Sam. 7:8,4; 1 Kings 11:5, 33; 2 Kings 23:13)

“What means the term Easter itself? It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven, whose name, as *pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical* with that now in common use in this country”³ (emphasis mine).



Estra and Ishtar are goddesses in ancient history to which the origins of Easter can be traced. northernpaganism.org / redeeminggod.com

THE APOSTLES AND EARLY CHURCH OBSERVED PASSOVER

There is no Biblical basis for either the use of the term Easter or what it supposedly commemorates. The Bible commands observance of the Passover, not the Messiah’s resurrection. Where is the slightest hint the Bible *allows* the celebration of His resurrection?

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* (11th edition, vol. 8, p. 828) corroborates this fact: “There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers...”

Further evidence from New Testament times is found in Eusebius Pamphilus’ *Ecclesiastical History*. (A.D. 263? c340). Eusebius was bishop of Caesarea in Palestine, A.D. 315-c340.

Here we find Eusebius’ record that Polycarp, the bishop of Smyrna (See Rev. 2:8-11) and *disciple of the Apostle John*, observed the Passover on the fourteenth of the first month as specified in the Law of Yahweh:

“... John, who rested upon the bosom of our Lord also, Polycarp of Smyrna, both bishop and martyr, Thraseas, also, bishop and martyr...**ALL** these observed the **fourteenth day of the Passover according to the GOSPEL**, deviating in no respect, but following the rule of faith...For neither could Anicetus persuade Polycarp not to observe it [Passover on the 14th], because **HE HAD ALWAYS OBSERVED IT WITH JOHN** the disciple of our Lord [Yahshua], **and the rest of the apostles with whom he associated**” (Book V, Chapter XXIV; emphasis mine).

These are the *historical facts*. Facts are stubborn things. They just will not go away.

Polycarp, “...was not only *taught by Apostles* and *lived in familiar intercourse...WITH MANY THAT HAD SEEN CHRIST* [Yahshua], but *also received his ap-*

pointment in Asia from Apostles, as bishop in the Church of Smyrna...”⁴ (emphasis mine). And *when* did Polycarp observe the Passover? He, with others, observed it on the 14th day of the first month of the year. This was *not* the Easter celebration.

Obviously, Polycarp was a true disciple of the Messiah who got his beliefs *firsthand* from eyewitnesses of Yahshua and those who worked directly with Him! He is a true witness to the correct Passover observance.

MORE EVIDENCE FROM HISTORY

Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 104, says, “The festival, of which we read in Church history, under the name Easter, in the *third or fourth centuries*, was quite different from that now observed in the Romish Church, and *at that time* was not known by any such name as Easter. It was called *Pasch*, or the Passover...That festival agreed originally with the time of the Jewish Passover, when Christ was crucified...*was very early observed by many professing Christians*... That festival was not idolatrous, and it was preceded by no Lent” (emphasis mine).

Obviously, for over **300 years after** everything was supposedly “nailed to the cross” at the crucifixion, the **Passover** was still being observed by the true church! *Another fact* that will not go away.

However, apostasy was brewing in many quarters, threatening the traditional scriptural Passover observance.

WHO CHANGED THE PASSOVER OBSERVANCE TO EASTER WORSHIP?

How many professing Christian churchgoers know *why* Easter is observed on the calendar date commonly used or *who* sets that date? One thing is sure, such drastic changes did not happen overnight. The church that emerged from the first century had little resemblance to the New Testament church Yahshua the Messiah founded (Matt. 16:18).

Only a remnant survived the massive fraud perpetrated on the true church in the name of “enlightened understanding” that church authority could change Biblical Laws at will.

As apostasy grew, a split arose between those of the true church of Yahweh and false teachers who had gradually gained control of the church at Rome through subterfuge

“...the apostasy spread until the pagan Easter observance was unanimously adopted at the Council of Nice in A.D. 325...”

and perversion of Scripture such as misusing Matthew 16:19: “And I will give unto thee the keys to the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (*KJV*). Bad translation.

This scripture did not and does not deed to the church the power to change Yahweh’s Law as apostates advocated. It should read more literally: “...whatever you bind on earth shall occur **having already been bound in Heaven**. And whatever you **may** lose on the earth shall be, **having already been loosed in Heaven**” (Matt. 16:19; *Green’s Interlinear Bible*; emphasis mine). The authority for setting spiritual Law is from the top-down; in Heaven first and then down to men on earth. The apostates had it backwards then and have it backwards now.

The *Williams Translation* makes it somewhat plainer (emphasis mine): “...whatsoever you forbid in earth **must be that which already is forbidden in heaven** and whatsoever you permit on earth **must be that which is already permitted in heaven.**”

In A.D. 159, Polycarp [see earlier reference] visited Rome “...to confer with Anicetus, the bishop of that see, on the subject, [of Passover] and urged the tradition which *he had received from the apostles of observing the 14th day*. Anicetus declined...” (emphasis mine).

The situation simmered, each side holding their ground until 38 years later. Talks resumed in A.D. 197 when the matter was again discussed this time between Polycrates, a bishop of Ephesus,⁵ a church of Asia Minor [See Rev. 1], and Victor, bishop of Rome.

The result? Did the apostates finally see the error of their ways? Not at all:

“...Victor demanded that all should adopt the usage prevailing at Rome. This Polycrates firmly refused to agree to... whereupon Victor proceeded to excommunicate Polycrates and the Christians who continued the Eastern usage...[Passover on the 14^h]. A final settlement of the dispute was one among other reasons which led Constantine to summon the council of Nice in A.D. 325...The few who

afterward separated themselves from the unity of the church, and continued to keep the 14th day, were named ‘*Quarto-decimani*, ‘and the dispute itself is known as the ‘*Quartodeciman controversy*’⁶ (“fourteenth” controversy).

Eventually, the apostasy spread until the pagan Easter observance was unanimously adopted at the Council of Nice in A.D. 325: “The decision of the council was unanimous that Easter [now *Easter* not Passover] was to be kept on Sunday...and that ‘none hereafter should follow the blindness of the Jews [meaning should not observe Passover on the 14th]’ (Hislop, p. 829).

The Council of Nice placed Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after March 21 (the vernal equinox), to make sure it would *never fall on Passover*, which is the day before the full moon. This is why Easter usually falls a week or so after Passover.

The die was cast. Despite the total lack of Biblical support for Easter observance, the apostate bishops of the Nicene Council abandoned the Scriptural Passover. **To this day, virtually ALL professing Christians (Protestants, Catholics, etc.) dutifully comply with this unscriptural and heretical edict! Stunning but true.**

Why? Why do so few ever question the beliefs they follow, or their loyal allegiance to such false religious creeds while professing belief in the Bible?

How could it be that so many doctrines pawned off as Biblical are in fact *nowhere* to be found in Scripture?

Part of the answer is that the human heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). The other part of the answer is that there *really* is a master deceiver, Satan the adversary, who deceives *the whole world* (Rev. 12:9).

The deceit does not, however, end with Easter. There is more, *much more*, that masquerades as Biblical truth, but in fact is not.

EASTER EGGS

Note the reference to Astarte included “...goddess of *fertility and reproduction*...” This, in part, explains the association with *eggs* and the rapidly reproducing rabbits.

Did you know ancient Druids used the egg as a sacred emblem of their worship?⁷

“In the Dionysiaca or mysteries of Bacchus, as celebrated in Athens, one part of the nocturnal ceremony consisted in the consecration of an egg...Hindu fables celebrate their mundane egg...the people of Japan make their sacred egg...In China...died or painted eggs are used on sacred festivals...”⁸

“With the Greeks the Orphic Egg is described by Aristophanes and was part of the Donysiac and other mysteries, during which the Mundane Egg was consecrated...This ‘first born...’ was Dionysos, with some Greeks; the god who sprang from the mundane egg...”⁹

“An egg...is said to have fallen from heaven...doves settled upon it, and hatched it, out came Ve-

nus [Astarte or Ishtar].”¹⁰

Colored Easter eggs, the Ishtar egg or Mundane Egg, are definitely NOT Scriptural.

Such Easter fables and the Easter egg itself are rank paganism and found nowhere in Scripture. They should be found nowhere in our religious celebrations.

THE PRACTICE OF THE TRUE CHURCH: THEN AND NOW

The true church of antiquity continued to observe Passover on the 14th day of the month set by the Law of Scripture.¹¹ This day was counted from the *day of the conjunction*, not the day the first visible crescent appears. (This is proven in our booklet *Come Out of Babylon: Keep the Scriptural New Moon*; visit our store online at: www.icyahweh.org).

As we have shown, history records that long after the Messiah’s death despite rebuffs, loneliness, poverty, excommunication, shunning by society, and martyrdom (Polycrates, Polycarp, et.al.), the true disciples of Yahshua steadfastly kept the Passover on the 14th day of Abib. This corresponds approximately to the 14th of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar.

History further proves the churches of Asia (the Eastern churches) mentioned in Revelation chapters one through three, continued this Scriptural tradition of observing Passover on the 14th. It was never rescinded nor exchanged for a day supposedly celebrating the Messiah’s resurrection. These facts of history are beyond dispute.

The New Testament clearly shows *Yahshua kept the Passover*, so it must be right to do so: “Now the first of unleavened bread the disciples came to Yahshua, saying to him, Where will you that we prepare for you to eat the Passover?...And as they did eat...” (Matt. 26:17, 19; See also Mark 14:12, Luke 22:7-15). The Passover lamb was killed the fourteenth day of the first month of the Scriptural calendar (Ex. 12:2, 6) and eaten that night (v. 8).

Note that Yahshua himself, upon breaking the unleavened bread during the Passover meal, said, “...This do in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19); leaving us the example we must follow (John 13:15; I Pet. 2:21). Clearly, He was not observing Easter.

The Scriptures also conclusively show the *Apostles and*

early church followed that same example after Yahshua was killed. Notice Paul’s example in the letters to the church at Corinth (A.D. 59; *28 years after the crucifixion*): “...Therefore, let us celebrate our Passover, then, not with bread having old yeast, of sin and of wickedness, but with bread that has no yeast, bread of purity and truth.” (I Cor. 5:8; *Good News Bible*; omitting article “the” not in Greek).

Too, the Passover meal was not a Protestant-Catholic styled “Eucharist” snack of unleavened bread and a sip of wine. It was a supper, a major meal. The word “supper” (John 13:2, 4) used in reference to the Passover meal, was the main meal and is correctly translated *feast* in Matthew 23:6 and Luke 20:46. Why would Yahweh’s Passover mimic the apostatized Eucharist or its surrogate “The Lord’s Supper?” Of course, it does not.

CONCLUSION

Now you have read the facts in this case. The Bible and history convict the Easter celebration as a fraud perpetrated on the church then and now. The fraud is based on the false claim that church authority supersedes Biblical Law including the right to replace Passover observance with Easter. The court of Yahweh’s word and history render the following verdict: *guilty as charged!*

The *true* congregation of Yahweh, now as in the days of the Apostles, still observes Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month of the Sacred calendar. It never observed Easter *and never will*. Do you observe Passover?

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- 4 – *The Apostolic Fathers, Clement, Ignatius, and Polycarp*, Lightfoot, Part 2, Vol. 1, p. 450.
- 5 – Lightfoot, vol. 1, pg. 393; Rev. 2:1.
- 6 – *Encyclopedia Britannica* [11th edition, vol. VIII, pp. 828-829], as quoted in *The Plain Truth About Easter*, H. Armstrong, 1973, p. 17.
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- 8 – *The Two Babylons*, A. Hislop, pp. 108-109.
- 9 – *The Secret Doctrine*, H.P. Blavatsky, Vol. I-Cosmogonensis, 1909, pp. 359-360.
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Who is the Woman of Revelation 12:1?

The veiled book of Revelation opens chapter twelve with the mystifying vision of a woman bathed in the sun's light while apparently standing on the moon. What is the *Scriptural* interpretation of this mysterious prophecy, strangely depicting a woman "sandwiched" between the sun and moon? "Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words of this prophecy..." (Rev. 1:3).

How are we to pull back this veil unlocking her identity? Much speculation surrounded this account in recent months centered on the constellation Virgo, a woman. Just prior to the sun and moon entering Virgo September 23, 2017, while the planets Mercury, Venus and Mars simultaneously aligned above Virgo's head, prophecy pundits hit the internet on YouTube in a rush. Their explosive interpretations created a storm of anticipation as the events approached! When the phenomena came and went with no visible Biblical significance, interest waned and disappointment followed. Was this just another false alarm full of "sound and fury signifying nothing?"

We do well to recall *another* prophecy of the Messiah, "For false Christs and *false prophets* will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect" (Matt. 24:24; also Mark 13:22).

Notice He said, "...will **SHOW** great signs and wonders..." **not necessarily DO them!** The word translated "show" here means "to rouse up, stir up, incite."¹ Exactly what happened with the "Virgo private interpretation."

But *how* do we understand this prophecy?

The prophet Isaiah answers:

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine ["the hearing"; *KJV* margin]?...For precept must be upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little..." (Isa. 28:9-10) "...comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Cor. 2:13).

Here are the Biblical facts gleaned from Scripture comparing spiritual things together; not from the constellations.

MAP OF CANAAN - TWELVE TRIBE PORTIONS



THIS WOMAN IS A CHURCH

How can we know? First, notice Revelation's Woman wears a mysterious crown of twelve stars (12:1).

Who or what are those stars? They are crucial to her identity. Are they the alignment of Mercury, Venus and Mars above Virgo's head with nine stars in the constellation Leo as many speculated?

Only the Bible can unlock this mystery. Remember the book of Revelation is a **prophecy** and the apostle Peter informs us: "Know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture

"...*how* do we understand this prophecy?"

is of any private interpretation" (II Pet. 1:20). Where does the **Bible** reveal the true identity of these stars?

Here is the key: The **ONLY** other mention in Scripture of a collection of twelve stars is found in Genesis:

"And he [Joseph] dreamed yet another dream...behold, the sun, moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me...he told it to his father...and his brethren...What is this dream...? [Notice now]...Shall I [the sun], and your mother [the moon] and your brethren [eleven stars]...bow...to you...?" (Gen. 37:9-10).

Where is the **twelfth star**? It is Joseph, the twelfth

brother. These twelve stars are the **sons of Jacob, the sons, tribes, of Israel** who became the “church in the wilderness” (Acts 7:38) with **twelve stars!**

Notice too that **sons are as stones of a CROWN:** “...raised up your Sons of Zion...**THEY SHALL BE AS STONES OF A CROWN...**” (Zech. 9:13, 16).

These references, letting the Bible interpret itself, indicate the **Church in the Wilderness, Israel, had a crown of twelve stars.**

Now, was this wilderness church a woman? Yes.

Yahweh married Israel, a woman: “...after **she** had done all these things...I saw...whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had...given **her** a bill of divorce...” (Jer. 3:7-8).

The Church in the Wilderness, ISRAEL, was a WOMAN who fled into the Wilderness with a crown of twelve stars. The Woman is a Church who wears a crown with twelve stars.

Applying these Scriptural references to the Woman (Rev. 12:1) the Bible (our interpreter) identifies **HER** as a **CHURCH** wearing a crown of twelve stars which are the **TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL!**

And like ancient Israel fled from Pharaoh’s army, she too flees to a protected place, a safe haven from the fury of a dragon while crowned with those twelve tribes! (Rev. 12:6, 14; Israel: Num. 33:3; Ex. 13:18).

Is this not why we find in an earlier part of Revelation (chapter seven), the **sealing of 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel protecting them from the calamities to follow?** Are they taken with the woman to a “...place prepared of Yahweh [“God” *KJV*]...” (Rev. 12:6)?

WHAT CHURCH?

The possible answer—using the Bible—lies with the comments that “...she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered” (Rev. 12:2). “And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron...” (Rev. 12:5). Notice the reference to a baby boy who will **rule all nations with a rod of iron?**

Now, this man child **could not be Yahshua** the Messiah simply because this prophetic book was not written

until long after He ascended into heaven: “The Revelation of Yahshua the Messiah...to show his [Yahweh’s] servants **things which must shortly come to pass...**” (Rev. 1:1). It is a *prophecy*; not history; or as some like to speculate a “flash back.”

This mystifying book is of things which were to come, not what had already passed.

Since we now know she is a church, is there some *other* reference to one ruling the nations involving a *church*?

Surprisingly there is a **parallel prophecy** about the **CHURCH of Thyatira** containing a stunning account of **another man with this same power!**

Notice this remarkable reference: “...to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ...And HE that overcomes, and keeps my works to the end, to HIM will I give **power over the nations:** and **HE shall rule them with a rod of iron...even as I received of my Father**” (Rev. 2:18, 26-27).

Does this refer to Yahshua? Not at all...by Yahshua’s own statement “...**EVEN AS I received of my Father...**” (v. 27). **This man has the same governmental power** Yahweh gave Yahshua! Nothing could be clearer. This ruler is promised to arise as stated in the letter to the Church of Thyatira **and born of, come out of, the prophesied Woman**, the Church, later depicted as the woman wearing the star studded crown (Rev. 12:1-2, 5).

Is the Woman of Revelation the Church in Thyatira? Certainly very similar outcomes; identical prophecies in some respects. Remember, Scripture opens Scripture.

CLOTHED WITH THE SUN; MOON UNDER FOOT

Another puzzling detail of this enigmatic prophecy portrays the woman “...clothed with the sun...” and “...the moon under her feet...” The woman is not the sun nor the moon but is “clothed” with the sun and the moon under foot. This rules out using Joseph’s dream (Gen. 37), to interpret this part.

Deciphering these details requires the correct translation which is not “clothed” but “encircled.” The Sun encir-



Throughout history the Revelation 12 Woman has been variously depicted. However, the Bible shows the woman of Revelation is a Church, composed of the 12 tribes of Israel (crown of 12 stars), and foreigners. [goodsalt.com / e-prophetic.com](http://goodsalt.com/e-prophetic.com) / 2ndevangelicalfreechurch.org

cles or is over the woman while the Moon is under her feet, below her implying the Sun was overhead. These celestial bodies appear in their opposite positions at the same time. **The Sun is encircling her, over her, while the Moon is beneath her.**

If we look no further than the Bible's plain descriptions of their locations *in heaven*: **their astronomical positions**, the meaning is self-explanatory. There is no need to look to the sun and moon's alignments relative to the constellation Virgo.

By example, when the Church in the Wilderness, Israel, fled Egypt with a *mixed multitude* of Israelites and foreigners [Ex. 12:38; Deut. 29:11], her flight began on the fifteenth day of the month (Num. 33:3). Why is this significant for the prophecy of the Woman of Revelation?

Mark these points:

Over the course of that day's epic pilgrimage, the woman with the 12 stars of Israel **literally had the Sun circling round her overhead.**

At the SAME TIME the Moon was literally under her feet...on the opposite side of the earth!

Remember this happened on the 15th day of the month.

On this day of the month, when the Sun is overhead at the zenith, the Moon is 180° directly opposite the Sun at nadir. This happens precisely *on the fifteenth day of the month*: the day of the Full Moon.

CONCLUSION

If we apply this Biblical example (our interpreter) of Israel's flight with its other many details already discussed, we see the Woman is a Church. When the Sun and Moon are oppositely aligned, the dragon begins chasing this church composed of the twelve tribes of Israel and *others* [Gentiles, Foreigners: Eph. 2:11-13; a mixed multitude]. The flight apparently begins *on that very same day, the 15th of the first month* (Rev. 12:1, 6, 14).

This conclusion uses Scriptural line-upon-line to unveil the identity of this mystery woman protected for 1,260 days in a haven prepared by Yahweh.

REFERENCES:

1 – Thayer's G-E Lexicon of the NT; p. 222.

★★★★★★

Bible Briefs

Is there more than one way to get to God?

Good question. Of course, I would rephrase this, "...to get to Yahweh?" The Messiah, Yahshua, actually answered this question: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). He goes on to show Yahweh's role in this process: "No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him..." (John 6:44). Yahweh calls, He draws those He calls and chooses to Yahshua, our High Priest [Heb. 9:11]. But Yahshua clarifies the requirements of those coming to Him: "And why call you me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Further, "Many shall say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name?...in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity." (Matt. 7:22-23).

Clearly, getting to Yahweh, the Father, through Yahshua requires obedience to His commandments...Yahweh's Laws: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...And... Full well you reject the commandment of Yahweh [KJV "God"], that you may keep your own traditions." (Mark 7:9). Yahshua was actually quoting Isaiah 29:13.

I have to conclude the only one way we reach Yahweh is through calling us to Yahshua who directs us in the ways of righteousness required by the Father Yahweh.

What do you think of when you think of church?

Church to me is a like-minded group meeting to sincerely learn how the Bible relates to our daily lives and ultimately the hereafter. Too, during the meetings the church must prove or disprove our beliefs-by the Bible, rather than

just be a time for socialization. Not that socializing, sharing experiences with those of like mind is not needed. It is. But church is not to be a social club.

Church services should provide new understanding of fundamental Biblical truths, the Scriptural laws that govern life. Prophecy should be taught as well. The Bible is one-third prophecy, so it should be a part of church curriculum.

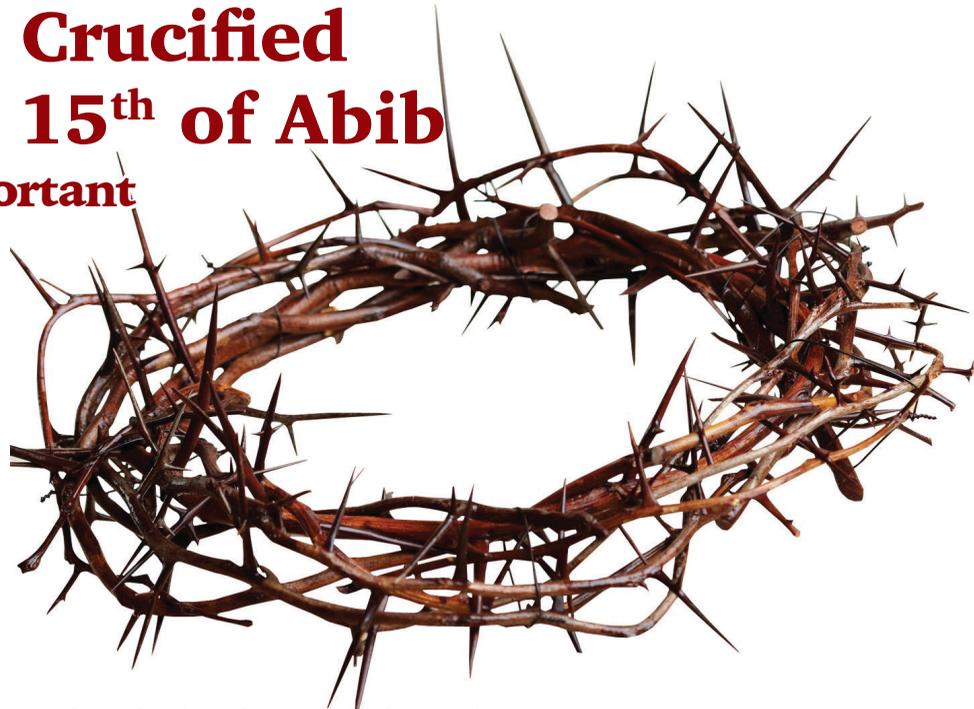
Finally, when I think of church, the question always comes to mind, "Is there one true church that stands alone as an extension of the apostolic body started by the Messiah?" (Matt. 16:18-19). I consider that true church, wherever it is, to be the modern-day version of the highly organized law-abiding "church in the wilderness" led by Moses (Acts 7:38).

Do you believe in God, if yes, who is he? If no, why?

I believe in and worship the Great Creator whose name is Yahweh (YHWH; mentioned nearly 7,000 times in the Old Testament). I do not substitute any other name for Him nor worship Him by any other name. This is in obedience to the 1st and 3rd of the 10 commandments: 1st (Ex. 20:2): "I am Yahweh your Elohim,...You shall have no other Elohim before Me." 3rd (v.7): "You shall not take the name of Yahweh your Elohim in vain, for Yahweh will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain." (LORD should be translated "Yahweh" and "God" as Elohim).

A somewhat better translation would be: "...shall not hold the name of Yahweh your Elohim as a vain thing.."; Elohim as a vain thing.."; .i.e. "as unimportant." Thorough research of Isaiah 65:11 reveals the name "God" is the Babylonian deity of "good luck." (Visit ICY's store at www.icyahweh.org to view "Just Who is God?" for more details.)

Yahshua was Crucified Wednesday, the 15th of Abib Why This is Important



What day of the month and day of the week was Yahshua crucified? Was it the 14th or 15th of the first month; Tuesday, Wednesday...maybe Thursday or Friday? These questions still surround that fateful week nearly 2,000 years ago.

Why is it important to know, and does it impact salvation or Yahshua's Messiahship? There are two very important reasons.

Yahshua the Messiah had an uphill battle against the skepticism of the day. The idea that the *true, heaven-sent*

from heaven" (Luke 11:16).

So finally, in the face of this drumbeat of criticism and doubt, Yahshua gave an irrefutable **sign** of who He was: **a sign not performed BY HIM**. Truly and absolutely *from heaven!* They kept chanting for "a sign from heaven" of His divine mission and identity. He gave them exactly what they demanded.

"...An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, **so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth**" (Matt. 12:39-40; NAS).

Knowing the day of the month and week is critical **for two important reasons: If it did not happen precisely as He said, both (1) His Messiahship and (2) the inspiration of Scriptures hangs in the balance! AND we have no Savior!**

"...His Messiahship...
hangs in the balance!"

Messenger in the very image of the Creator of the Universe, the prophesied Anointed One, being on the scene was met with great skepticism; as it undoubtedly would be today. Not only disbelieved and scoffed at by the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes, but in his own family:

"His brethren therefore said to Him...there is no man that does anything in secret, and he himself seeks to be known openly...*For neither did his brethren believe in him*" (John 7:3-5).

Remember those sects who tested and argued with Him were *Jewish*: "He came to His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:11).

Clearly, He was doubted and even accused of essentially using sorcery, "But some of them said, 'He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of demons'" (Luke 11:15). "And others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign

WHAT IS NEEDED TO VERIFY THE SIGN

Four points must be investigated to prove Yahshua's sign:

- (1). When Yahshua's disciples arrived at the tomb,
- (2). The sign of Jonah including the true Scriptural Day and Night,
- (3). The day of the week He died,
- (4). Yahshua ate the Passover on Abib 14.

(1). ARRIVAL AT THE TOMB

Yahshua could not have risen Sunday morning, as shown by this account: "...after the Sabbaths [Gk. plural]... as it **began to dawn** toward the first *day* [in italics] of the week came Mary Magdalene...and came the other Mary to



Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, the grave [margin, Jonah 2:2; so translated 31 times in OT]. How long was this? Scripture shows it was three "light periods" and three "dark periods," a total of 72 hours. gracethrufaith.org

see the sepulcher...He is not here: for He is risen..." (Matt. 28:1, 6).¹ The plural term, Sabbaths, indicates more than one Sabbath that week. There were two: the Passover Sabbath,⁶ and the weekly Sabbath.

Clearly, this reference shows **both women** came to the tomb at the faintest light of Sunday morning. A parallel account in John 20:1 indicates Mary Magdalene went there **alone** while "still dark."²

Notice dawn was just beginning to break **starting** the first day of the week (i.e. Sunday), and Yahshua had **already** risen. This is further verified in Mark: "Now *when* ("after" [SEC 3753]; as in Matt. 27:31; John 13:12; Tit. 3:4) Yahshua was risen, early the first day of the week..." (Mark 16:9).

These New Testament verses reveal **the resurrection was not Sunday morning, but some while prior to the dawn of Sunday morning**. Even while it was dark, He had *already* left the tomb.

(2). THE SIGN OF JONAH

The central part of this sign is knowing the meaning of day and night in "...as Jonas was three days and three nights in the belly..." (Matt. 12:40; Jonah 1:17). Knowing now that Yahshua was resurrected before Sunday morning and was to be in the grave three days and three nights, what exactly is Scriptural "day" and "night?" How does the Bible define them? We must know to clarify Jonah's three days and three nights (Jonah 1:17).

Yahweh gives a very simple definition, *His* meaning: "And Elohim called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night..." (Gen. 1:5).³ Clearly, the Bible's **day is light only** and **night is darkness only**. Since the day is ruled by the Sun (Gen. 1:16), so long as the Sun's light rules,

dominates the sky, the day continues. The day then is from dawn-to-dark and night is from dark-to-dawn while the sky is ruled by the moon and stars.^{3,4} Together, day plus night, they total 24 hours. There is no 24-hour "day" in Scripture; **only day and night**.

The terms day and night used in the New Testament sign of Yahshua's Messiahship, are the Old Testament meanings of day and night, i.e. light and darkness. We know because this verse itself (Matt. 12:40), uses them. The sign of Jonah, three days and three nights, was definitely 72 hours.

(3). DAY OF THE WEEK

The recorded events of that week state that Yahshua had died about the ninth hour (Mark 15:34), 3:00 p.m. or shortly afterward. Knowing the Biblical day runs from dawn-to-dark, the evening of His burial must have been at the end of the day; the twelfth and **final** division of the day (John 11:9).⁶ That evening at sunset (Mark 1:32), when Joseph began his preparations for the burial, **evening began**—not the next day. Evening lasted about an hour and a half, ending the day at dark. There is no sunset-to-sunset "day" in Scripture.^{3,4,7}

It was during this final period of evening that Joseph of Arimathea went boldly to Pilate requesting the body of Yahshua (Matt. 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-43). He then bought fine linen,

removed Yahshua from the stake and wrapped Him in the linen, finally laying Him in the sepulcher and sealed the door with a large stone (v. 46). All this undoubtedly took some time in a somewhat hurried procedure during the twelfth period of the day, finishing around dark. This places Yahshua in the grave that night, **the first night of the 72 hours**.

"His trial began the next morning, Wednesday morning..."

Keep in mind the *day He died does not count as the first Scriptural day* of the three days He was to be in the heart of the earth. Why? Because he had to be in the grave a full day to count as **one** day according to the sign of Jonah.

Nowhere does the Bible count a part of a day as one whole day. This so-called “inclusive reckoning” making part of a day equal a whole day is a bogus method used to make the account fit a period not substantiated by Scripture. Some use it, counting Wednesday as the first day of the three days. Problem is, the count of the sign must include *only* the time He was in the grave; not before. Clearly, the day of the crucifixion does not count as day one.

Protestants and Catholics likewise use this bogus reckoning to move the crucifixion to Friday with a Sunday morning resurrection and to preserve A.D. 33 as the crucifixion year.⁹

The Biblical evidence does not support these claims.

The “Good Friday-Easter Sunday” tradition did not begin until after all the apostles had died and began corrupting the Passover record.

The resurrection clearly took place before dawn of Sunday morning. Since the 72-hour period could **only begin with the first night** following His death earlier that day, the count could **not end with a full night** (would total four nights) and had to be a sequence of night-day, night-day, night-day. The third night was Friday night.

Three days and three nights had to end with the last light of the third day Saturday evening. Counting forward from the first night or backward from Saturday evening totaling three days and three nights, 72 hours, either way, **it is certain that Yahshua was crucified on Wednesday that year.**

(4). YAHSHUA ATE THE PASSOVER THE 14TH

By law, Yahshua was required to keep the Passover. (Ex. 12:2, 6). The New Testament records show He did in fact eat the Passover: “Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread...I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples...disciples...made ready the Passover” (Matt. 26:7, 18-19; See also Mark 14:12-18 and Luke 22:1-15). The Passover lamb was killed in the evening of the *fourteenth day of the first month of the year—at the end of the day*; exactly the time observed by Yahshua and His disciples (Ex. 12:6-9, 18; Lev. 23:5; Num. 9:2-3; 28:16; Josh. 5:10).

He gathered with His disciples at evening at the **end of the day**, the twelfth and final period of the fourteenth day—not the beginning of the fourteenth as so many assume. The meeting continued into the night of the fourteenth. His Passover meal could only have begun at sunset late Tuesday, finishing **Tuesday night**.

His trial began the next morning, Wednesday morning, followed by His eventual crucifixion about the third hour, 9:00 a.m. (Mark 15:25). What is the next day after Passover? “...in the first month on the *fifteenth day of the first month*; on the morrow after the Passover...” (Num. 33:3; emphasis mine).

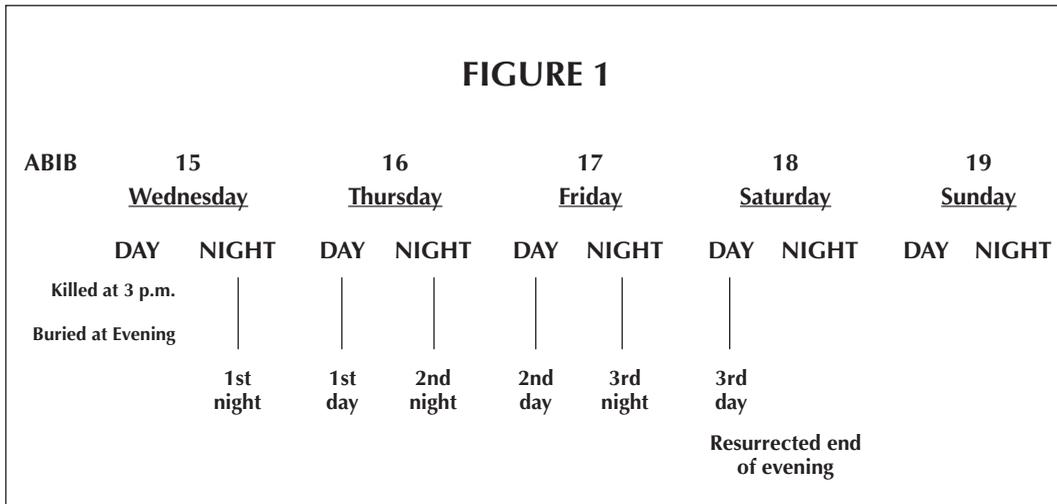
These facts make certain **the crucifixion was Wednesday morning the 15th day of the first month.**

Interestingly too, “...in an early Christian work known as the *Didascalia* the apostles are quoted as saying that it was Tuesday evening that they ate the Passover with Jesus, and on Wednesday that he was taken captive and held in custody in the house of Caiaphas.”⁵ Note it says “...Tues-



The Scriptural Passover meal is a feast (not just a bite of unleavened bread and sip of wine) where the congregation comes together to worship Yahweh and Yahshua. Passover, the 14th, is the first day of Unleavened Bread. ICY will observe the Passover meal in the evening and night of March 31, 2018. Unleavened bread is eaten daily through April 7, 2018. epicurious.com

FIGURE 1



day evening...” not Wednesday evening.

Summarizing:

(1). Yahshua and his disciples gathered to eat the Passover meal the evening of the 14th of Abib A.D. 31, on a Tuesday evening April 24, at the end of the day and continued into the night; crucified the next morning on Abib 15. This meets the Scriptural *New Moon requirements* for the year He died, Scriptural *definition of day, evening, and Passover observance time*.⁸

(2). Yahshua was in the heart of the earth, the grave, *three full Scriptural days and three full Scriptural nights* as Jonah was in the fish’s belly.

Figure 1 above depicts the facts surrounding Yahshua’s death and resurrection showing He was killed on the fifteenth of Abib, not the fourteenth as is commonly believed. Based on the facts presented above, *the Passover meal* is kept starting at evening on the 14th of Abib, as the 12th and final hour of the day starts beginning at sundown.

REFERENCES:

1 – The word “dawn” (SEC 2020: *epiphauso: epi* “a coming or draw-

ing toward” plus *phosko* “to shine”) means “to dawn as the daylight, to grow toward daylight” (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*, pp. 644-645); “to grow light” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*: p. 246); *Green’s Interlinear Bible*: “...at the dawning into the first day...”

2 – Different accounts indicate Mary Magdalene apparently visited the tomb *four* times, this account in John 20:1 being the first and earliest, while it was dark [Greek, *scotia*]. She returns with Peter and another disciple [John 20:2-4]. They leave [v. 10], and she remains there alone when she sees Yahshua [John 20:11-17]. Other accounts include “growing light” (See footnote “1”) and sunrise. Later, her and the other Mary arrive at the tomb [Matt. 28:1, 6]. The final visit came at sunrise, when she returned with Mary, the mother of James, and Salome [Mark 16:1-2].

3 – See also, *The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath is Not from Sunset-to-Sunset*, ICY, pp. 9-11.

4 – *ibid*, Sabbath book, pp. 33-34.

5 – *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, J. Finegan, Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1998, p. 356, paragraph 609.

6 – *Why Passover Is a Sabbath; Is Passover the First Day of Unleavened Bread*; ICY publications.

7 – *Explanation of Leviticus 23:32: The Evening-to-Evening Scripture*, ICY publication.

8 – *Three Vitally Important Points about Passover*, ICY, pp. 4-5.

9 – See the full longer version of this article at www.icyahweh.org for proof of an A.D. 31 crucifixion.

Page 11 Photo credit – wordpress.com

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Yahshua’s crucifixion occurred on Wednesday, the 15th of Abib. *istock.com / thoughtco.com*



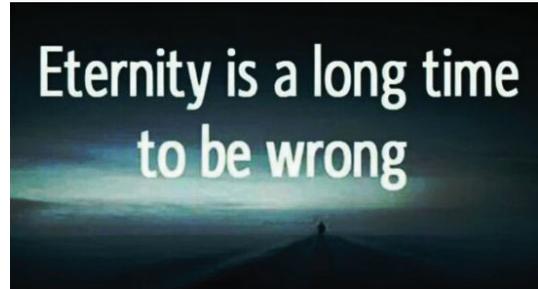
International Congregation of Yahweh is active in today's social media environment. Please visit us and 'Like' us on Facebook to receive weekly updates on various topics and information on Holy Days and events. Below are a few recent posts.

WHAT IF YOUR BELIEFS ARE NOT BIBLICAL?

What important fact do most churches not teach?

ANSWER: WORSHIP ON NEW MOONS

Few churches teach the importance of the New Moons as days of worship... which they are (Isa. 66:23; Ezk. 46:3).



BELIEVE

“And all things, whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.” (Matt. 21:22)

“...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he says. Therefore I say to you, What things soever you desire, when you pray believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.” (Mark 11:23-24)

“The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.” (Shakespeare)

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32)

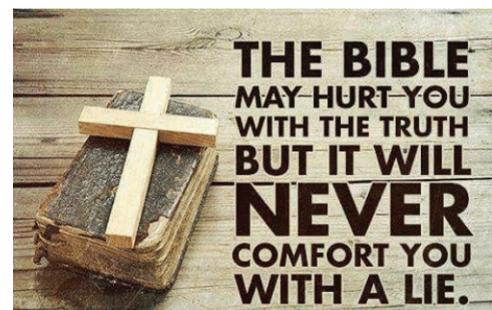
“Sanctify them through your truth: your WORD is TRUTH.” (John 17:17).

WHAT WORD?

“Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am Yahweh that SANCTIFY them.” (Ezk. 20:12)

“I am Yahweh your Mighty One; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; And hallow my SABBATHS; and they shall be a sign between Me and you...” (Ezk. 20:20)

“You shall surely observe My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations [as long as we populate], that you may know that I am Yahweh who SANCTIFIES you.” (Ex. 31:13)



How Much Are Your Taxes\$?

BY THE NUMBERS

It is payday again and time to decide your money's fate...at least part of it.

Some decisions were already made for you. State and federal governments together usually take around 20 percent of the gross income via federal and state income tax, FICA and Medicare. A retirement plan and any IRA contributions mean more deductions. Then comes health insurance, unless it is employer paid.

Breaking it down further, the FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act: Social Security) payroll tax costs you and your employer 6.2 percent of your gross earnings. This funds Social Security and probably(?) Medicaid. It is somewhat obscure, or at least not as easy to find, just where Medicaid (medical welfare) gets its money.

Next comes the Medicare tax of another 1.45 percent of your gross income. From this tax, the federal government pays between 50 and 74 percent of all the costs for services to beneficiaries under the program.

These two federal programs, FICA and Medicare, provide benefits for **retirees**—those who paid into the system through social security deduction, **disabled** people, and those without health insurance or have not paid into the system such as **children of deceased** workers.

Until the recent tax bill, H.R. 1, the so-called Affordable Health Care Act [i.e. “Obama Care,” (AHCA)] was a kind of *stealth tax* through its individual mandate. This forced health care premiums on households or a penalty of the greater of \$325 per person or 2 percent of income per month! You may not have known this thanks in part to congress passing what they admitted was an unknown *to them*, “We will have to pass it to find out what is in it!” How many times were those figures *described as a tax* when approved by congress?

DISPERSING WHAT IS LEFT

Dispersing the rest of your income is your decision...well sort of... We usually refer to what is left as “disposable income.”

This remaining income is taxed on retail purchases such as groceries, fuel, utilities, rent, and used for other expenses layered with interest (car payment, mortgage payment, student loan payment, credit cards, etc.)

Hopefully, you pay yourself with a savings account and some type of retirement plan.

It all adds up quickly!

Clearly financial planning using a personal household budget is a **must** if we are to survive the onslaught of taxes and bills. Otherwise, the vicious monthly cycle of “robbing Peter to pay Paul” remains a dark cloud over our money. The less we earn the more we need a budget.



OTHER STEALTH TAXES

Another *stealth tax* is on fuel. Most retail purchase receipts list sales tax, but fuel taxes are *hidden in the price at the pump*.

Here are the facts of this hidden tax. State tax on gasoline varies by state but as of January 2017, it ranged from 17-58 cents per gallon on regular.¹

Federal tax on gasoline, starting at 1 cent in 1933, is now 18.4 cents per gallon on regular...basically unchanged since 1993, and 24.4 cents per gallon on diesel.² The average state tax is 28.62 cents per gallon on diesel and 27.85 cents per gallon on gasoline.³ Do the math. Taxes add an average of 46 cents per gallon on regular; a hidden tax of about 18 to 20 percent, *depending on the price at the pump!*

Another variable *stealth tax* is **inflation**. Over the 97-year period from 1913 to 2010, inflation of the U.S. dollar was a staggering 2,100 percent! This massive tax, unseen and unheard, makes the \$5,000 of 1913, worth **only 4.5 cents today!**⁴

Meaning, prices have so outpaced the value of the dollar, it would take over \$110,000 to buy what the \$5,000 would buy in 1913. This is essentially a tax, which is the part of money you earned not available for *you* to spend. It subtracts from what you earn leaving you what is left.

Clearly, the 1913 \$5,000 has been so heavily taxed by inflation that you have only **4.5 cents left to spend of the full \$5,000 you had in 1913!** Compare this to \$5,000 invested in gold (something real) in 1913 which would be worth a whopping \$287,500 today!

The variable stealth tax of inflation rose in January 2018 to the highest level in four years by about 0.5 percent.⁵

CHURCH TAX

If you are a devoted church member, your church likely also weighs in on stripping your money tree through tithing.

Most demand a minimum ten percent tax which can balloon to thirty percent plus; usually on the gross amount earned! They want theirs off the top.

The fact is, however, there is no Biblical fixed tax on money; no tithing (ten percent) tax on our paycheck (See

article this issue, “Why Do You Tithe on Money?”). While offerings are required and can be money, the amount is at the discretion of the individual according to his blessing; what he decides is fair (Deut. 16:16-17; Mal. 3:8).⁶

Yahweh taxes agricultural produce at a flat rate of ten percent (Lev. 27:30, 32; Num. 18:21, 24; Deut. 14:28-29;

“Another stealth tax...
fuel taxes are hidden...”

26:12-14). Certain redemptions are also taxed at a fixed rate (Example: half a shekel: Num. 18:15-16). His system of economics is based on real assets in land, crops, livestock, silver and gold; no paper money based on a confidence game.

Yahweh’s system of giving is vastly simpler than the burdensome grab of man’s heavy hand in our pocket! “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

POSITIVE SIGNS AHEAD

State income tax, FICA, Medicare and the “fixed” stealth taxes are showing few signs of coming down.

We can take heart, however, with the passage of the new federal tax bill, H.R. 1, known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which cleared both houses of Congress on December 20, 2017. True, it has pluses and minuses, but H.R. 1 contains a large number of positive provisions affecting individual taxpayers; including eliminating the individual mandate tax of the AHCA.

However, keeping the bill within Senate budget rules, requires all of the changes affecting individuals expire after 2025. If Congress does not act then to extend H.R. 1, the individual tax provisions will sunset, reverting back to tax levels of pre-December, 2017.

Here is a look at many of the provisions in the bill affecting individuals obtained from the link: <https://www.journalofaccountancy.com/news/2017/dec/tax-reform-bill-changes-for-individuals-201718070.html>.

TAX RATES

For tax years 2018 through 2025, the following rates apply to individual taxpayers:

Single Taxpayers		
Taxable Income over	But not over	Tax rate
\$0	\$9,525	10%
\$9,525	\$38,700	12%
\$38,700	\$82,500	22%
\$82,500	\$157,500	24%
\$157,500	\$200,000	32%
\$200,000	\$500,000	35%
\$500,000		37%

Heads of Households		
Taxable Income over	But not over	Tax rate
\$0	\$13,600	10%
\$13,600	\$51,800	12%
\$51,800	\$82,500	22%
\$82,500	\$157,500	24%
\$157,500	\$200,000	32%
\$200,000	\$500,000	35%
\$500,000		37%

Married taxpayers filing jointly & surviving spouses		
Taxable Income over	But not over	Tax rate
\$0	\$19,050	10%
\$19,050	\$77,400	12%
\$77,400	\$165,000	22%
\$165,000	\$315,000	24%
\$315,000	\$400,000	32%
\$400,000	\$600,000	35%
\$600,000		37%

Married filing separately		
Taxable Income over	But not over	Tax rate
\$0	\$9,525	10%
\$9,525	\$38,700	12%
\$38,700	\$82,500	22%
\$82,500	\$157,500	24%
\$157,500	\$200,000	32%
\$200,000	\$300,000	35%
\$300,000		37%

Estates and Trusts		
Taxable Income over	But not over	Tax rate
\$0	\$2,550	10%
\$2,550	\$9,150	24%
\$9,150	\$12,500	35%
\$12,500		37%

REFERENCES:

- 1 – <https://taxfoundation.org/state-gasoline-tax-rates-2017/>.
- 2 – <https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-the-us-federal-gas-tax-3321598>.
- 3 – <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=10&t=10>.
- 4 – *Uncommon Wisdom*, May 3, 2010.
- 5 – <http://www.in2013dollars.com/current-inflation-rate>.
- 6 – See ICY references: *Freewill Offerings on the New Moon; Freewill Offerings on the Annual Holy Days; Are Freewill Required on the Weekly Sabbath?*

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Sacred Calendar

The true sacred calendar of the Bible is vitally important to salvation. Most professing Christians have been lead to believe all they have to do is “believe” in the Messiah and their eternal life is assured; that all the “Old Testament” observances of holy days have been “done away.” Nothing could be further from the clear teachings of Scripture. “Belief” without obedience to the Law of Yahweh is contrary to the true Gospel Yahshua came preaching (Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:23).

The sacred calendar is a central part of the true Gospel,

because it determines the true Sabbath days which are crucial signs of Yahweh (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). By these Sabbath signs Yahweh shows who He has personally sanctified. True, we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua the Messiah (i.e. His sacrifice; Heb. 10:10), but the evidence that we are in fact sanctified by Yahweh, is that we keep Yahweh’s true Sabbaths (See again Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). The restoration of Yahweh’s calendar system is, therefore, a top priority of the International Congregation of Yahweh.

2018 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	March 31 - April 6
Passover Sabbaths	March 31 & April 6
Passover Supper	Night of March 31
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 1 (UB eaten March 31 - April 7)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 6
Feast of Weeks	May 6 - June 23
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 12, 19, 26 June 2, 9, 16, 23
Pentecost	June 24
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 10
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	September 18 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	September 19
Feast of Tabernacles	September 24 - 30
Sabbaths	September 24 & October 1
Last Great Day	October 1

2019 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 18 - April 24
Passover Sabbaths	April 18 & April 24
Passover Supper	Night of April 18
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 19 (UB eaten Apr 18-Apr 25)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 5
Feast of Weeks	May 5 - June 22
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 11, 18, 25 June 1, 8, 15, 22
Pentecost	June 23
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 29
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	October 7 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	October 8
Feast of Tabernacles	October 13 - October 19
Sabbaths	October 13 & October 19
Last Great Day	October 20

New Moons Month		
January	17	11
February	16	12
March	18	1
April	16	2
May	16	3
June	14	4
July	13	5
August	12	6
September	10	7
October	9	8
November	8	9
December	7	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 27
Seven-Year Cycle
5th year
Jubilee Cycle
40th year

New Moons Month		
January	6	11
February	5	12
March	7	13
April	5	1
May	5	2
June	4	3
July	3	4
August	1	5
August	31	6
September	29	7
October	28	8
November	27	9
December	26	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 27
Seven-Year Cycle
6th year
Jubilee Cycle
41st year

Why Do YOU Tithe on Money?

What does the Bible teach about tithing? Any attempt to show hard facts of Scripture on tithing can draw “unfriendly fire”, but **few facts**. Since money touches so many aspects of our lives, we would expect Bible-professing believers to welcome its clear truth, *particularly on this* topic.

Ironically, just the opposite is nearly always the case! “Nothing tells more about a person than their attitude toward money.” an old adage reminds us. How important is **Yahweh’s attitude toward money?**

Typical push backs received over the years include:

- “God tells us to tithe: Bring all the tithes into the storehouse.”
- “Well, I am not giving up tithing. It belongs to God and His storehouse!”
- “I can’t agree with that; because it says to Tithe our Increase.”
- “I am blessed for tithing. No one is making me do it!”
- “For most folk in our day; our Increase comes in the form of Money...”
- “Of course it is on money! That’s my increase.”
- “So if it’s not money, I guess we just have to bring land, cattle, grain and other things instead! Really? Don’t be spiritually stupid!” [unfriendly fire].

Shortly after payday millions of dollars in “tithes” are

“...THE TRAP IS LAID...By...
AVOIDING...DEFINITIONS...”

transferred from personal banking accounts to religious organizations eagerly watching the dollars flow their way. Does Yahweh honor this giving? Are we racking up heavenly “points” by handing over ten percent of our monetary income to the church of our choice? “No” on both counts.

Tithing on money raises other questions:

- Does the Bible or **men** require tithing on our paycheck?
- Is ten percent of our income required by Yahweh as most religious groups claim?
- If you now give the church ten percent of gross or net earnings, how did you decide that was Biblically correct?



- Did you decide tithing on money was correct **after honestly searching Scriptural laws regarding tithing** or perhaps shortly after joining a group which teaches tithing on money?

Maybe you never thought about it...or questioned so basic a belief as tithing.

Thinking back, could it have been after hearing or reading “...the tithe is Yahweh’s...it is holy to Yahweh” (Lev. 27:30)? Maybe it was a fiery sermon using Malachi 3:8-10:

“Will a man rob Elohim [“God”]? Yet you have robbed me. But you say, wherein have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings”; hammering these words home with “You are cursed with a curse for you have robbed me...”

Capped off with the crescendo:

“Bring you all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me herewith, saith Yahweh of hosts [“the LORD”], if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be enough room to receive it.”

These Scriptures can stir feelings of guilt or remorse of having robbed Yahweh who has been so gracious to us. As they should IF we are guilty as charged.

Unfortunately they are often used as classic “guilt-trip” strategies to bilk millions from unwary, well-meaning people sincerely wanting to do what is right.

HOW THE TRAP IS LAID

Effective? Very! But the question that most never bother to answer, which keeps them enslaved to the false nar-

rative of tithing on money, is simply **“Just what does Yahweh mean by tithes?”**

Answer that question and you will **know Yahweh’s commands on tithing!**

What a clever ploy: entice sincere believers to sin by tithing on money under the guise that they are doing what the Bible requires when in fact, the Bible says nothing of the kind!

And how does it happen? By simply AVOIDING THE SCRIPTURAL DEFINITIONS.

Remember Yahshua the Messiah’s stern uncompromising truth: “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:9). (quote from Isa. 29:13 of LXX).

Heartfelt sincerity is not a substitute for obedience. The truth is, as Yahshua emphasized, we can actually worship Yahweh, but do it all for naught if we do it while breaking His commandments—even though out of ignorance (Lev. 5:17).

THE LAWS OF TITHING

The root cause of all this misunderstanding and downright deception about tithing is fundamentally one of definition; Yahweh’s clear requirements!

So let us look into Yahweh’s great Law, the Law of **liberty**, which sets us free from the ravaging effects of sin, to see His laws of tithing **for ourselves**.

Scriptural tithing is a multiple-tithe system, (for proof see, *Biblical Tithing is NOT on Money*, ICY; pp. 9-21). The first-tithe law is found in Leviticus 27:30, 32:

“And all the **tithe** (SEC 4643) **of the land** (SEC 776), whether it be **seed** (SEC 2233) of the **land** (SEC 776) or of the **fruit** (SEC 6529) of the **trees** (SEC 6086), is Yahweh’s, **it is holy to Yahweh**” (v. 30).

“And concerning the **tithe** (SEC 4643) of the **herd** (SEC 1241), or the **flock** (SEC 6629), even whatsoever passes under the rod, **the tenth** (SEC 6224) **is holy to Yahweh**” (v. 32).

Notice nowhere is money (SEC 3701) mentioned in these laws defining tithing. Not even once.

LAND, TREES, SEEDS, FLOCKS, HERDS ARE NOT MONEY

Did Yahweh forget to include money in the tithing commands? Hardly. **Money is very much a part of the Biblical record**, but **it never** means seed of the land, fruit of trees, flocks, or herds-tithing items.

Notice several examples.

Jeremiah said, “...I bought the field and weighed him out the money (SEC 3701): seventeen silver shekels” (Jer. 32:9).

David purchased a field and oxen with silver, “...So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver [SEC 3701]” (II Sam. 24:24). [One shekel equals 0.552 ounces.].



This is Scriptural increase. russospro.com / pbase.com / bluejaybarrens.blogspot.com / retipster.com



A silver shekel minted in A.D. 66 sold at auction in March 2012, for \$1,105,375. During the days of Yahshua and the disciples and before, silver shekels were the common form of money used for purchases. Image left: front view; image right: back view. *thehistoryblog.com*

Abraham bought a field with silver money: "...I will give you money [SEC 3701] for the field" (Gen. 23:13). Money was used to pay wages and make purchases:

"...paid this money over to the masters of works... and these in turn spent it on carpenters and builders...on masons and stone-cutters, and on buying timber and dressed stone..." (II Ki. 12:12-13).

Obviously, the use of money as a medium of exchange is very much a part of the Biblical record. The distinction Yahweh makes between land, fruit of trees, flocks, seeds, herds and Biblical money could not be more emphatic or precise.

Notice how the Bible even contrasts the two, thereby showing they are not the same:

"And you shall eat in the presence of Yahweh...the **tithe** of your grain, your new wine, your oil...And if the distance is so great...you are not able to bring the **tithe**....[notice] then **YOU SHALL EXCHANGE IT FOR MONEY** and bind the **MONEY** in your hand and go..." (Deut. 14:24-25).

This is the only mention of money in connection with the tithing laws. Clearly, money is not tithe; tithe is not money. Obviously, if the tithe were money, it would not be changed into money.

"Under the Mosaic law it was in silver shekels that money was paid...and all exchange and sales reckoned."¹

Anyone collecting tithes of money is going against Yahweh's laws of tithing, and will one day answer to Him!

The New Testament record agrees completely with the laws on tithing-as Yahshua shows:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **TITHE MINT** and **DILL** and **CUMMIN**, ...have neglected...justice and mercy...things you should have done without neglecting the others [tithing]" (Matt. 23:23; NAS).

Here Yahshua indicates what was tithed on: seed of the land. He follows this by saying that they should not neglect tithing on the seed of the land as the law requires. Notice

too, money is not mentioned here.

TITHE ON THE "INCREASE"

Those teaching tithing on money often rely heavily on the Old English word "increase" (SEC 8393) used in Deut. 14:22, 28; 16:15; 26:12, etc. by saying, "It means 'any gain gotten by productive effort.'" Of course money is primarily what they are referring to as gain. Usually the caveat is added that increase means the profit, gain after costs are deducted. For example, the farmer would tithe only on

"Clearly, money is not tithe; tithe is not money."

the net crop value after deducting all expenses incurred to produce it.

All this means nothing unless we first scripturally define "increase" (SEC 8393). It is used in the KJV: "You shall truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field (SEC 7704) bringeth forth year-by-year" (Deut. 14:22).

Compare the King James Version translation, "increase" (SEC 8993), with these translations of the same word:

- Moffat: "produce, crop"
- RSV: "yield, produce, fruit"
- New Jerusalem Bible: "what your fields produce"
- New American Standard: "produce."

Yahweh, knowing wolves would pervert Scripture to their own selfish ends, gives us an account to verify the truth about "increase," in Genesis 47:19-24:

"Here is **seed** for you, and you shall sow the land (v. 23)...And it shall come to pass in the increase (SEC 8393),...give the fifth part to Pharaoh, and four

parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food...(v. 24).”

Clearly, the increase included **all** the yield of the seed sown—the total yield ($1/5 + 4/5 =$ the whole). No “profit margin” is intended; **nor is money in any way stated or implied in the term “increase.”** Yahweh leaves no doubt by this account.

A man wrote us who tithes on his paycheck to a Sacred Name group, stating that tithing on money was no burden because it was Scriptural. The group receiving his money

“...nor is money... implied in the term ‘increase’...”

simply outsmarted him; convincing him they deserve ten percent of his income more than he does—that they have the right to **tax him** ten percent!

A comfortable feeling is not evidence that Yahweh honors giving ten percent of money earned. Rather, convincing ourselves of **the truth of Yahweh’s requirements** on tithing is what matters.

Such self-deception is not uncommon nor trivial in Yahweh’s eyes. As Jeremiah observed, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9).

This same group calls those teaching tithing only on agricultural produce, “misguided.”

Is Yahweh misguided? His record is plain: “...the tithes of the land (SEC 776),...seed of the land (SEC 776) or,...fruit of the trees...herd...or the flock...is holy to Yahweh” (Lev. 27:30, 32), — agricultural produce! Again, where is money mentioned? Nowhere.

To further subvert the plain teaching of Scripture, this group and others, again use the “productive effort” ploy by

saying something like, “People work in many fields such as electronics, factory work, etc. and Yahweh demands a tithe of their produce of that field!!” This refers to verses like Deuteronomy 14:22: “You shall truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field (SEC 7704) bringeth forth year by year.”

They use one contemporary meaning of the word “field,” [a realm of knowledge or special work; *Webster’s*], and apply it to Scripture where the word field (SEC 7704) **never means anything but a plot of ground!**

Is it not time to take a cold hard look at what the Bible actually says about tithing; to be freed from those stealing from you?

After all, it really is YOUR MONEY!

UNDER A CURSE

Why, we may ask, do people so easily fall for the obviously false doctrine of tithing on money?

First, this false doctrine adds to Yahweh’s Law against His direct command: “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: you shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it” (Deut. 12:32). Breaking that command by adding to tithing what the Bible does not include, makes it a sin. Sin brings a curse of deception on those under this misconception who then adopt “...statutes that were not good” (Ezk. 20:25). Once under the curse, now enslaved “...to those that oppress the hireling in his wages...” (Mal. 3:5), multitudes have their **families deprived and wages needlessly ravaged and consumed by others!** All in the name of the Bible.

Cursed? Look at the financial situation of those trying to raise a family while “tithing” to some religious group. Honestly now, have the windows of heaven opened up and poured out a blessing so great they cannot receive it? Hardly. Something is wrong or else Yahweh is a liar (See again Mal. 3:10) and we know Yahweh does not lie. Clearly, the context of this verse is crops, produce of the land.

Tithing Challenges such as this have become very popular in the past decade. This popular scam is transparent. The money back guarantee is useless. Who ever heard of anyone asking and getting their tithe back? It does not happen and they know this. Also, scammers can pocket extra thousands through investments from the millions collected each month (not unrealistic). They play on the guilt and/or emotions of their patrons to persuade them tithing on money is biblical. mercychurch.org

Who is ravaging their income, oppressing the hireling in his wages (Mal. 3:5) in the name of religion? Church leaders. The average working man with a family tithing on money is definitely feeling the pinch-whether he admits or not.

CONCLUSION

When you choose someone other than Yahweh to reign over you, you will reap the evils of that rulership-just as Yahweh told Israel when they wanted a human king to rule them instead of Yahweh's rulership under Samuel:

"This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you...he will take the tenth of your seed and of your vineyards...and give to his officers...He will take...your best young men...and use them for his work...He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants" (I Sam. 8:11-17). Sound familiar? Are those teaching tithing on money

[paycheck, earnings] not *reigning over their members*, giving it to *their officers* [ministers]? Are they not taking the *best young men* and using them for "*The Work*"; members becoming *their servants*?

Who do you serve, Yahweh or men?

Tithing beliefs are on trial in the court of Yahweh's Law. You now have the facts in this case of *Money vs. Produce*. The verdict is clear: The Bible teaches tithing on agricultural produce-not on money (paychecks, earnings). For additional facts in this case read our book, "*Biblical Tithing is NOT on Money*" [www.icyahweh.org].

"And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

REFERENCES:

1 – *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, p. 723; emphasis mine.
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Join ICY in Branson, Missouri Feast of Tabernacles September 24th - October 1st, 2018

This fall the International Congregation of Yahweh will be celebrating the 2018 Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful Branson, Missouri. ICY has been holding the FOT in Branson for the last several years. We have found it to be a wonderful Feast site: "...a land of hills and valleys." (Duet. 11:1)

Branson offers a wide variety of accommodations, entertainment and activities for the entire family. ICY welcomes those of good will sincerely searching for the truths of the Bible. ICY is non-charismatic in beliefs and uses a literal interpretation of both Old and New Testaments.

E-mail contact@icyahweh.org for further information. We look forward to seeing you there!

"That they may know that You alone, whose name is YAHWEH, are the Most High over all the earth."
Psalms 83:18



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Biblical Tithing is NOT on Money

Does the Bible teach tithing on money? Where does it say to tithe on the money we earn? What really is Biblical “increase?” And what is the “principle of tithing?” Why did Abraham give tithes to Melchizedek the priest of Salem? Is tithing commanded in the New Testament? Few doctrines have been as badly misrepresented as the doctrine of tithing. If you now tithe on money, then you owe it to yourself and your family to read this detailed study of tithing. You may be surprised to learn what the BIBLE teaches on this important topic. Read this eye-opener and get the answers to these and other important questions about tithing! This is one of our most popular, widely read booklets.

Biblical Tithing Is NOT On Money



International Congregation of Yahweh

Visit ICY online (www.icyahweh.org), and order a copy of this revealing booklet.