# Global’s Answers to Important Questions

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##### by Raymond F. McNair

#### Can you give biblically sound answers to the following questions?

Brethren, are you well enough grounded in the Word of God that you can "give a reason" for believing the doctrines which you hold true? Are you, in the face of false teaching, able to hold "fast the faithful word [of God] as you have been taught, that... [you] may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)?

It is especially important that each "elder" (Gk. *presbuteros)* who also serves as an "overseer" (Gk. *episkopos)* in God's Church be well-grounded in the true doctrines of the Bible— being "apt to teach" (KJV), or "able to teach" (NKJV) God's Word faithfully (1 Tim. 3:1-2). In addition the Apostle Peter wrote to all believers, **`Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Pet. 3:15 KJV)!**

Recently, someone living in Britain sent me a list of questions which he asked the Global Church of God to answer. This inquirer admonished us to give simple, straight-forward answers—not waffling around, or fail­ing to properly address his questions. Evidently he had been quite dissatisfied with the quality of the responses he had previously received from other religious affilia­tions to whom he had sent his questions. I hope you will find the answers to these questions both *scripturally* sound and wholly devoid of waffling and ambiguity! The questions presented here are in their original form, as the author wrote them.

1. "Is the seventh-day Sabbath a sign of God's true people, true Christians? Could a person who believes that the church changed the Christian day of rest from the seventh day to the first day be a true Christian (i.e. one who will rise in the first resurrec­tion and reign with Christ in the Millennium)?"

*ANSWER:* The seventh day (sunset Friday to sun­set Saturday) is the true Sabbath of God, and will always be a "sign" between humans and their Creator. At Mt. Sinai, the LORD personally com­manded His people to observe the seventh day as His Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-11). Christ and His apostles con­tinued observing the Sabbath, and so did all the mem­bers of the early New Testament Church (Luke 4:16; Acts 13:14, 42; 17:2). The Sabbath will continue to be observed by all the people of God in the soon­-coming Millennium (Is. 58:13-14; 66:23-24; Ezek. 45:17; 46:1-4). God says the "strangers" (Gentiles) who observe His Sabbaths (both weekly and annual) will be blessed (Is. 56:1-7).

The Hebrew Scriptures (OT) plainly reveal that God's people during all ages must keep His command­ments (Ex. 20; Ps. 19:7-11; 111:7-10; Eccl. 12:13-14). Likewise, the Greek Scriptures (NT) show that keeping God's commandments (including observance of the Sabbath) is *mandatory* for genuine Christians (Matt. 5:17-19; 19:16-19; Rom. 7:12, 14; 1 Cor. 7:19; James 2:10; 1 John 2:4; 3:22; 5:2-3; Rev. 12:17; 22:14).

A true Christian will always seek to obey God's Holy Scriptures (including *all* of the Ten Commandments), not only in the *letter,* but also in the *spirit*—thatis, according to the intent of the law. A Christian should fully realize that he can't keep God's commandments perfectly on his own power and strength, but that he must have the Living Jesus Christ in him, living His life in him through the Holy Spirit (Gal. 2:20). When a Christian sins by transgressing the law (cf. 1 John 3:4), he should admit his fault and com­pletely repent of it in order to be cleansed from all unrighteousness (cf. 1 John 1:7-10).

Millions of sincere, but thoroughly deceived, reli­gious people profess to believe in Christ, and even think they are keeping His commandments although they are not. Satan has substituted his day (Sunday, the "day of the Sun”) in the place of the seventh-day Sabbath. Sincerity alone wilt not save anyone. If someone is filled with and led by God's Spirit (Rom. 8:14), then God will surely reveal to her/him that Sunday is *not* His Sabbath, and will, therefore, eventually lead such a one into the truth concerning His true Sabbath so she/he can begin keeping God's Sabbath day.

2. "Who are those described as Satan's ministers in Second Corinthians 11:1[-15] ?"

*ANSWER:* Satan's ministers are all those who believe, teach, and practice disobedience to God and His law, that is, those who work iniquity or *lawlessness* (Matt. 7:23). Satan has his ministers, who teach a false gospel in place of the real Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the Good News of the soon-coming Kingdom of God (2 Cor. 11:l-15). Paul revealed that Satan cer­tainly has his own "false apostles" (v. 13), and "his ministers" (v. 15). Jesus Christ repeatedly warned His people to beware of those who believe in Him, yet are really false ministers of Satan the Devil (Matt. 7:15-23; 24:3-5, 11, 24-26).

God has only *one* true Church (Eph. 4:16)! That Church is not a "corporate organization," but is com­prised of all who are filled with and led by God's Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9, 24; 1 Cor. 12:13). God's Church is (and always has been) small when com­pared to the churches of this world. During this evil age, that true Church will always be a "little flock" (Luke 12:32; Matt. 7:13-14). According to the Word of God, Satan has many "churches." Revelation 12 depicts the one true Church of God as a "woman" who keeps God's commandments. Revelation 17 depicts the false, opposing religious system originat­ing with a "Mother church" as a whore who engenders harlot daughter churches. This "Mother of Harlots" (v. 5) and her fallen daughters believe, practice, and teach (in the main) similar doctrines which were developed by that infamous "Mother" of all heresies.

3. "Who is the `great whore' of Revelation 17?"

*ANSWER:* Anyone who searches the historical record will be forced to conclude that there is only one "great whore" who, according to authentic history, gave birth to numerous "daughters"—beginning in the early 1500s, and continuing on until our time. The "great whore" rode the "Beast," that is, the Roman Empire. There is only one church which ever did that.

4. "Are the United States, Great Britain, and the associated Commonwealth nations (e.g. Australia, New Zealand) the descendants of the 10 northern tribes of Israel taken captive by Assyria?"

*ANSWER:* The Global Church of God believes that the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the democracies of Northwest Europe are, in truth, the physical descendants of the "Lost Ten Tribes of Israel" who were taken captive around 734-721 B.C., and never returned to their ancient Promised Land.

We also believe and teach that, according , to Genesis 48:19, the modern-day descendants of Joseph's son, Manasseh (the prophesied "great nation"), are in fact the United States of America, while the modern descendants of Joseph's son, Ephraim (the prophesied "company of nations"), are Britain and the British­-descended nations of the Commonwealth.

In our monthly magazine, *The World Ahead,* we have published about 24 articles giving both biblical and historical proof that the Northwest Europeans are, indeed, the descendants of those Lost Tribes. The Global Church of God is now in the process. of turning those 24 articles into an 84-page booklet entitled, *America and Britain in Prophecy.* We are now making the final edits on this new color booklet, and hope to have it ready for distribution by December 1995 !

5. "Will these nations be taken into captivity shortly prior to Christ's return as a result of their national sins?"

*ANSWER:* The September 1995 edition of *The World Ahead* published an article entitled, "The Prophesied Future—A Time of Great Tribulation," which clearly revealed that many of the OT prophecies show that the modern descendants of Israel (Jacob) will go into a captivity called "Jacob's Trouble" (Jer. 30:7), which is the same time as the "Great Tribulation" men­tioned by Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:21-22; Dan. 12:1).

In that article we showed that many of the OT prophecies were written long *after* the Ten Tribes went into captivity—therefore they couldn't possibly have been intended to warn the Ten Tribes of a cap­tivity which had already happened over a hundred years prior to the time when God inspired the prophets to write their prophecies. "Jacob's Trouble" is yet future. The brunt of the "Great Tribulation" will fall on the modern Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples of Northwest Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

6) "Does the Church have a commission, along with the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, to warn these modern nations of the House of Israel of the captivity to befall them?"

ANSWER. Yes! Some have foolishly assumed that the many OT prophetic warnings have nothing to do with us today, and that God's Church does not need to preach those warnings to the modern descendants of the House of Israel, and to the world! But the Global Church of God, as Mr. Meredith writes in this issue, continues to believe and preach that those OT prophecies are part of the "Word of God" and should there­fore be preached.

Through the pen of the Apostle Paul, God command­ed, "Preach the WORD [of God]!" (2 Tim. 4:2). We must remember that the "Word" which Jesus Christ and the apostles preached was the *Hebrew Scriptures (OT)!* That was the only "Word" which they then had at their dispos­al. The NT had not even been written and compiled.

The Bible reveals that God Almighty will not bring about major calamities on this earth, unless and until He has first warned His servants, the prophets, so that they can warn those people who will be affected by the ful­fillment of those prophecies. "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He [first] reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken [through His inspired OT prophecies] ! Who can but prophesy?" (Amos 3:7).

God sent Noah to warn the wicked pre-Flood world. He sent Lot to warn Sodom and Gomorrah. He sent many prophets to warn both Israel and Judah of their impending captivities, many years before those calami­ties occurred. God sent Jesus Christ to warn the Jews of His day that the Romans would destroy their capital city, Jerusalem, their impressive Temple and their country.

And in our time God has raised up His Church to not only preach the Gospel, but also to warn the modern-day descendants of the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel, as well as their Jewish brothers, that the time of "Jacob's Trouble" will overtake our peoples—*unless* we truly repent, and begin obeying our God.

Clearly, every true minister of God is commis­sioned to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God; but he is *also* commanded to "Preach the WORD" OF GOD! God plainly reveals that if His ministers know a calamity is coming upon His physical people, and don't warn them of that expected catastrophe—then their blood will be on those ministers' heads (Ezek. 3:17-27)!

7. "Will true Christians literally become God at the resurrection? That is, literal members of the God family, born into that family at the res­urrection? In other words, born sons of God, less­er in rank than the Father and Son. Is God’s purpose to reproduce Himself?”

*ANSWER.* Yes! God is now *reproducing* Himself through the process called spiritual salvation. The Global Church of God teaches that members of God's genuine Church are already His begotten "sons and daughters" (2 Cor. 6:18). We became a son or a daughter of God at the moment we received God's Holy Spirit, after repentance and baptism, followed by the laying on of hands of God's servants. At that moment, we became a spiritually *begotten* child of God—though not yet fully formed.

We believe that when we are truly "born" of the Spirit we will then be neither mortals nor angels, but will actually be the Spirit-born, immortal sons and daughters of God. The progeny of any creature always takes on the *nature* of its parents. So it is with a Christian. When one receives the Spirit of the Father, the Christian then becomes a true son or daughter of God, but comparable to a humanly begotten *physical* child (in the womb of its mother), *a spiritually* begotten child of God is a spiritual embryo or fetus!

When we become a fully mature, fully developed, Spirit-composed son or daughter of God at the resurrec­tion to immortality, then we become a fully-formed member of the Family of God. Just as a born human child is fully *human,* even so a born child of God will be fully divine. Already, we are spiritually-begotten members of that divine Family (Eph. 3:14, 2:19), and we will always be members of it!

8: "Is abortion wrong? Specifically, abortion on demand, as a method to terminate a[n] unwanted pregnancy. Not an act required to save the mother's life. Is abortion of a pregnancy resulting from rape or incest wrong as well? Is abortion murder?"

*ANSWER:* The sixth commandment says, "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:13 KJV). "You shall not murder" (NKJV)! God's Word clearly forbids murder in any form. However, some do not equate abortion with murder!

The Global Church of God believes that abortion *is* to be equated with murder! When King Herod slaugh­tered hundreds of Jewish babies in the area of Bethlehem, this was considered by God, and is also considered by most humans, a very heinous crime. But tens of millions of unborn babies have been murdered in the modern world in a continuing litany of mass murder. This is a loathsome sin our people must repent of if our nations hope to avoid suffering the most ghastly and horrendous time of trouble ever to occur—the "Great Tribulation" (Lev. 26; Deut. 28, Matt. 24:21-22)!

We do *not* believe that murder is only possible after a baby is born. Rather, we believe *abortion* is mur­der—a capital sin! Life begins at conception.

Is abortion of a pregnancy that was caused by either incest or rape also murder in the sight of God? The tak­ing of an innocent life is murder, regardless of the cir­cumstances. In these cases the mother of such a child is put in a very difficult position. The Global Church of God believes that the adult mother of a yet unborn child is responsible to protect and nourish the unborn fetus or embryo. She will ultimately (in the eyes of God) be the one who will have to make the final decision.

The ministers of the Church are not respon­sible for making person­al decisions on behalf of individual members. Ministers are responsi­ble to clearly explain the Truth of the Scriptures. An individ­ual member must apply the Word of God to his or her personal circum­stances. Let us hope and pray that a woman who becomes pregnant against her will (as in the case of rape or incest) will have the knowledge, the faith and the godly fear to enable her to make the biblically correct decision regarding the life of her unborn child!

9. "Would it be wrong to wear a cross as an article of jewelry to show one's devotion to God?"

*ANSWER:* The Bible forbids any kind of idola­try—revering or worshipping anything other than the true God (Ex. 20:3-6). If you diligently research the ori­gin of the cross symbol, you will find that it is a very ancient symbol, which was revered by the pagans thou­sands of years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Also, his­torically, the cross symbol has been used extensively by "the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth" (see answers 2 and 3) as her, and also her daugh­ters' identifying "trademark."

Even though we should appreciate the fact that Jesus Christ died on the "cross"—whether an upright *stake* or a more traditional cross (i.e. a stake with a crossbeam. at or near the top)—this does not mean we should reverence or in any way worship such a cross.

Some might suggest that because the Apostle Paul referred to the cross of Christ about 11 times in his epis­tles—using it as a literary device to summarize the mean­ing of Jesus Christ's sacrifice—believers are then pre­sented with an ideal symbol to represent their faith. Perhaps the "Christian" crusaders who adorned them­selves abundantly with crosses thought this way as they raped, pillaged and murdered their way across Europe on their way to Jerusalem where they would slaughter the infidels—men, women and children. The Catholic priests of the Spanish Inquisition abundantly adorned them­selves with crosses while they watched the torture and burning to death of thousands of their hapless victims.

Surely, it is *not* right in the sight of God for His chil­dren to make or worship a symbol of the very *thing* which took the life of His son, Jesus Christ and represents in today's and yesterday's world a great counterfeit religious heresy!

It should be obvi­ous from the answers to the preceding ques­tions that the Global Church of God contin­ues to believe and teach the same doc­trines as those held by Herbert W. Armstrong, who faithfully taught God's Truth for over 50 years. Through the articles in the *Global Church News,*

The World Ahead and our booklets, the Global Church of God will continue to feed God's sheep with the pure Word of God (1 Pet. 5:2). We ministers and writers will diligently strive to see that you, brethren, are able to give an answer for your beliefs!

But you will not remain doctrinally sound, unless you remain constant in your prayer, fasting and your regular, diligent study of the Word of God! We are commanded, "Study [God's Word) to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly divid­ing the WORD OF TRUTH" (2 Tim. 2:15 KJV) !

[Note: One question (concerning the meaning of "born again") is being answered in a coming article in *The World* Ahead—rather than giving a brief, abridged answer in this issue of the G.C.N.).