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Announcements

This is a free monthly newsletter for the saints published by To

the Saints of the Churches of

God: edited by David and Sharon Lacey with contributions from many others from around the globe.

To contact TTS_COG please see the information at the end of this newsletter.

Greetings friends!

It's that time again! Biblical calendar month (chodesh) 2 is here!

However long the Winter season may seem to be it is a necessary part of the cycle of seasons being longer in some places than in others. Even so, it is always joyful to see the changing of a season, especially by such a colorful recovery as the month of **Zif** (April/May) brings. April showers bring May flowers goes

you some of the colors of the season. Perhaps less colorful is the data used to understand the times, but such is as required for the proper keeping of the times. So, onward to the data.

The data:

On April 20, 2004 in Jerusalem Israel, at around 6:00 PM there will be a 1 day 4 hour old new moon displaying only a 1.3% illumination. This same day in the Western hemisphere, after sunset before 9:00 PM [daylight savings

time applied], we shall see the new moon with a 2.3% illumination. If we were to see only a slight 1% illumination at our time and location as distanced from Israel [our time zone] it would have been impossible for it to have been



the old song ... so for this months mature enough for a sighting in report we will attempt to deliver to Israel earlier the same day. Sighting in Jerusalem may be marginal this month. If a sighting is not successful in Israel we will default to a 30 day month [chodesh]. This would move the Roman calendar start date of Zif as April 22, 2004 as compared to the daytime date shown in the banner - top right.

> Note the date shown above in the right box of the banner. I've displayed the daytime date as opposed to the preceding days date for the new moon sighting.

ScripturalAllusions

Joh 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shallbe one fold, and one shepherd.

That is: the calling of the Gentiles. [Geneva]

Act 15:14 Simeon hath declaredhow God at the firstdid visitthe Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

(See page 11 for a complimentary OT verse.)

The first DAY is best represented by naming the daytime date which started [by biblical definition] at sunset the evening before. I'm just trying to be numerically correct as opposed to say, stating the year of "0". There really wasn't any year "0"; the year was either -1 or +1 at all times.

This chodesh 2 begins Biblical calendar month "two". Why is it month 2 and not 1 or 3? For please see a helpful bible study titled Calendar Studies - Abib complete booklet with answers to all your biblical calendar questions may be found at "The Sacred Calendar Book", http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs7 77/saccal/calbook/index.html

Data this month is also from Home Planet for Windows and Ephemeris vs. 2.0 software for Windows operating systems. These are free software packages and are available free for download at:

http://www.fourmilab.ch/

Actual new moon sightings list chodesh kho'-desh from for the last 2-3 years dates can be 2318; the new moon; by seen at the monthly new moon chart at: Calendar Info http://users.adelphia.net/~dwlace and Abib means green y/fag/calendar/nmcalchart.html

Names of the Month Roman month

April -- Aphrodite's month Old English April(is) L<mark>atin Április</mark> Etruscan Apru Greek Aphro, short



for Aphrodite. Aprilis had 30 days, until Numa when it had 29 days, until Julius when it became 30 days long. <u>Aphrodite</u> is the Greek goddess of love and beauty. She is identified with the Roman goddess Venus. A brief history of the Roman calendar months: The original Roman year had 10 named months Martius "March", Aprilis "April", *Maius* "May", Junius "June", *Quintilis* "July", Sextilis "August", September which a "September", October "October", he beg November "November", December LORD. "December", and probably two unnamed months in the dead of



in agriculture. The year began with Martius "March". Numa Pompilius, the BC, added the

two months Januarius "January" and Februarius "February". He also moved the beginning of the answers to this question and more year from Marius to Januarius and changed the number of days in several months to be odd, a lucky number. After *Februarius* there was occasionally an additional month of Intercalaris

"intercalendar". This is the origin of the leap-year day being in February. In 46 BC, Julius Caesar reformed the Roman calendar (hence the Julian calendar) changing the number of days in many months and removing Intercalaris.

The Jewish calendar month Strong's Hebrew 2320 -

implication, a month:-month(-ly), new moon; ears of grain. The biblical calendar month is similar to the Jewish calendar moon [month] 10:

winter when not the foundation of the much happened house of the LORD laid, in the month **Zif**:

From Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary:



Rome circa 700 splendour; i.e., "the flower month," mentioned only in <u>1Ki 6:1,1Ki 6:37</u>, as the "second month." It was called lyar by the later Jews.

> Note from the author: The differences of the traditional Hebrew calendar, the Biblical and the Roman calendars reveal much regarding the histories and customs of their respective authors. We today use the civil Roman calendar for our commerce and governments with almost global acceptance. However, for the Bible student it should be noted that there are several factions among each of the faiths thus the sometimes confusing and differing names of the months, seasons, beginning of years including sometimes even the **Holy Days**.

For further reading see "The Sacred Calendar Book".

The **birthstone** for the month of April is the diamond the color is clear, the flower is the Sweet Pea meaning thinking of you.



The civil month 2 was also named in the scriptures as .

four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif. which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the

1Ki 6:37 In the fourth year was

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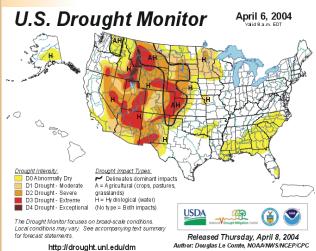
For the Biblical student the only source for true and accurate information regarding birth stones The Biblical Calendar Month 1Ki 6:1 And it came to pass in the comes from the [KJV] Bible under the list of the names of the The Tribes of Israel (Jacob) Gen 32:28, Gen 49:1-33 [See below for this months featured tribe].

Drought Info:

The graphic below is of the current Western USA drought as given from NOAA and the others whom comprise the Drought

04/21/2004





http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Monitor:

Holidays April 21

Note: Some Holidays are only applicable on a given "day of the week"

Belize, Hong Kong : Queen's Birthday

Brazil: Tiradentes Day/Día de Tiradentes/Brasilia Day (1789, 1960)

Indonesia : Kartini Day Israel : Deliverance from Egypt Taiwan : Death of Chiang Kaishek/Tomb Sweeping Day (non leap years)

Texas : San Jacinto Day (1836) Massachusetts, Maine : Patriots Day-Boston Marathon run (1775) ---- (Monday)

Religious Observances April 21

Ancient Rome : Parilia. honoring Pales, protector of flocks & herds

Denmark : Common Prayer Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican : St Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, confessor/doctor

This Day in Christian listory April 21

1649 The Toleration Act was passed by the Maryland Assembly. It protected Roman Catholics within the American colony against Protestant harassment, which had been rising as Oliver Cromwell's power in England increased. **1783** Birth of English churchman and hymnwriter Reginald Heber.

his first hymn at 28, and among his best remembered today are: "Holy, A. CunningHam Holy, Holy," "The Son of God Q. Why did the pig run away from Goes Forth to War" and "From Greenland's Icy Mountains. 1828 English churchman John Henry Newman wrote in a letter to his sister: 'May I be patient! It is so difficult to make real what one

believes, and to make these trials, as they are intended, real blessings.

1878 Leo XIII published the encyclical, "Inscrutabili dei consilio." It outlined a program of reconciling the Catholic Church with modern civilization, many of its details reversing policies of his That Explains It! predecessor, Pius IX.

1897 Birth of A. W. Tozer, one of the most popular and influential pastors to come out of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. Tozer was also a prolific writer, and his best- known publications include "The Pursuit of God" (1948) and "The Root of Righteousness" (1955).

Source: William D. Blake

ALMANAC OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1987.

Additional information supplied by the author. Contact via E-mail: William D. Blake. (pilgrimwb@aol.com)

From the Old Farmers Almanac

💶 uestion: What does one call a group of hogs?

nswer: A group of pigs is called a drift, but we couldn't find any specific term for a group of hogs. But I found a group of hog jokes you may enjoy ...

Q. What happened when the man stole a pig?

A. The pig squealed to the police.

Heber published Q. What does the little pig get every morning from his parents? A. Hogs and kisses!

Q. What do you call a crafty pig?

the pig sty?

A. He felt that the other pigs were taking him for grunted.

Q. What does a pig use to write his term papers with?

A. Pen and Oink!

Q. What do you call a pig with no legs?

A. A groundhog!

Q. Why didn't the piglets listen to the teacher pig?

A. Because he was an old boar.

Doctor, doctor, I've got a little sty. Then you'd better buy a little pig.

O. Where did the tradition of marching down the isle at a wedding come from?

A. "marching down the isle" ... The traditional church wedding features two bridal marches, by two different classical composers. The bride walks down the aisle to the majestic, moderately paced music of the "Bridal Chorus" from Richard Wagner's Wagner's 1848 opera "Lohengrin. The newlyweds exit to the more jubilant, upbeat strains of the "Wedding March" (From Felix Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream.") The custom dates back to the royal marriage, in 1858, of Victoria, princess of Great Britain, and Empress of Germany, to Prince Frederick William of Prussia. Victoria, eldest daughter of Britain's Queen Victoria. selected the music herself. A patron of the arts, she valued the works of Mendelssohn and practically venerated those of Wagner. Given the British penchant for copying the monarchy, soon brides throughout the Isles, nobility and commoners alike, were marching to Victoria's drummer, establishing a Western



Gen 30:23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: Gen 30:24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son. Gen 49:22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: Gen 49:23-26

wedding tradition.

Signs in the lights of he heavens?

What is the Sign of the Messiah's second coming? Click on this link: <u>Signs</u> or copy: http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs7 77/course/lesson14.html

For current biblical calendar information please see the articles Calendar Info and Calendar of the Saints II.

Further reading of <u>The Sacred</u> Calendar Book can also be seen at:

http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs7 77/saccal/calbook/index.html

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Scriptural Reading Scriptural Reading -Study Notes [a mini study]

Idle Words

Mat 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

G692 [idle] á\'f1ãï\'f2 argos *ar-gos'* From G1 (as a negative particle) and G2041; *inactive*, that is, *unemployed*; (by implication) *lazy*, *useless:* - barren, idle, slow.

From TSK Mat 12:36

every: <u>Ecc</u> 12:14; <u>Rom</u> 2:16; Eph <u>6:4-6;</u> <u>Jud</u> 1:14, <u>Jud</u> 1:15; <u>Rev</u> 20:12

idle word: Nçìá [Strong's

G4487], áñãiò [Strong's G692],

i.e., á\'e5ñãïí - (work, act, deed)

from á, privative, and åñãĭí [Strong's G2041], work, a word that produces no good effect, and is not calculated to produce any. Discourse, says Dr. Doddridge, tending to innocent mirth, to exhilarate the spirits, is not idle discourse; as the time spent in necessary recreation is not idle time.

From **JFB**

Mat 12:36 - But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment -- They might say, "It was nothing: we meant no evil; supposition, as one way of accounting for the miracle we witnessed; if it will not stand, let it go; why make so much of it, and bear down with such severity for it?" Jesus replies, "It was not nothing, and at the great day will not be treated as nothing: Words, as the index of the heart, however idle they may seem, will be taken account of, whether good or bad, in estimating character in the day of judgment.

Passover in Second Month ... Zif

It sometimes happens that a true believer is unable, for one reason or another, to celebrate the Passover Service in the first month **Abib** (Nisan). We thank the Almighty that He has made provision for these folks to keep this service on the evening of the 14th day of the **second month**, **Zif.** (1 Kings 6:1) The following passages tell of this provision and how ancient Israel celebrated the **Passover** and the **Week (&**

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Feasts) of Unleavened Bread in the second month Zif.

Num 9:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying, Num 9:2 Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season.

- Num 9:3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it.
- Num 9:4 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, that they should keep the passover.
- Num 9:5 And they kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at even in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.
- Num 9:6 And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that **they could not keep the passover on that day**: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day:
- Num 9:7 And those men said unto him, We are defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season among the children of Israel?
- Num 9:8 And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you.
- Num 9:9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- Num 9:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be

in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD.

- Num 9:11 The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
- Num 9:12 They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.
- Num 9:13 But the man that is clean, and is not in a journey, and forbeareth to keep the passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: because he brought not the offering of the LORD in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.
- Num 9:14 And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the LORD; according to the ordinance of the passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land.
- 2Ch 30:1 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.
- 2Ch 30:2 For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month.
- 2Ch 30:3 For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.

2Ch 30:13 And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation. 2Ch 30:14 And they arose and

took away the altars that were year. in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast them into the brook Kidron.

2Ch 30:15 Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD.

2Ch 30:18 For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

- 2Ch 30:19 That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.
- 2Ch 30:20 Ánd the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.
- 2Ch 30:21 And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the LORD.

The original calendar. incidentally, is not altered; i.e. the Feast of Pentecost should still be kept on the 50th day from a Passover Sabbath in the 1st month and not 50 days from that emergency date in the second month. The seventh month will also still be the original seventh month. Read the whole chapter in 2 Chronicles 30 and you will see how Yahweh in His wisdom has provided for just this kind of situation, where distance, disease or unforeseen circumstance have made it impossible to keep the Passover in the 1st month.

See the **Beginnings of Months**

for information as to when the second month of **Zif** begins each

May Yahweh, the Almighty God of Israel, bless all those who seek to learn and do His will.

In Messiah's Name Elder: David B Loughran



Which is the real Word of God?

1. Introduction [to Bible Versions]

Two of the greatest deceptions ever to confront the human race came to the fore in the 19th century: deceptions so subtle and dangerous that between them they have destroyed the faith of multiplied billions of souls in and out of the Christian Church. The first was the unproved theory of evolution: fascinating, plausible and seized upon by the godless mind which chafes at the commandments of the Almighty God. The second was the Revised Version of the Bible posing as the "Word of God"; a version as corrupt as it was potent, for it spawned a host of unholy offspring.

The first deception has, over the years, turned hundreds of millions away from the Christian church; for it taught that the very first chapter of the Bible was not really the truth, but legend. This pernicious theory is still taught, as fact, in thousands of colleges and schools the world over. Our article on Evolution exposes the theory for what it really is - a fallacy!

The second deception, the Revised Bible is equally dangerous, for it casts doubt on the real Word of God and starves believers of the Bread of Life. Sad to say it is also taught in thousands of churches, Bible schools and religious colleges the world over. This article deals with the second deception -Counterfeit Bibles! Read it with special care, several times over, because if you have avoided the first deception, you are most certainly the target of the second.

PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



Divine Inspiration

Millions of Christians believe, and rightly so, in the divine and verbal Holy Ghost motivated the minds of inspiration of the Bible: that the the prophets and apostles of old to pen every word of Scripture. Our faith in divine inspiration is based on Bible texts such as:

- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)
- 19: We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21: For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:19-21)

Providential Preservation

Millions also believe in the providential preservation of the Bible: that JEHOVAH, the Holy One of Israel has also preserved His Word down through the ages; and that His work of preservation is as important as His initial work of inspiration. After all it would have been of limited value if the original inspired Scriptures were lost to posterity a few decades after being penned. Providential

preservation, in other words, is as essential a work as that of divine inspiration. Our faith in providential preservation is

- The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD. thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (Psalm 12: 6-7)
- Psalm 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven...111: Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever...152: Concerning thy testimonies. I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.
- I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall **be for** ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it. that men should fear before him. (Ecclesiastes 3:14)
- Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. (Matthew 24:35)
- Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever... The word of the Lord endureth for ever. (1Peter 1:23-25)

Concerning **Providential Preservation** the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (17th century) says this on page 23:

Quote: "The Old Testament in Hebrew, and the New Testament in Greek, being immediately inspired by God and by His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical, so as in all controversies of religion the Church is finally to appeal unto them."

In the past most Christians accepted these facts, but of late there are a growing number who have strong reservations about divine preservation. They will allow that the original autographs, which of course are no longer available, were inspired. But they have strong reservations about divine **preservation.** They believe that much of Scripture is in need of update, because some of the oldest manuscripts were not available to the 17th century translators of the King James Version (KJV). That is why, they maintain, the Revised Version of 1881 and its many descendants became necessary; and how that each new English translation (well over 100 at the present count) is an improvement on the one that went before. In other words, the Bible is also evolving and each new version brings us one step nearer the original.

This is an extremely disturbing development; for when we examine modern translations, which like the Revised Version are all based on corrupt manuscripts, we find they do not simply use modern language. which, arguably, may have been in order; but they say things entirely different from the early English and foreign language

versions of the Scriptures, which in past centuries God used to further His work. In this article you are about to learn many startling facts about the modern English translations of the Bible, that they all:

- Present conflicting • messages with the King James Version (KJV) and even with each other.
- Omit many words, verses and passages of Scripture.
- Cast doubt on the accuracy of the KJV and several fundamental doctrines taught in it, such as the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, his divinity, his miracles, his bodily ascension to heaven and his second coming.
- Disagree on major doctrinal points with other early European versions of the Bible which triggered the great Protestant Reformation and for which tens of thousands of true believers died during the dark ages.
- Are warmly welcomed by the Roman Catholic **Church** which has long considered the King James Bible its number one enemy.

These discoveries are disturbing to say the least and should cause true believers around the world to ask: Is all this true? Are these allegations justified? And if so, what spirit is behind the deception and confusion caused by the modern translations? Visit any Bible study group where believers are using a variety of modern "Bibles" and comments such as these are common:

- 'My Bible puts it this way.'
- 'My Bible doesn't even have that verse.
- *'Listen to this Note about* ancient and more reliable manuscripts.
- 'My Bible says something totally different.
- 'My Bible says the very opposite.

The question is: Which English

Time Zones

In a world without time zones, taking a trip to a town a few miles to the west would require you to set your clock back several minutes. How and when global time zones were established --after this on Earth and Sky.

Saturday, February 21, 2004 DB: This is Earth and Sky. A listener writes, "When was the world divided up into 24 time zones?"

JB: First, imagine what life was like before time zones. Time was determined by where the sun was in the sky. That meant that when it was noon in New York City, it was 11:55 a.m. in Philadelphia. After train travel become common, this difference played havoc with railroad schedules. In 1883, railroad companies created Standard Railway Time -- which divided the U.S. into four time zones. Civil time in the U.S. soon followed this new time zone system.

DB: In 1884, representatives from 27 countries met in Washington, D.C. for the purpose of fixing a prime meridian and a universal day. The most controversial issue was where to place the prime meridian -- the base line for numbering the other lines of longitude on the globe. Many countries wanted the prime meridian, but England got it for a couple of reasons.

JB: England was a world leader in exploration and map making. Navigators from many countries were already using British maps, which numbered the meridians starting at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. Also, with the prime meridian at Greenwich, the 180th meridian is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean -- away from major population centers.

DB: This is the International Date Line -- if you cross it going west on a Saturday, suddenly it's Sunday! That's our show. We're Block and Byrd for Earth and Sky.

Author(s): Bizy Kubala, Mohan Rao, Marc Airhart

Bible is the real Word of God? Anyone can see that they cannot all be the Word of God if they are used a number of modern saying different things. After all, God doesn't contradict Himself and is certainly not the author of confusion. (1Corinthians 14:33) Scores of conflicting translations, all claiming to be His Word, cannot possibly be the work of the Holy Spirit of Jehovah. Besides, would the Almighty flood the Englishspeaking world with well over 100 that time I also used the King conflicting translations of the whole Bible and over 300 translations of the New Testament? Of course not: the very idea is ludicrous if not blasphemous. Something is terribly wrong somewhere and it's dangerously flawed! To be sure I time to find out.

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Since my conversion in 1952, when I was 21 years old, I have versions and translations of the Bible: the Revised Version, Moffatt Bible, Revised Standard Version, Amplified Bible, the Living Bible, the New English Bible, Knox Bible, Good News for Modern Man, Amplified Bible, Jerusalem Bible, New American Standard Version and the New International Version. During all James Version (KJV), also called the Authorised Version. But never in all those 45 years did I suspect that anything was seriously amiss with the modern Bibles: or that they are all knew that some paraphrased

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publications, such as the Living Bible, could not be relied upon when deciding doctrine: and that others had several uninspired books (the Apocrypha): but never in the past 45 years did I suspect that EVERY modern English Bible cannot truthfully be called the HOLY BIBLE, the WORD OF GOD! When and how did I find out? Let me tell you my story.

In February 1996 at the age of 65 vears I suffered a massive heart attack and was forced to spend weeks in bed. I was unable to move around much, and even a short walk was an ordeal. For months I was virtually housebound. What did I do? I did the very best thing I could; I gave myself over to prayer and Bible study. There really was little else l could manage without pain. With the help of several reference books and modern versions of the Bible - I possess about 20 - I began an exhaustive study of the History of the Bible: of how we got our Bible in the first place. This article tells of my findings: of facts so stunning that they shocked me more than any truth I have ever learned; including that of the true weekly Sabbath and Festivals of the God of Israel. felt horrified to think that as the founder of Stewarton Bible School (SBS), with students in many countries. I had been deceived for so long and had been guilty of giving sincere students faulty advice. I determined - yea I prayed desperately - that if JEHOVAH (Yahweh) the LORD God of Hosts would allow me to recover after a triple by-pass heart operation, I would join the growing papyrus; but an entire antelope band of believers who honour the King James Version and tell the world. This article is the result of my studies and I thank the Almighty for allowing me to live and place it on the **Internet**. The facts you are about to learn need to be studied prayerfully, several times over. Particular attention should be given to Part Two where many King James Bible texts are listed for comparison with the modern version/s you may currently be using. I will quote extensively from the

reference books on Bible History mentioned in Part Three. Remember that emphasis (bold type) throughout this article is mine.

If you are reading this article on the **Internet**, you are reminded that SBS publications do not carry a <u>copyright clause.</u> So feel free to download, print, photocopy and pass this article to your friends, because, believe it or not, the world is currently being starved of the real Word of God, the HOLY BIBLE! A great spiritual famine is overtaking mankind and, as I was, the Christian Church is blissfully ignorant of its danger. This article will answer the question: "Which English Bible is the real Word of God?"

2. THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS Divine Preservation

As most believers know, the Bible is often referred to as 'the Holy Scriptures.' It is made up of two parts, the Old and the New Testaments. The Old Testament is a collection of 39 books which were originally penned mostly in the Hebrew language. The New Testament is a collection of 27 books, written originally in Greek; though some portions were probably written in Hebrew or Aramaic, a north Semitic language. The original autographs (masters) were the hand-written scrolls penned by the inspired prophets and apostles. They were written on vellum (the skins of clean animals, such as calf, goat or antelope) or **papyrus.** Vellum is more durable and costly than skin would only furnish two or three pages of a manuscript. Because of this fact the vast majority of manuscripts were written on papyrus. Papyrus is a reed-like water plant with thick fibrous stems from which a kind of paper was made in ancient times. The average papyrus scroll was about ten inches in width and about thirty feet in length. After years of constant use, being rolled and unrolled, the original autographs (master scrolls) especially those of papyrus,

became worn and began to fall apart.

3. COPIES OF THE MASTERS

Before the original masters completely disintegrated they were carefully copied. The Almighty, who had initially inspired their production, then moved His faithful followers, first the Aaronic Priests and later the Masorites, to make copies of the originals. Thus began the work of providential preservation. After all, it would have been shortsighted of God to infallibly inspire the Scriptures only to have them discarded after a few decades. Jehovah must needs. as promised, preserve His Word in accurate copies for the following statements to be true:

- The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (Psalm 12: 6-7)
- Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. (Matthew 24:35)
- The word of the Lord endureth for ever (1Peter 1:25)

A Divine Warning

The God of Israel anticipated Satan's intended attack on the Scriptures: and how the enemy of souls would seek to frustrate the divine work of preservation by causing unbelieving scribes to add to, delete and distort the sacred writings. That is why this solemn, yea frightening, warning appears at the end of the Bible. It not only addresses copyists and translators who intentionally corrupt Jehovah's Word, but also those who knowingly promote their corrupted publications.

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Revelation 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

JEHOVAH the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel must needs ensure that accurate copies of the inspired masters be made; else His promise that **'the Word of the Lord abideth forever** was meaningless - if not false. Consequently the Almighty caused faithful believers to copy His Word. This is how He organised that work.

4. THE MASORITES

The Masorites were Jewish scholars who, like their B.C. predecessors the Aaronic Priests, had the sacred task of copying the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures. In his book Story of Our English Bible, W Scott wrote over a hundred years ago concerning the reliability of the copies made by these faithful priests and scribes. Was involved. They tell is the middle letter of th Pentateuch, as well as composed. They never allowed the to correct their manusc if any mistake escaped they rejected the papyr

Quote: "It is well known that among the Jews it was the profession of the Masorites, or doctors of tradition, to transcribe the scriptures. We know to what extent these indefatigable scholars carried their respect for the letter; and when we read the rules under which their labours were carried on, we understand the use that the providence of God (who had 'confided his oracles to the Jews') made of their superstition. They reckoned the number of verses, words, and letters in each book. They tell us, for instance, that the letter A occurs forty-two thousand three hundred and seventy-seven times in the Bible; the letter **B** thirty-eight thousand two hundred and end. They were scrupulous of changing the position even of a letter, though evidently misplaced, but limited themselves to noting in the margin, supposing some mystery was involved. They tell us which is the middle letter of the Pentateuch, as well as of each of

composed. They never allowed themselves to correct their manuscript; and if any mistake escaped them, they rejected the papyrus or the skin which they had blemished, and recommenced upon a fresh one; for they were equally interdicted from even correcting one of their own errors, and from retaining for their sacred volume a single parchment or

skin in which an error had been made... "These facts, we repeat it, together with the astonishing preservation of the Hebrew text (1200 years more ancient than that of the Septuagint), plainly tell us how the intervention of the mighty hand of God was needed in the destinies of the sacred book." (Ref:A1)

In his book **God Wrote Only One Bible**, Jasper James Ray confirms this fact about the faithfulness displayed by these ancient scribes in copying the Scriptures.

the original manuscripts, the Jewish scribes exercised the greatest possible care. When they wrote the name of God in any form they were to reverently wipe their pen, and wash their whole body before writing **"Jehovah** " lest that holy name should be tainted even in writing. The new copy was examined and carefully checked with the original almost immediately, and it is said that if only one incorrect letter was discovered the whole copy was rejected. Each new copy had to be made from an approved manuscript, written with a special kind of ink, upon skins made from a 'clean' animal. The writer had to pronounce aloud each word before writing it. In no case was the written word to be written from memory." (Ref: D1) It is a sad fact that the Gentiles

He writes: "In making copies of

who copied the New Testament Scriptures were not as diligent as the ancient Aaronic scribes and Masorites. Therefore it is in the New Testament texts where most errors are found.

5. MANUSCRIPTS

A 'manuscript' is a hand-written document, not one that is typed or printed. The word 'manuscript' is often abbreviated as MS or ms (singular) and MSS or mss (plural). Currently there are between **5250** and **5309** extant (existing) manuscripts of the Scriptures or parts of it. Manuscripts fall into two categories:

- Masters: These were the original autographs. There are currently no original autographs or masters in existence. They have all long since been replaced by copies.
- Copies: These are handwritten copies of the masters or hand-written copies of earlier copies. Some 5000+ hand-written copies of the whole or parts of Scripture are still in existence.

Manuscripts produced by the early

Daylight Saving Time; losing sleep helps save energy Jynx Jenkins Reporter

At 2 a.m. this Sunday we will "spring forward" by setting our clocks one hour ahead as directed by Daylight Saving Time. This practice is standard to most of us and is well ingrained in our minds. But why do we do it?

The main reason we change our clock to Daylight Saving Time (DST) is to save energy. The amount of energy we use directly correlates to when we go to bed and wake, as going to bed means turning off lights, TV, and stereos. According to one study, 25 percent of all the electricity we use powers these items alone.

DST allows the perception that the sun sets one hour later. reducing the period between sunset and bedtime by 60 minutes. This means the appliances and lighting used in the dark evening hours are used for one entire hour less. Studies done by the U.S. Department of Transportation just a few years after the standardization of DST in 1966, show that this time change trims the entire nations power usage by approximately one percent every DST day. So while the saving of one household seem small, they add up to enormous results.

Now we know why, but when did DST begin?

Benjamin Franklin, during his time as the Minister to France, suggested the idea of efficiently using daylight in an essay called, "An Economical Project for Diminishing the Cost of Light", first published in April 1784.

The idea was brushed under the rug for more than century until and Englishman named William Willet suggested it in 1907, resulting in British Summer Time enacted by Parliament in 1916.

The U.S. first dabbled with the idea in 1918 when Congress placed the country on DST until the end of WWI in an effort to conserve resources for the war. The law was repealed, however, as it proved unpopular with citizens. But again, in February of 1942, Congress insisted that America follow DST to save energy, leaving the advanced one-hour in effect until September 30, 1945.

From 1945 until 1966 there was no official DST in the U.S. thought some states and communities chose to observe it if they wished. This caused great confusion for industries like broadcasting and transportation.

By 1966, nearly 100 million people in America were observing DST leading Congress to establish one pattern for the nation in the form of the Uniform Time Act of 1966, which originally stated the last Sunday of April would be the start of DST, however this was amended in 1986 to be the first Sunday in April.

After the Arab Oil Embargo in 1973, Congress kept the nation on extended DST for two years (1974-1975) in an attempt to save even more energy. This plan succeeded but was abandoned due to [Continued on page 13]

Christians fall into three categories:

- 1. Copies of masters or copies of earlier copies.
- Versions : These are translations of Scripture made directly from the original languages. For example from Hebrew or Greek into Syriac, Latin, German, English or French. A **translation** from Latin into English, or from English into Chinese cannot strictly be called a 'version.' It is simply a translation of a translation: whereas a 'version' must be a translation from the original. Bear this important fact in mind.
- 3. Church Fathers: "Our third group is the early church fathers. These are the men who led the Christians in the first few centuries after the New Testament was completed. We have record of their early sermons, books and commentaries. They will be able to provide us with much information on disputed passages. Many may have seen the original autographs." Ref: B1)

As regards the **format** of ancient manuscripts, they are often described as:

- **Uncial** or **Majuscules**: written in capital letters with no spaces: e.g NOMANHATHSEENGD.
- **Cursives or Miniscules:** written in small letters and later with spaces: e.g. Noman-hath-seen-gd. ~ To be continued next

month ~

The Vision

[one saints vision] Outline: (picture this)

There is a Olde Western style ranch located in the tree line of the mountains with open grasslands below for livestock and

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of course the occasional softball game. The main house is a large 2 story ranch with a center courtyard that has many rooms on the upper level and perimeter for guests and sleeping areas. The main level has a large common kitchen and dining hall. This house resembles a bed and breakfast facility except that it also has the many amenities of a home, such as a library, a well equipped entertainment room and a few designated private rooms for the resident house managers to conduct business and for storage of house wares, foods and facility and are often used for such. This house has a tree shaded roof afforded by the giant cottonwood trees surrounding it and a very comfortable end to end porch built like a boardwalk with real hitching posts beside the stairs at the entrance. This is for the resident grandchildren to hitch up the pony before washing up for lunch.

On the property outside the house is a barn where the organically grown beef cows (a very lucrative food business now a days), some chickens, a milk cow and goat, and a few other various edible critters are roaming around. There they live and reproduce and manufacture fertilizer for the truck garden which is for the organically grown vegetables and seed crops under development (another very lucrative food business now a days). Of course the livestock are taken care of by the younger and the elders among the resident managers. The house is maintained by the able women and men and the balance of the technical hardware and facilities are assigned to the trained and able among the other resident managers.

The utilities and facilities management is amazing in so much that it is nearly self sufficient. Foods storage is by refrigeration and the natural cooling of the modified earth bermed root cellars. Electric for the refrigeration is on line but backed up with solar wind turbines, photo voltaic collectors

and fossil fueled generators. Electricity is only needed for long term food storage and off season heating systems operation and Some shoppers of the arts ar lighting. The lighting system itself food products would ask, "Who is electrical aided by solar passive light shafts; candles and lamps in the winter, solar and daylight in the summer months. The heating system is hiefficiency gas in floor heat with radiant wood stove heat backup of which the fuel wood is supplied from timbers already on the property. Southwestern style kivas are numerous within the ambiance by burning juniper wood for its incense effect.

ranch. Conservation practices are an important fact of stewardship that must be learned by all.

Additionally there is a facility similar to a small warehouse located across from the barn area, up wind of course! Here is a manage the estate and plan for display of arts, crafts, toys and wooden and iron creations, glass and sculptures from around the globe all of very high quality and valuable to any who may see these items (another very lucrative business now a days which can also be developed as an export business internationally via the Internet - e-business).

In the late summer the main road bordering the ranch which leads to a sizable city nearby displays a produce market which sells its excess organically grown garden produce and also advertises the availability of organically grown beef available

only in the Fall after the Fall season celebrations.

Some shoppers of the arts and runs this ranch?" or "What do you mean by after the Fall Season celebrations?" while looking over the shoulders of the salespersons towards the front porch observing some folks cranking on a homemade ice cream machine and BBQ'ing some steaks over a campfire style pit for dinner - it's a typical weekday!

Who would own this ranch and who are they?

The ranch is a business after Not much goes to waste on this all. The ranch performs several business activities within its perimeter and over the Internet. The skilled and able persons of this group work outside the facility as well, working at jobs which produce income of which the board of resident managers the inheritance of their children per individual investment. The ranch is in an estate of which all the participating members are owners - an employee owned estate/business established as a charitable operation which benefits occupants largely by the inherent tax benefits and less constrained rules and regulations of non-profits, like; looser building code requirements for building and land improvements, no reinforced handicap facilities laws, etc. Age makes no difference here because everyone contributes to the purpose of maintaining this beautiful property, wonderful arts and crafts, informational and

ScripturalAllusions

Isa56:8 The LordGOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israelsaith, Yet will gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.

From JFB

Isa56:8- Jehovahwillnot only restore the scattered outcasts of Israel (Isa 11:12 Psa 147:2) to their own land, but "willgather others ('strangers') to him (Israel), besides those gathered"... that is, in addition to the Israelitescollected from their dispersion), (Joh 10:16 Eph 1:10 Eph 2:19.

educational booklets, such an inviting and friendly atmosphere to the overnight visitor (it is also a B&B seasonally) that the visitor and the passerby would be invoked to ask questions – of which the owners/resident managers would hopefully have an answer to offer - (1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that sketh you a reason of the hope hat is in you with meekness and ear:)

Here, at this ranch, you will find God's representatives whom desire to "let" the light of Truth shine to all who may visit them -

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may ee your good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the ighteous shine forth as the sun in he kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Indeed the purpose of this group of people seems to be (is in fact) to glorify God in all things and still, they plan ahead for their progeny.

Proverbs 13:22 A good man eaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner(8802) is laid up for the just.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen ne, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your ruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the ather in my name, he may give it The Sadducee way ou.

This is the visions of one man. There are as many visions as there are saints. Reckoning so, next month we hope to bring to you another version from another perspective of "one saints vision".

Addendum: A special seasonal article from Bible Articles at: http://www.church-of-god.co.uk

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"Bible Articles" - David King]

PENTECOST

--- when should we keep this annual Holy Dav?

By M. BURMAN & L. CHAPMAN

here is controversy today regarding the correct date on which to observe Pentecost, one of the seven annual festivals described in Leviticus 23.

The children of Israel were commanded to number fifty days from a certain starting point to determine the exact date on which to celebrate this feast. Although God.s instructions are quite clear a misunderstanding has occurred in regards to the correct starting point for the count and as a result some individuals celebrate the day of Pentecost on a date that is unbiblical. We shall endeavour to clear up this misunderstanding and shed some light on the biblical reckoning of Pentecost.

Beginning in Leviticus 23:15.16 we read, .And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord.. (New King James Version used throughout except where otherwise indicated).

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God until his death in 1986, explained in his booklet .Pagan Holidays . or God.s Holy Days . Which? . (1976 edition, pages 24.25):

> The Pharisees, who gained complete control of Jewish religious observances shortly after the

middle of the first century ad, figured (incorrectly . that is, from the wrong starting point) beginning with the day after the first annual Sabbath. Before that time, however, the high priests of the family Boethus, who were Sadducees, had been in control of matters concerning the festivals in Jerusalem. The Boethusians always counted beginning with the morrow after the weekly Sabbath, the day we call Saturday, which fell within the days of Unleavened Bread.

.The Boethusians say, .The cutting of the sheaf does not take place at the end of the day of the feast Ithe first of the seven days of unleavened bread], but only at the end of the next regular Sabbath...

.Starting then to count from the offering of the wave sheaf, with that Sunday as day number one, we will always come out on another Sunday . but not always on the same day of the month.

Mr. Armstrong.s information was taken from the Mishna, which was set in writing about ad 200, and from the Menahoth. Strongly believing that the Sadducees. reckoning of Pentecost was correct, he viewed the Pharisaic reckoning as being incorrect. However, history tells us that the Sadducees were influenced by the Samaritans, a religious sect which flourished in the vicinity of ancient Shechem and Samaria, and which held to certain tenets distinctly

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different from Judaism.

From early times, the Scriptures of the Samaritans have consisted only of the first five books of the Bible, and these only in their own recension, written in their own characters and known as the . Samaritan Pentateuch.. The rest of the Hebrew Scriptures, with the

possible exception of the book of Joshua, they rejected.. (.Aid to Bible Understanding., ©1971_by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, page 1437).

We can glean much information about the Sadducees from the history books, but our best source of information is the divine Word of God. Notice what Christ says about the Sadducees: . Jesus answered and said to them, .You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God... (Matthew 22:29).

Mr. Armstrong sincerely believed that the Sadducees reckoned Pentecost correctly, but his convictions were based on the opinions of a religious body that rejected the Hebrew Scriptures in favour of the Samaritan Pentateuch and who, in Christ.s own words, did not have a very good understanding of Scripture.

The Pharisees

Now let us briefly examine the history of the Pharisees. Flavius Josephus, a historian at the time, wrote:

> .and when I was about sixteen years old, I had a mind to make trial of the several sects that were among us. These sects are three: the first is that of the Pharisees, the second that of the Sadducees, and the third that of the Essens, as we have frequently told you; for I thought that by

this means I might choose the best.

So when I had accomplished my desires, I returned back to the city, being now nineteen years old, and began

[Continued from page 10] opposition from farming states. During the two years the Department of Transportation studied the results of the extended DST.

According to these studies, observing DST saved the equivalent of 10,000 barrels of oil each day.

Additionally, the 1986 amendment which added the entire month of April to DST saves an estimated 300,000 barrels of oil each year nationwide.

Currently, the U.S. observes DST only for the six months of April through the end of October, however not all states participate. in particular Arizona, Hawaii, and most of Indiana. Approximately 70 countries worldwide utilize Daylight Saving Time in at least a portion of the country. The only major industrialized country not to have introduced DST is Japan. ~/~

> to conduct myself according to the rules of the sect of the Pharisees, which is of kin to the sect of the Stoics, as the Greeks call them.

(From .The Life of Flavius Josephus., page A, paragraph 2).

Now notice what Christ says about the Pharisees. .Then Jesus disciples, saying: .The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses. seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do... (Matthew 23:1.3).

In verse 13 Christ says, .But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men...

Christ also condemned their selfrighteous attitude, for neglecting the .weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. (verse 23).

.Not doing according to the works. of the Pharisees refers to their self-righteous attitude to the law. But of the law and the observance

of God.s annual Holy Days, we are commanded to observe and to do according to the teaching of the Pharisees. If the Sadducean reckoning of Pentecost is correct, why would Christ command us to observe what the Pharisees tell us? The Pharisees celebrated Pentecost after counting fifty days beginning on the day of the wave sheaf offering which they taught was on 16th Nisan, the day after the first annual Sabbath of Unleavened Bread.

Throughout the world modern Jews agree that the Sadducean reckoning is incorrect and, like the Pharisees, they too count fifty days beginning on 16th Nisan, celebrating Shavuot (Pentecost) on 6th Sivan. The Bible tells us that the

oracles of God were committed to the Jews (Romans 3:2). Jesus himself was a Jew, and the Bible tells us that ...Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. (John 4:9).

The Sadducees. reckoning of Pentecost was the same as the Samaritans., with whom the Jews had no dealings. Romans 2:29 explains: .but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is spoke to the multitudes and to His that of the heart, in the Spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.. As spiritual Jews we too must have no dealings with Samaritan teachings, including their reckoning of Pentecost which the Sadducees believed and taught.

Wave Sheaf Offering

The key to understanding the correct date on which to celebrate

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the day of Pentecost is found in the following passage of Scripture:

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, .Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: .When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the ascertain which day ancient Israel (Information from Jamieson, firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on the priest offered up the wave your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.... (Leviticus 23:9.11).

Did you notice when God commanded ancient Israel to bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of their harvest to the priest? The Bible reveals that God had commanded Israel to bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of their harvest to the priest, .when you come into the land which I give to you..

Most Bible students will know that the nation of Israel walked in the wilderness for forty years before God led them into the land that He had promised to give them . a land flowing with milk and honey (Numbers 14:33.34; Joshua 5:6). The children of Israel would not have brought a sheaf of the firstfruits of their harvest to the priest, and the priest would not have waved it before the Lord until after their forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

It was then, and only then, that the priest was to begin the annual waving of a sheaf of the firstfruits of Israel.s harvest before the Lord, on the day after the Sabbath. But which Sabbath is the word of God refering to? Is it the weekly Sabbath or the first annual Holv Day Sabbath marking the start of the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

The only way of finding out would be to locate ancient Israel.s entry into the Promised Land because only by entering the Promised Land would the nation of Israel be able to reap its harvest. Prior to entering the Promised Land they ate only the manna which God gave them from heaven (John 6:3), except on some very few occasions (Numbers 11:18.20;

Exodus 16:12). During their forty years of wandering in the wilderness they did not have a harvest to reap.

If we are to determine the correct day on which to begin the fiftyday count, leading up to the day of Pentecost, it is necessary to reaped the harvest of the Promised Land, and on which day Commentary on the Whole Bible.) sheaf offering.

Notice the following quote:

.ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the **priest** . A sheaf, lit., an omer, of the firstfruits of the barley harvest. The barley being sooner ripe than the other grains, the reaping of it formed the commencement of the general harvest season.

The offering described in this passage was made on the sixteenth of the first month, the day following the Passover Sabbath, which was on the fifteenth (corresponding to the beginning of our April). it was reaped. by persons deputed to go with sickles and obtain samples from different fields. These, being laid together in a sheaf or loose bundle, were brought to the court of the temple, where the grain was winnowed, parched, and bruised in a mortar.

Then, after some incense had been sprinkled on it, the priest waved it aloft before the Lord Page 14 of 22

towards the four different points of the compass, took a part of it and threw it into the fire of the altar. all the rest being reserved to himself.

Fausset and Brown.s

Notice too the documentation of the historian Flavius Josephus:

> .The feast of unleavened bread succeeds that of the passover and falls on the fifteenth day of the month, and continues seven days, wherein they feed on unleavened bread; on every one of which days two bulls are killed, and one ram, and seven lambs. Now these lambs are entirely burnt, beside the kid of the goats which is added to all the rest, for sins; for it is intended as a feast for the priest on every one of those days. But on the second day of unleavened bread, which is the sixteenth day of the month, they first partake of the fruits of the earth, for before that day they do not touch them.

And while they suppose it proper to honour God, from whom they obtain this plentiful provision in the first place, they offer the first-fruits of their barley, and that in the manner following: They take a handful of the ears, and dry them, then beat them small, and purge the barley from the bran; they then bring one tenth deal to the altar, to God;

and casting one handful of it upon the fire, they leave the rest for the use of the priest: and after this it is that they may publicly or privately reap their harvest.

(From .Antiquities of the Jews. by Josephus, book III, chapter X, paragraph 5).

The historian, Flavius Josephus, a Pharisee, explains that the Jewish people of his day partook of the firstfruits of the Spring harvest after the offering of the wave sheaf on 16th Nisan, the day after the annual Holy Day Sabbath. Counting fifty days to the day after (From .Antiquities of the Jews., the seventh Sabbath (Leviticus 23:16) refers to seven weeks, not seven weekly Sabbaths.

The children of Israel were to number seven weeks (Deuteronomy 16:9), 7×7 days, ie. 49 days, before observing Pentecost on the fiftieth day.

> .You shall count unto you seven Sabbaths. That is, from the sixteenth day of the first month to the sixth of the third month. These seven weeks, called here Sabbaths, were to be complete, ie. the forty-nine days must be finished, and the next day, the fiftieth, is what, from the Septuagint (Greek version of the Old Testament said to have been [written] about 270 bc), we call Pentecost.. (From Adam Clarke.s Commentary on the Whole Bible.)

However, .The Sadducees. translated [it] literally as Sabbath instead of rendering it correctly as the Pharisees did by the first Holy Day.. (Philip Blackman, F.C.S., Mishna Chagigah 2.4; 1964).

Notice again what Josephus says in regard to the second day of

Unleavened Bread.

.on the second day of unleavened bread, which is the sixteenth day of the month, they first partake of the fruits of the earth, before that day they do not touch them. When a week of weeks has passed over. (which weeks contain forty and nine days,) on the fiftieth day, which is Pentecost. they bring to God a loaf made of wheat flour.

book III, chapter X, paragraphs 5.6).

Josephus explains that before the offering of the wave sheaf the people were not to partake of the firstfruits of their harvest. The Bible confirms this history to be correct: .And the children of Israel did not provide them with manna, encamped in Gilgal, and kept the because it was on that day (16th passover on the fourteenth day of Nisan), that the children of Israel the month at even in the plains of reaped the firstfruits of the barley Jericho. And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year... (Joshua 5:10.12, old King James Version).

These scriptural verses reveal that the children of Israel ate of the old corn on the first annual Holy Day of Unleavened Bread. But how did the children of Israel obtain old corn? *Matthew Henry.s Commentary for the NIV* explains (on page 228):

> 1. The country people, into Jericho, had left their barns and fields, and all that was in them. And the supply came at a very good time, for, (1) After the Passover they were to keep the Feast of Page 15 of 22

Unleavened Bread, which they could not do according to the appointment when they had nothing but manna to live on; now they found enough grain stored in the barns of the Canaanites to supply them plentifully for that occasion.

2. The next day after the Passover Sabbath they were to wave the sheaf of firstfruits before the Lord, Lev. 23.10,11. And this they were particularly ordered to do when they came into the land which God would give them: and they were furnished for this with the produce of the land that year (v. 12), which was then growing and beginning to be ripe.

The old corn therefore refers to the grain which was stored in the Canaanites. barns. On the day after the Holy Day Sabbath God harvest. Afterwards they brought a sheaf of that harvest to the priest, who waved it before the Lord.

Subsequently the people were able to publicly or privately reap their harvest, thus celebrating the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The reaping of the firstfruits of the barley harvest, from which a sheaf (omer) was taken and waved before God by the priest, could not have taken place on a Sabbath. Please bear this in mind.

The following quote, in reference to the weekly Sabbath, states: .six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in ploughing time and in harvest you shall rest. (Exodus 34:21). On a Sabbath day the people of Israel were to rest from their labours. having retreated for safety They were not to do any work on a Sabbath day, including the annual Holy Day Sabbaths (Exodus 12:16). They were not permitted to plough or to harvest the land.

The following quote is from The

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Concise Oxford Dictionary and explains the meaning of harvest: . ie. 29, 30, 29, 30, etc. harvest . 1a the process of gathering in crops, etc. b the season when this takes place. 2 the season.s yield or crop. 3 the product or result of any action. . 1 gather as a harvest, reap...

The Bible undoubtedly states that the children of Israel were not to reap (gather in) their harvest on a Sabbath day, be it the weekly Sabbath or the annual Holy Day Sabbaths. Deuteronomy 16:9 states: .You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain..

The firstfuits of the barley harvest were reaped by persons deputed to go with sickles and obtain samples from different fields.. These samples were laid together in a sheaf or loose bundle and the grain was winnowed, parched, and bruised in a mortar. Then, after some incense had been sprinkled on it, the priest waved it The day after the Sabbath is the aloft before the Lord..

Reaping the barley harvest involved hard work. That is why God .spoke to Moses, saying, . Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.... (Leviticus 23:9.11).

Bearing all this in mind, we shall now prove beyond any doubt that Pentecost is to be celebrated on 6th Sivan, as was always the custom of the Pharisees and still is the custom of the Jews today.

Putting The Sickle To The Grain

It is important to note that the Hebrew calendar differs from the Roman calendar. The Hebrew calendar consists of a 29-day month followed by a 30-day month. So during a period of 12 months there will be six 29-day

months and six 30-day months:

Passover (14th Nisan) will always take place either on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday. However, believing that Pentecost The following day, Sunday 22nd is to be observed fifty days from the day after the weekly Sabbath causes a problem whenever 14th Nisan falls on a weekly Sabbath.

This is because the day after is the first annual Holy Day of Unleavened Bread, a day on which God commands:

- 1. .On the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work ... (Numbers 28:18; Leviticus 23:7).
- 2. ...no manner of work shall be done on them [the annual Holy Days]; but that which everyone must eat . that only may be prepared by you. (Exodus 12:16).

day on which the firstfruits of the barley harvest were reaped. A sheaf of that harvest was given to the priest who waved it before the Lord, to be accepted on their behalf (Leviticus 23:11). This formed the commencement of the general harvest season, and was a work day on which the people put the sickle to the grain (Deuteronomy 16:9).

Think about this carefully. Whenever 14th Nisan falls on a weekly Sabbath, the next day would be the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread, a day on which no manner of work must be way. done, except the cooking of food. To obey God.s instructions regarding His Sabbaths, God.s people would be unable to work on any Sunday that fell on 15th Nisan. The day after the weekly Sabbath is a Sunday.

God commanded the children of Israel to number fifty days, beginning on the day that the people put the sickle to the grain, a work day.

But when the weekly Sabbath falls on 14th Nisan there is no

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Sabbath in between the first and last days of Unleavened Bread. The next regular Sabbath would be on 21st Nisan, the final day of the feast (Exodus 12:18).

Nisan, would be after the Festival of Unleavened Bread had come to an end. Think about this. The children of Israel were commanded to put the sickle to the grain and bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of their harvest to the priest, who would then wave it before the Lord, to be accepted on their behalf, on the day after the Sabbath. After the waving of the sheaf, the people publicly or privately reaped their harvest and thus celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

However, when 14th Nisan (Passover) falls on a weekly Sabbath the Sunday following would be 15th Nisan, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, an annual Holy Day Sabbath on which no manner of work was to be done, except for cooking food.

The children of Israel would not have put the sickle to the grain and reaped the first-fruits of the harvest on an annual Holy Day Sabbath that followed the weekly Sabbath. If the Israelites put the sickle to the grain and reaped the harvest on a Holy Day that followed the weekly Sabbath, or on a Sunday following the end of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, they would have broken the law. However, numbering fifty days from the day after the annual Holy Day Sabbath would never lead to the breaking of the law in this

First Day Sabbath

We shall now give an example whereby some of God.s people . believing Pentecost to be fifty days from the day after the weekly Sabbath . celebrated Pentecost on an unbiblical date.

Earlier we mentioned that according to the Hebrew calendar Passover (14th Nisan) will only fall on one of four days of the week . the second, fourth, sixth or seventh. That means that the

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wave sheaf offering . the day on which the people put the sickle to the grain can only fall on a Wednesday, Friday, Sunday or Monday.

With this in mind let us focus our attention on the year 1994, a year where the Passover fell on a weekly Sabbath. The Passover (14th Nisan in the Hebrew Calendar) was observed on Saturday 26th March. Sunday 27th (15th Nisan) was the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread, the day after the weekly Sabbath. Pentecost that year was celebrated by some on Sunday 15th May (5th Sivan).

Notice carefully that the fifty-day count began on Sunday 27th March (15th Nisan), the first day of Unleavened Bread, a rest day on which no manner of work was to be done, except the cooking of food.

Reflecting back to ancient Israel this would have meant that the barley harvest would have been reaped on an annual Holy Day Sabbath.

And remember, a sheaf of the firstfruits of this harvest was brought to the priest who waved it before the Lord. Afterwards the people publicly or privately put the priest, and his sons. ordination sickle to the grain, working the land so as to bring in the firstfruits necessary by law to consecrate of their harvest, which means that them for seven days. they would have sinned against the Lord by working on a day that God commands as a day of rest.

If such practices were required of Christians today, on Sunday 27th March 1994 (15th Nisan) the high priest and the whole assembly of Israel would have profaned God.s Holy Day Sabbath of rest. Fifty days later would have meant that the whole assembly of Israel would have observed Pentecost (Shavuot) on an incorrect day.

On Sunday 27th March 1994, individuals adhering to their belief that the numbering of fifty days begins from the day after the weekly Sabbath did, in fact, observe Pentecost on a date that does not reflect the teaching of the Bible.

When we begin to number fifty days from the day after the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread this dilemma is avoided. Modernday Jews celebrate **Shavuot** (Pentecost) every year on 6th Sivan.

In 1994, going by the Roman calendar, the Jews correctly observed Shavuot (Pentecost) on Monday 16th May (6th Sivan) after numbering fifty days from the day after the annual Holy Day Sabbath on Monday 28th March (16th Nisan).

The Sadducean reckoning will always render a Sunday Pentecost. The Pharisaic reckoning, however, is not bound to one particular day of the week. As with all of God.s annual festivals, Pentecost occurs on a definite day of a specific month. 6th Sivan.

Consecration Of The High Priest

Finally, it is helpful to note Exodus 29:35, which states, .Thus you shall do to Aaron and his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. Seven days shall you consecrate them.. Prior to Aaron.s ordination as the high into the priesthood, it was

These same guidelines are reiterated in Leviticus 8, where Moses speaks to Aaron and his sons saying: .And you shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended. For seven days he shall consecrate you.. (verse 33). On the eighth day their consecration was complete, as was their ordination into the priesthood. (Leviticus 9:1, 23.24).

Now notice what is revealed in the New Testament, .Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true

tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.. (Hebrews 8:1.2).

.For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. (Hebrews 9:24). If the consecration of the high priest who served in the earthly sanctuary, which we are told is only a copy of the heavenly, continued for seven days, the same must be true in regards to Christ, who became our High Priest.

This means that Christ was crucified on a Wednesday, 14th Nisan, as our Passover Lamb, and was buried as the sun was setting. This will become evident as we continue. The day after Christ.s burial, Thursday 15th Nisan, was the first annual Holy Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

On the Friday of that year, 16th Nisan, was the day of the wave sheaf offering, the day from which the Pharisees numbered fifty days, leading up to the day of Pentecost. Christ would have risen on a weekly Sabbath, 17th Nisan, three days and nights after He was buried. Pentecost that year would have fallen on a Friday (6th Sivan).

In the book of Acts we are told that Christ ...presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3).

The picture is now becoming clearer. Christ was crucified on Wednesday, 14th Nisan. The wave sheaf offering was on Friday 16th Nisan, the day after the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread.

Christ rose from the dead on a weekly Sabbath, 17th Nisan, and spent forty days with His disciples, speaking to them of the kingdom of God before His ascension to Heaven.

From the time of the wave sheaf offering until Christ.s ascension into Heaven, forty-two days had

elapsed, Christ ascending to Heaven on the 42nd day. This left seven full days before Pentecost. These seven days must have been the days of Christ.s consecration in the heavenly tabernacle.

On the eighth day . the fiftieth day from the day after the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread, i.e. Pentecost . Christ, the firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:23), was ordained into the priesthood as High Priest, according to the order right and what is wrong: what of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:6, 10). constitutes truth and what

On that very day the Holy Spirit from God, as Christ had promised (Acts 1:5; 2:1.4), was then poured out upon His disciples who were assembled together as Christ had instructed (Acts 1:4; 2:1).

Biblical history shows that numbering fifty days from the day after the weekly Sabbath, which usually fell in between the first and last days of Unleavened Bread, in order to determine the day of Pentecost, is scripturally incorrect.

The history that we have examined reveals that the Pharisees, not the Sadducees, always numbered fifty days from the day after the first annual Holy Day, and on the fiftieth day. 6th Sivan . they observed Shavuot (Pentecost). The Bible confirms the Pharisaic reckoning of Pentecost to be correct (Matthew 23:2.3).

If we, as Christians, are to live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4), then we should accept that counting from the day after the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread determines the correct day on which to observe Pentecost.

Individuals are now faced with a thought-provoking question: On which day of the month will you be observing this annual feast day?

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A sounding of the trumpet!!!

Mat 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is no final authority but God.

2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.

3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this** earth that is the final and absolute authority on what is constitutes error.

4. There WAS a series of writings one time which, IF they had all been put into a BOOK as soon as they were written the first time, WOULD HAVE constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.

5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to** preserve their content through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip **Chick Publications** originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word Christian originated (Acts 11:26).

So, God chose to ALMOST preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son OUT of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob OUT of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel OUT of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph's bones OUT of Egypt (Exodus 13).

7. So, there are two streams of Bibles: the most accurate though, of course, there is no final, absolute authority for determining truth and error: it is a matter of preference are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are almost the originals, although not quite.

8. The most inaccurate translations were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, etc.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the Englishspeaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, Page 18 of 22

and Chapman used.

9. But we can tolerate these if those who believe in them will tolerate US. After all, since there is NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of PREFERENCE. You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer; let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN **AUTHORITY OF GOD** ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult. **BER 88**

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Classified Ads

Announcements

None to report.

Classified Ads

Seeking real estate info in Western Missouri, USA. Small acreage farms 40-75 acres desirable. #1-719-633-2514 David. cherished his time with God's

Help Want Ads

None to report.

Obituaries

See United News March/April 2004 http://www.ucg.org/articles/un/ind <u>ex.html]</u>

From: Giving and Sharing Newsletter Apr 04 ... Joe Waller

Joe Waller, PO Box 462, Piedmont, MO 3957-0462 passed away on March 1, 2004.

He is survived by his wife Vada.

Ray Kurr, Sr.

Ray Kurr Sr., Tulsa, OK, father of Ray

Kurr, Tulsa, OK passed away on February 29,

2004. He was born in Bronx, NY on July 14.

1930. He served our country as a marine in

the Korean War and was awarded the Purple

Heart. He loved sharing his

Christian faith with others and had ties to several

congregations

in the Tulsa area. His fellowship will

be missed by many.

http://www.giveshare.org/newslett er/newsletter74.html

From Journal Connections Fb04 ...

Funeral services for Eddie Staggs **Sr.** were held in Waldron, Ark., at **Rice-Martin** Funeral Home Feb. 11, with Ray Wooten officiating. My dad had so many friends from the different Churches of God that we can never contact them all so we are trying to inform as many as we can. He never judged a person by the group they met with. That was made evident by the numerous groups that he visited and corresponded with. He instilled that same attitude in his children. I personally want to

thank everyone for making my dad so welcome and happy everywhere he went. He people just as we cherished him. My dad died just as he Eddie Staggs Sr. lived, his feet planted firmly on the right path and his heart filled with God's Spirit. We will miss the man, but his legacy of goodwill and love will continue for generations. He was truly a wonderful man. Anyone wishing to send cards may send them to my mother, Mary Staggs, 10533 Gibson Rd., Waldron, AR 72958-Eddie Staggs, Jr.

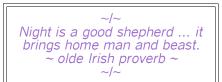
Dolores Audrey Chiechi, 80, of Olympia, Wash., died Feb. 22 in her home surrounded by family. She was born in Battle Lake, Minn. on Feb. 20, 1924. Dolores is survived by her husband of 55 years, Vito; their nine children, Chris, Steve, Douglas, Victoria Hinze, Gina Glover, Donna Elam, Michael, Maria, and Dolores; 26 grandchildren; one greatgrandchild; nieces, Barbara Loomis, Susan Brandt and Marilyn Anderson; nephew, Fred Mills; and many others whom she embraced as her own. Mom loved http://darwinlauralee.150m.com/in spending time with her family and watching her birds. Her thirst and love for knowledge resulted in a personal library of over 1,500 books. She was a true theologian and well versed in world events. She also owned and operated Vito's House of Yarn in Tumwater. Mom was a true example of unconditional love, grace and faith. Her unwavering belief in God and His plan provided her complete inner peace. Those whose lives she touched will miss her dearly and are forever blessed to have known her. She believed that in life it is not what happens to you, it is what you do with what happens to you that matters. A Celebration of Mom's Life took place on Feb. 27. A private interment service with family was held at Tahoma National Cemetery.

Florence Sorenson of Grants Pass, Ore., died peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 24. She and her

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husband, Jim, celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary and her 65th birthday on Feb. 11. Lung cancer was found when she was X-rayed for pneumonia. It was a fast-growing cancer, and doctors gave her about two weeks. Memorial services were held at the New Covenant Ministries building at 1515 Redwood Ave. in Grants Pass on Feb. 29.

From The Church of God Eternal Newsletter 04/14/2004 ... Mr. Carl McNair, a long-time Evangelist in God's church, died during the afternoon of April 14, 2004. Mr. McNair influenced and served many of God's people over his life. Our prayers are with Mrs. Dorothy McNair and her family.



Prayer Requests

Too numerous to list. See: dex.html

Wanted

... news items from local congregations. Please e-mail info to: dwlacey@adelphia.net. To be included in our next publication please send no later than the 15th day after last issue. We use the Biblical calendar, not the Roman for publish dates. See the Biblical calendar for this month at our download page:

http://ttscog.150m.com/

A day or two either way is accepted ... "a man's got to know his limitations" - Clint Eastwood, Magnum force 1973.

In coming issues:

Media Links:

Sermon of the week:

Sermons presented by elder Max Mader, A Voice in

04/21/2004

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the Wilderness web page is at: http://www.avoiceinthewildernes s.org

Topical sermons narrated by Elders Max Mader and David B. Laughran.



April Showers By: Al Jolson Life is not a highway strewn with flowers.

Still it holds a goodly share of bliss,

When the sun gives way to April showers,

Here's the point you should never miss.

Though April showers may come your way,

They bring the flowers that bloom in May.

So if it's raining, have no regrets, Because it isn't raining rain, you know, (It's raining violets,)

And where you see clouds upon the hills,

You soon will see crowds of daffodils,

So keep on looking for a blue bird, And list'ning for his song, Whenever April showers come

along. And where you see clouds upon the hills,

You soon will see crowds of

daffodils So keep on looking for a blue bird, And list'ning for his song, Whenever April showers come

along.

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A famous critters biography ...

Arnold Ziffel - Farm pig on the GRFFN rural sitcom ACRES/CBS/1965-71. Arnold was the family pet of Fred and Doris Ziffel (Hank Patterson & Barbara Pepper/Fran Ryan), farmers living

They considered this talented pig, little to speak yet. the son they never had. Arnold could play the piano, drink lime soda from a straw, deliver letters from the mail box, turn the channels on the television (he CÈS loved to watch THE EVENING NEWS with Walter Cronkite), predict weather with his curly tail, and play cricket with his own miniature cricket bat. He often interacted with Oliver Wendell Douglas (Eddie Albert) and his eloquent wife, Lisa (Eva Gabor), two city slickers who moved to the country. Once, while playing checkers, storekeeper Sam Drucker (Frank Cady) said to Fred "You treat that pig better that your wife." Fred replied "Have you seen Doris, lately?" On the revival TV-Movie Return To Green Acres (5/18/90) Arnold the pig was played by four different pig actors. According to their trainer Brian McMillan each pig performed different stunts including qoing up and downstairs. sitting up and wearing cloths. The original Arnold the pig (a male) was a Chester White pig from Indiana who was later replaced by other Arnold substitutes. His trainer was Frank Inn. Arnold won the American Humane Association's PATSY award in 1968 &1969. Over the years, bogus urban legends about Arnold the Pig have given rise. One of the most outrageous reports that "at the farewell party thrown after filming the serie's' final episode, the cast and crew of GREEN ACRES barbequed and ate the porcine portrayed who actor Arnold Ziffel" (as told in Stephen Cox's The Hooterville Handbook: A Viewer's Guide to Green Acres, St. Martin's Press, 1993 p. 116, 119) TRIVIA NOTE: On the PBS cartoon series KIPPER, a pig named Pig is the best friend of Kipper the Dog. Arnold little BURMA-SHAVE cousin

in the small town of Hooterville, adventures even though he's too

IF DAISIES ARE YOUR FAVORITE FLOWER KEEP PUSHIN' UP THOSE MILES-PER-HOUR



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Pig **MANY A FOREST** USED TO STAND WHERE A LIGHTED MATCH along on GOT OUT OF HAND **BURMA-SHAVE**

And finally, some signs of **Spring** ...



Daffodils - An Ohio meadow.

