

INSIGHT

APRIL 2004

A photograph of a brown leather-bound Bible with a crown of thorns resting on it. The Bible is the central focus, with the words 'THE HOLY BIBLE' embossed in gold on its cover. The crown of thorns is made of dry, light-brown twigs and is draped over the top and left side of the Bible. The background is dark, making the Bible and the crown of thorns stand out.

THE
HOLY
BIBLE

Passover vs. Easter

International Congregation of Yahweh

King's

INSIGHT

April 2004, Volume 6 , Number 1

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Law and Grace and the 12

“Dispensation of Grace”

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY ABOUT THESE TOPICS? Are they what you have always believed? Does Yahweh's grace "do away" with the Old Testament Laws?

Insight is published by the International Congregation of Yahweh, P.O. Box 208, Pocahontas, AR 72455.

The ICY is a nonprofit religious organization dedicated to the restoration of the original doctrines of the Apostolic assembly. ICY follows the practice of the New Testament assemblies who kept the Law of the Old Testament. The true assembly is built on the foundation of the apostles' and the prophets' (Eph. 2:20) message of obedience to Yahweh's Law (Isa.24:5,6; Jer.9:13-16; Ezk. 20:19).

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

ICY also teaches the restored truth that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is from dawn-to-dark. It is NOT from sunset-to-sunset as commonly taught. Yahweh's true Holy Days and New Moons are to be observed as well. Another major fundamental belief is the atoning sacrifice of the Messiah Yahshua.

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COVER

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Spirit and Opportunity:

Religion Could Take Some Lessons from these Interplanetary Travelers

From the Editor: Gary C. Miller

When the 400 pound U.S. spacecraft, *Spirit*, bounced to rest among the rocky debris of the wind-swept Gusev Crater of Mars at 11:35 p.m. EST, January 4, 2004, a 302.6 million mile journey fraught with peril came to a joyous end. Three weeks later at 12:05 a.m. EST, January 25, 2004 another interplanetary traveler joined *Spirit* on the Martian surface at Meridiani Planum some 6,000 miles away on the other side of the planet. Dubbed, *Opportunity*, this super high-tech twin of *Spirit* is also leaving its marks in the dusty terrain of another world.

These remarkable feats of applied physics and engineering were no accident, nor based on subjective feelings and hopeful speculation, but were the deliberate, meticulously studied, experiential applications of our knowledge of precise *natural laws*.

These spacecraft and their launch vehicles were designed in accordance with the *natural laws* of aerodynamics, rotational equilibrium, information transfer, heat and light absorption/radiation, escape velocity-to break the relentless pull of gravity, etc.

While scientists laud the marvelous intricacies of natural law, and devote themselves body-and-soul to the discovery and applications of such laws, *religion*, on the other hand, rarely gives the concept of natural law a passing thought. Why?

Claiming that the Creator operates “outside” natural law, with no constraints on His behavior, religious devotees pass from one subjective, ill-defined conjecture to another, often contradicting hordes of scriptures to preserve a cherished *belief* while clear Bible facts go begging. Why? Because they want no constraints on *their* behavior.

When asked for a factual, scientific explanation of Biblical events and principles, these religious zealots usually “default” to the standard reply, “Well, the Creator can do *anything*.” So who needs an explanation or facts of Scripture? Supposedly we are to “Just believe.”

When asking them for *proof* using logic and facts of Scripture to verify a religious belief, I get something like, “The problem with your religion is that it is based on *fact* instead of *faith*.”

Intended as a slur, such comments are actually a

compliment: “Faith without works is dead (James 2:20).” The truth is we do not know *what* works to do, if we have nothing definite, no *facts of Scripture*, to define what our actions should be. So-called ‘faith’ without facts of Scripture is *not Biblical* faith. It is *blind* faith, a *superstition*.

What if science operated on such blind faith instead of scientific *facts*? It would still be back in the Dark Ages where most all modern religions remain mired in superstition, ignorance, speculation, emotion, dogma, tradition, subjectivity, and at odds with the *Biblical facts*.

A case in point is the following reply by a professing Christian with a *doctorate* in microbiology when asked, “During the three days that Yahshua was dead, his body did not decompose. What would have prevented the bacteria from causing decomposition?”

“Good grief...No biological reason I can think of. Decomposition might have been slowed by dehydration...*but what difference would it make? We're talking about God [Yahweh] working outside of His physical laws, so Jesus [Yahshua] could have been a puddle and it wouldn't have made any difference...I don't think the answers are available from science.*”

How does this person *know* Yahweh was working *outside* His physical laws? This is simply a speculative *belief* on his part. *Why* are the answers not available from science? Could they be, if religion were not getting in the way of the scientific investigation of such matters?

So what lessons do *Spirit* and *Opportunity* have for modern religion? These. There are inexorable natural laws that operate on Earth and on other worlds. Too, no amount of speculative superstition, religious dogma, pride, prayer, hope, or wealth can override these natural laws. Finally, that understanding natural law is liberating, powerful, produces success, and elevates the hopes and aspirations of human endeavors.

The Bible contains natural laws-*other* natural laws regulating matter and energy-that, when applied, elevate man and liberate him from the relentless downward pulls and penalties of sin, and yes-can even resurrect the dead!

- ICY

PASSOVER vs. EASTER

Each year about this time *millions* flock to churches and cathedrals around the world for the *Easter* celebration. *Where* and *when* did this tradition start? *Who* decided Easter should replace the Biblical observance of *PASSOVER*?

Bunny rabbits, Easter eggs, bright new Easter dresses and warm smiles from friends and relatives decorate homes and churches on Easter weekend.

Easter Sunday impassioned sermons claim Easter is *really* all about the resurrection of the Messiah of Scripture. Quoting Acts 12:4, "...intending after Easter to bring him forth...", some ministers' claim this gives Biblical evidence for Easter observance in the New Testament. But is this the Biblical truth?

Honestly, what do Easter eggs and "Peter cotton tail" have to do with the Bible? For that matter, what does *Easter* have to do with the Bible?

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

Have you ever stopped and asked why you accept your religious beliefs?

Perhaps, it is because you were taught from a child that Easter is Christian, that it truly celebrates Messiah's

resurrection.

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

Perhaps, because so many other people believe the same things, you are comfortable with hot cross buns, "Good Friday, "Holy Week," Lent and Easter sunrise service.

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

(Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed vol. 8, p. 828)

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

Most importantly, is the Creator, Yahweh, okay with these Easter traditions?

The True Origin of Easter

The term "Easter" is of Anglo Saxon origin and is a slight variation of *Eastra*, the spring or dawn goddess (*Unger's Bible Dictionary*, p. 283; *Webster's Dictionary*). *Eastra* was the goddess of spring, the spring deity. When is the so-called "Christian" Easter celebration?

The word is also the modified English spelling of the goddess, *Ishtar*, worshipped by the ancient Assyrians. She is also associated with *Astarte*: "An ancient Semetic deity, goddess of *fertility* and *reproduction* worshipped by the Phoenicians and Canaanites, corresponding to the Hebrew *Ashtoreth* and the Babylonian and Assyrian *Ishtar*, and regarded as a moon goddess by the Greeks and Romans (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*).

"What means the term Easter itself? It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than *Astarte*, one of the titles of *Beltis*, the queen of heaven, whose name, as *pronounced by the people of Ninevah*, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country (*The Two Babylons*, A. Hislop, p. 103)."

The Apostles and Early Church Observed Passover

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Evidence from History

Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 104, says, "The festival, of which we read in Church history, under the name Easter, in the *third or fourth centuries*, was quite different from that now observed in the Romish Church, and *at that time* was not known by any such name as Easter. It was called *Pasch*, or the *Passover*...That festival agreed originally with the time of the Jewish Passover,

when Christ was crucified...*was very early observed by many professing Christians*...That festival was not idolatrous, and it was preceded by no Lent [emphasis mine]."

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

Gradually over time, the apostasy grew and the pagan Easter celebration replaced Passover observance in many quarters.

WHO Changed the Passover Observance to Easter Worship?

How many professing Christian church-goers know *why* Easter is observed on the calendar date commonly used or *who* sets that date?

Lemming-like they follow the crowd to Easter services.

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

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

In 197 A.D. the matter was again discussed this time between Polycrates [from churches in Asia: See Rev. 1] and Victor, bishop of Rome.

The result? "...Victor demanded that all should adopt the usage prevailing at Rome. This Polycrates firmly refused to agree to...whereupon Victor proceeded to excommunicate Polycrates and the Christians who continued the Eastern usage...[Passover on the 14th]. A final settlement of the dispute was one among the other reasons which led Constantine to summon the council of Nice in 325 [See inset above]...The few who afterward separated themselves



Easter-day.



At the General Council of Nice, held A.D. 325 (from the 19th of June to the 25th of August), in the presence of Constantine the Great, son of Constantius, Emperor of the East,—the question, touching the day for the celebration of the Feast of Easter, was settled. It was to be kept on the first Sunday after the first "Calendar" full moon, happening upon, or next after, the 21st of March; and if the full moon happened on a Sunday, Easter-day was to be the next Sunday following.

from the unity of the church, and continued to keep the 14th day, were named '*Quarto-decimani*,' and the dispute itself is known as the '*Quartdeciman controversy*' (*Encyclopedia Britannica* [11th edition, vol. VIII, pp. 828-829], as quoted in *The Plain Truth About Easter*, H. Armstrong, 1973, p 17).

Eventually the majority followed the apostasy of their leaders and joined with the pagan adoption of Easter at the Council of Nice in 325, "The decision of the council was unanimous that Easter [now *Easter* not Passover!] was to be kept on Sunday...and that 'none hereafter should follow the blindness of the Jews [meaning should not observe Passover on the 14th] (ibid, p. 829)."

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

Despite the total lack of Biblical support for Easter observance, the apostate bishops of the Nicene Council opted to abandon the Scripturally ordained Passover. **To this day, virtually ALL professing Christians (Protestants, Catholics, etc.) dutifully comply with this unscriptural and heretical edict!**

Why? Why do so few ever question the beliefs they follow, or their loyal allegiance to religious creeds?

How could it be that so many doc-

trines pawned off as Biblical are in fact *nowhere* to be found in Scripture?

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

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

Easter Eggs

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

Did you know the ancient Druids used the egg as a sacred emblem of their worship (*The Mythology and Rites of the British Druids*, E. Davies, p. 210)?

"In the Dionysiaca or mysteries of Bacchus, as celebrated in Athens, one part of the nocturnal ceremony consisted in the consecration of an egg...Hindu fables celebrate their mundane egg...the people of Japan make their sacred egg...In China... dyed or painted eggs are used on sacred festivals...(*The Two Babylons*, A. Hislop, pp. 108-109)."

"With the Greeks the Orphic Egg is described by Aristophanes and was part of the Donysiac and other mysteries, during which the Mundane Egg was consecrated...This 'first born...' was Dionysos, with some Greeks; the god who sprang from the mundane egg..." (*The Secret Doctrine*, H.P. Blavatsky, Vol. I-Cosmogogenesis, 1909, pp. 359-360).

"An egg...is said to have fallen from heaven...doves settled upon it, and hatched it, out came Venus [Astarte or Ishtar] (Hislop, p. 109)."

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

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

The Practice of The True Church: Then and Now

The true church of antiquity continued to observe Passover on the 14th day of the moon as set by the Law of Scripture (Ex. 12:6; *Eusebius, Lightfoot; Hislop*). This day was counted from the day of the conjunction, from the new moon. Few today realize the Biblical day of the new moon is *not* the day the first visible crescent appears but the *day of the conjunction*. (This is proven in our booklet *The Scriptural New Moon*; write for your copy).

As we have shown, history records that long after the Messiah's death despite rebuffs, excommunication, and martyrdom (Polycrates, Polycarp, et.al.), the true disciples of Yahshua steadfastly kept the Passover on the 14th day of Abib, the first month (approximately the 14th of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar).

History further proves the churches of Asia (the Eastern churches) mentioned in Revelation chapters one through three,

continued this Scriptural tradition. These facts of history are beyond dispute.

Another fact is the *true* disciples of Yahshua *still* observe the Passover on the fourteenth day following His example.

The Passover was never rescinded nor exchanged for a day supposedly celebrating the Messiah's resurrection. About this the Scriptures could not be more certain.

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

The Scriptures also conclusively show the Apostles and early church followed that same example *after* Yahshua was killed. Notice Paul's example in the letters to the church at Corinth (A.D. 59): "...Therefore,

let us keep the Feast [of Passover; see context] not with old yeast; not with yeast, evil, and wickedness, but with unleavened bread [...bread that has no yeast..." GNB], sincerity, and truth (I Cor. 5:8)." [The preposition 'of' often included in this verse is *not in the Greek*.]

Note that Yahshua himself, upon breaking the unleavened bread during the Passover meal, said, "...This do in remembrance of me (Lk. 22:19)." Yahshua left us the example we are to follow (Jn. 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:21).

Did not Paul say, "But this I confess to you [Ananias] that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the Elohim of my fathers, believing ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAW AND PROPHETS (Acts 24:14)?"

It is also a definite Biblical fact that the Passover meal was not a Protestant-Catholic styled "Eucharist" snack of unleavened bread and a taste of wine. It was a supper, a major meal. The word "supper" (Jn. 13:2,4) used in reference to the Passover meal, was the main meal and is correctly translated *feast* in Matt. 23:6 and Lk. 20:46. Why would Yahweh's Passover be like the apostatized Eucharist? It is not.

The *true* church, now as in the days of the Apostles, still observes Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month of the Sacred calendar. It never observed Easter and never will. Did you observe Passover this year? -ICY

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

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"The Curse of the Law"

What did Paul mean when he penned this phrase recorded in the New Testament book of Galatians chapter 3, verse 13?

Was the Old Testament Law a curse hanging over mankind until the coming of the Messiah? Could the Messiah, Yahshua, "not wait" to get rid of the Law so man would have freedom from an outmoded and archaic set of dos and don'ts?

"Did not Yahshua redeem us from the curse of the Law?" some might ask. Going on to say "...that the Law or law-keeping is a curse from which we are now saved."

Galatians 3:13 is often given to justify such points of view: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree (NAS).'"

But Paul also wrote: "Wherefore, the law is holy, and just, and good (Rom. 7:12)." He also said, "For I delight in the Law of Yahweh [first five books of Scripture] after the inward man (v. 22). He further wrote, "For we know that the law is spiritual...(v. 14)." It applies to the spirit in man (Job 32:8).

Now if the law is spiritual and holy, just, and good, then how can it be a curse?

If we go back and carefully read Gal. 3:13, notice what we find: "...the curse OF the law..." What is the curse of the Law?

Paul clearly shows he is referring to the curse which one receives as a penalty for breaking the law, by quoting Deuteronomy 21:23. Yahshua became a curse in our stead and was hanged on a stake or tree. "For he has made Him [Yahshua] to be sin for us...(2 Cor.5:21)." The Law clearly states, "And if a man has committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death [the penalty; the curse]...and you hang him on a tree...his body shall not remain all night upon the

tree...(for he that is hanged is ACCURSED of Elohim) ...(Deut. 21:22,23)."

Yahshua took the curse of death on Himself. The Law is not the curse. *The curse is the penalty for breaking the Law:* "For the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23)."

Remember, Yahweh promised BLESSINGS for obedience (Deut. 28:1-14), and CURSES for DISobedience (Deut. 28:15-46).

The Law is here to stay-for our good (blessings): "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail (Luke 16:17)."

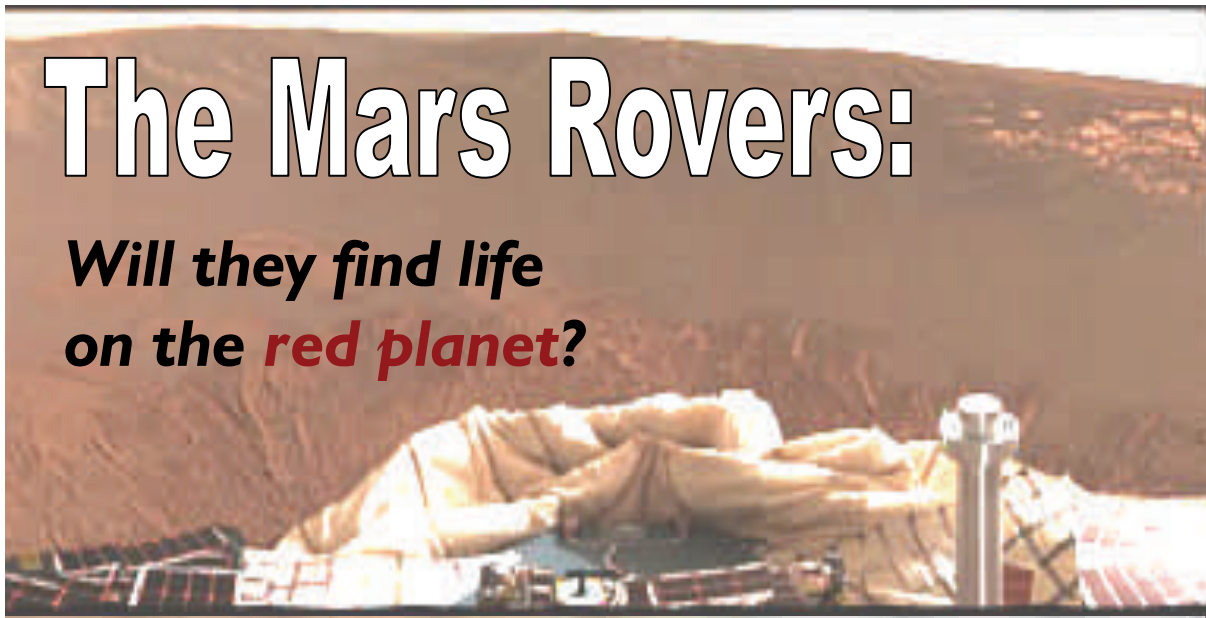
Somehow, despite all these clear unambiguous scriptures, many remain riveted to the idea that keeping Yahweh's Law is a burdensome curse. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is the perfect Law of Liberty: "The Truth will make you free (Jn. 8:32)." David, a man after Yahweh's own heart, said, "...your Law is the Truth (Ps. 119:142)." Was David right? Did he know?

Those opposed to the laws of the Old Testament have never actually tried to obey them in their pure unadulterated form. Some have tried the *Jewish* or *Jewish-like* beliefs and rituals (or know those who have), including tithing, clean and unclean foods (the *Kosher* food laws), annual holy days, weekly Sabbath, etc. But invariably these beliefs are laden with *unscriptural traditions, Babylonian doctrines* (evening-to-evening weekly Sabbath), and *nonstop commandments of men*.

The laws in their *pure form-just as the Bible teaches them*-are just as Yahshua said, "...my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matt.11:30)." *Sin* and its *penalties* are the burden, not the Law. - ICY

The Mars Rovers:

**Will they find life
on the *red planet*?**



The interior of a crater surrounding the Mars Exploration Rover, Opportunity, at Meridiani Planum on Mars is visible in this color image from the rover's panoramic camera. The rim of this 20 meter (65 feet) diameter crater is approximately 10 meters (32 feet) from the rover. Rock outcrops are found throughout the crater whose soil appears to have a texture of coarse gray and fine reddish grains. *Photo/NASA*

By Gary Miller

Twin high-tech robotic explorers are scratching, boring, and crawling their way along as they sample the terrain of the Red Planet, Mars. What are they doing there? Searching for what?

They are looking for signs of life-past or present! What is the theory of life driving our interplanetary space exploration, which has the blessing of the US Congress via NASA, and is used to justify the \$830 million nationally funded Mars rover project?

Recently, the JPL team (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) reported the rovers' data show evidence the surface of Mars "was once soaked with water." This is considered significant because the prevailing theory-Darwinian evolution, says that without water, life as we know it would not exist and life *on Mars* would never have existed.

Other NASA funded research such as the NASA Specialized Center of Research and Training (NSCORT) seeks to answer this most basic question of the origin and continuance of life.

NSCORT funds Dr. Stanley Miller's laboratory. He teamed with Dr. Urey in the famous Miller-Urey experiment

(1953) which produced amino acids from nonliving materials subjected to electrical discharges.

The "Right" Theory of Life

Obviously, the US Congress has consented to fund the study of the evolutionary theory of life's origin and existence in our solar system. Surely then, this theory must be firmly rooted in scientific fact. Right? It depends on whom you ask.

If you ask most religious fundamentalists, they would say, "Wrong." Evolutionists would say...well, "Right."

The religious view that life was created supernaturally is considered unscientific by most scientists. The reason given is that the cause lies outside science, is not within the order of nature.

If a theory is *scientific*, it must be a synthesis of well-tested and verified hypotheses-scientific *facts* which are proven by close agreement among competent observers of a series of observations.

Biblical statements are often placed outside this definition, and classified as unscientific, untestable, purely dogma.

Consequently, the Biblical account

of the origin and existence of life is generally excluded in the scientific community.

This is partly due to the fact that Biblical statements regarding life are sometimes misconstrued by theologians and scientists alike.

So what is the *actual* Biblical record on the matter of life and the scientific evidence to support it? More on that later.

Opposing Views

The evolutionary theory of life is generally accepted by the scientific community (See inset next page, left). However, numerous objections are raised to the evolutionary theory (See other inset).

The most famous clash of opposing views to date was a 1925 bitter court battle that became known as the Scopes "Monkey Trial" in Dayton, Tennessee.

In this trial, biology instructor John Scopes, was convicted and fined \$100 for violating a Tennessee state law against teaching "that man descended from a lower order of animals." A higher court later overturned his conviction on appeal. Apparently Protestant fundamentalists used their influence to

BASIC IDEAS OF THE EVOLUTIONARY THEORY OF LIFE

- Evolution is a process that requires millions of years to develop.
- Over time, many species develop as a result of environmental and genetic changes. (1800, Lamarck)
- Evolutionary changes have happened gradually and uniformly over time (1795, Hutton; 1800, Larmarck; 1859, Darwin).
- Genetic changes due to random mutations (1901, deVries) and combinations of parental genes passed to offspring, give some a survival advantage over others.
- The fittest offspring adapt best to their environment and survive in larger numbers than those members of the population who cannot adapt as well. This process is called Natural Selection (1859, Darwin).
- Natural Selection is the driving mechanism of organic evolution.
- The Earth is reliably dated as 4.55 billion years old which is enough time for evolutionary processes to develop different species (the earliest evidence for life dates back 3.8 billion years-Apex formation in Western Australia, etc.).
- Comparative anatomy reveals structural similarities among various unrelated animals which is strong evidence for organic evolution.
- The fossil record documents organic evolution.
- **A reducing atmosphere** is required to produce the organic compounds needed for life (A reducing atmosphere contains methane, ammonia, hydrogen and water.). [It is now known that methane can be replaced by *any* reducing gas, i.e. CO₂/hydrogen and nitrogen].
- The Earth's primitive atmosphere in all probability had a reducing composition. Its oxygen content "...is clearly of biological origin....either you have a reducing atmosphere or you are not going to have the organic compounds needed for life." (Stanley L. Miller: <http://www.accessexcellence.org/WN/NM/miller.html>).
- Prebiotic experiments such as the Miller-Urey experiment (1953; University of Chicago) show that organic compounds (amino acids) are made under the geological conditions of a reducing atmosphere subjected to a continuous electrical discharge. This demonstrates Oparin's (1924; Russia) idea that the first organisms could have gotten their organic material from the environment, rather than making it themselves (the heterotrophic hypothesis). He and Urey (1951; USA) independently proposed the reducing-atmosphere condition necessary for making organic compounds (Miller, URL as above). Resident local forces, not a personal Creator, are all that is required to produce and sustain life as we know it. □

get the law on the books in the first place.

During the trial, defense lawyer Clarence Darrow's searing cross examination of key expert witness William Jennings Bryant (billed as a Bible expert) raised doubts about the theory of evolution contradicting the Biblical record.

For example, Darrow remarked to Bryant, that if the Bible did not allow changes in species, then how could the serpent have been changed to crawl on his belly after he was found guilty of beguiling Eve? Was that not a clear Biblical reference to an evolutionary change in a species? Bryant had no answer.

Humiliated by Darrow during the trial, a depressed Bryant is said to have gone on an eating binge afterward resulting in his untimely death.

The differences and emotions obviously ran deep between the evolutionists and their opposing camp, what are usually referred to as "Creationists." These differences remain entrenched to the present day.

The Creationists' main objection to the evolutionary theory is its premise that *only* local resident forces of nature are needed to form and sustain life.

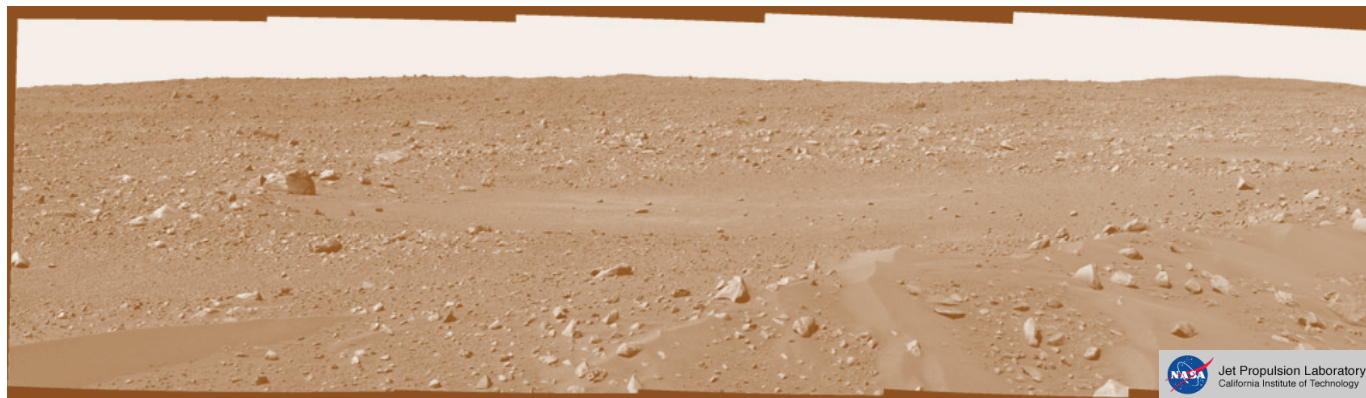
Does the Bible Support the Young Earth' Hypothesis?

An example of how the Biblical record is misunderstood, consider the "young Earth" theory.

Creationists typically say Earth is about 6,000 years old—certainly no more than 10,000. This view is supposedly based partly on the Genesis account. Various schemes are used to preserve a *misinterpretation* of the true Biblical record.

Actually the Genesis record does *not* require a 6,000-10,000 year old Earth. Here is how Gen. 2:1 begins: "And the earth *BECAME* (SEC 1961) *waste* (SEC 8414) and *void* (SEC 922)."

The Hebrew SEC 1961 is the same word used in Gen. 2:7: "...man *BECAME* a living soul..." The Hebrew SEC 8414, *tohu* means *waste* or *ruin*(ed), and the word translated *void* (Heb. *bohu*; SEC 922) means *emptiness* (BDB, p. 96) or "...an indistinguishable *ruin* (SEC)..."



Panoramic camera of the Mars Rover, *Spirit*, shows the rock-strewn barren landscape of Lunga Hollow. *Spirit* landed on the Martian surface at 11:35 p.m. EST, January 4, 2004. The landing ended a 302.6 million mile trip.

[Picture is colored enhanced to show fine reddish grains of soil]

The Bible clearly teaches Earth was not created a wasteland, in ruins: "...Yahweh [incorrectly translated "Lord" in the KJV]...that formed the Earth...He created it *NOT waste* (SEC 8414: *tohu*; KJV: '...not in vain...'; Isa. 45:18; Gen.2:1).

Some great cataclysm had happened to Earth prior to the time the reader is ushered onto the scene in verse two of Genesis chapter one. Consequently, there is an indefinite period of time between the initial creation of Earth described in Gen.1:1 and the devastation that followed, whose aftermath is recorded in Gen. 1:2. This period could have been *millions, even billions of years!*

This scriptural FACT is in complete accord with the age of fossils measured by such scientific methods as radioactive Carbon-14 dating and other radiometric dating methods. The Biblical facts do not contradict the reliable scientific fact of a 4.55 billion-year-old Earth.

Where Yahweh Dwells: The Surprising Truth

Did Yahweh create life here on Earth, then fly off to the Andromeda galaxy or some distant world at the hub of our Milky Way galaxy light years from Earth?

Where *does* Yahweh dwell, *NOW, THIS MINUTE?* Some say that Yahweh dwells *everywhere*, that He has no one place where He lives, no form or shape, just an omnipresent "ethereal cosmic essence."

Is this really the *Biblical* teaching? Where is Yahweh's home in the universe?

Look at these surprising Biblical FACTS:

Notice *WHERE* Yahweh *sits*: "It is He that sits [where?]
UPON the CIRCLE OF the **EARTH** (Isa. 40:22)." ("upon": The Hebrew preposition *al* is used here, meaning *on* or *upon*.) This is not light years from Earth in some far corner of our galaxy, but THE VICINITY OF THE EARTH ITSELF.

As Yahweh looks down from the circle of the Earth, we appear *small but not invisible*: "...and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers (Isa. 40:22)."

Notice further: "This says Yahweh, 'The heaven is my throne, and THE EARTH IS MY FOOTSTOOL' (Isa. 66:1)." The *Earth* is His footrest; close enough He can rest His feet on it if desired!

What about heaven? Did not Yahshua instruct us to pray, "Our Father who is *IN HEAVEN*...(Matt.6:9), and did not Solomon say, "Hear you *IN HEAVEN* (SEC 8064) your *dwelling place* (1 Ki. 8:34)?" David noted that "Yahweh looked down from *HEAVEN* upon the children of men (Psa. 14:2)." Yahweh obviously dwells in Heaven. Is this near the Earth?

Where is Heaven? Notice the definition in Gen. 1:8, "And Elohim called the firmament (SEC 7549) *HEAVEN* (SEC 8064)..."

Do birds fly in heaven? Yes (Gen. 2:20; 7:23). Does rain fall from heaven? Yes (Gen. 7:11; 8:2). Are clouds in heaven? Yes (Dan. 7:13). What altitudes does this include? Cirrus clouds (the highest clouds) are about six miles above Earth's surface.

Note that Solomon said, "*HEAR* you in heaven (1 Ki. 8:34)..." Yahweh even says, "...I will *HEAR* from heaven..." (2 Chr. 7:14)."

So, if Yahweh *HEARS*, which the Bible says He does, He

IDEAS OPPOSING THE EVOLUTIONARY THEORY OF LIFE

- A creation demands a Creator. Yahweh created and sustains life as we know it.
- The hypothesis that millions of years are needed for the evolutionary development of species is untestable, hence unscientific. What theory of science, other than the theory of evolution, can get away with postulating untestable hypotheses and still be considered a *scientific* theory.
- Mutations are harmful (make organism weaker, less able to survive), rare and random rather than directional. They occur only once in about ten million duplications of a DNA molecule (*The Collapse of Evolution*, 1992, Huse, p. 90).
- Camouflage, etc., notwithstanding, life forms by and large do not survive by adapting to the environment, but rather by adapting the environment to themselves, by changing the environment to suit their survival needs. Birds alter their habitat by building nests. Man reshapes and transforms the resources of Earth, adapting them to ensure his survival. Birds of prey alter their catch (their environment) by killing and eating them, etc.
- The fossil record shows no life forms in the lower 70 percent of Earth's crust (pre-Cambrian period). Above this, in the upper crust a number of advanced life forms suddenly appear. The absence of any life forms in the pre-Cambrian rocks shows no evolutionary ancestors of the Cambrian fauna.
- The fossil record also indicates no change from one species into another. The ancient cockroach of millions of years ago is essentially the same as its living counterpart (1992, Huse; p.38). A. J. Marshall notes, "...there is no fossil evidence of the stages through which the remarkable change from reptile to bird was achieved" (quoted in: *A Theory for the Birds*, Armstrong and Kroll, 1968, p. 25). There are no intermediate forms of life between species in the fossil record.
- Earth's geologic features indicate a catastrophic history rather than the gradualism of evolutionary theory. Geologic data show global flooding, age-ending asteroid impacts (Chicxulub impact, Yucatan Peninsula, 65 million years ago), massive earthquakes, volcanic eruptions (Kakatoa, 1883). Such data mark rapid catastrophic water deposition, the K-T boundary showing the abrupt gap between the Cretaceous and Tertiary geologic periods, the demise of mammoths in Siberia, etc.
- The Law of Inertia dictates that only a net external force can change the state of motion of an object. This shows there had to be a First Cause. Consequently, the universe could not start itself and life (action) cannot proceed from inaction.
- The Law of Biogenesis states that life comes from life, that living organisms come only from living organisms (1860, Pasteur) and is not spontaneously generated from inert resident forces.
- The Law of Conservation of Energy which includes the 1st Law of Thermodynamics, shows energy is neither created nor destroyed. The gain of energy by one system comes from the loss of an equal amount of energy by another. So, life (organized use of energy) had to come from some source.
- The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that heat energy cannot be transformed completely into mechanical energy. As a result, systems go to their lowest energy level, diminishing the available energy of the universe which increases its disorder (entropy). This means a universe left to itself, without the input of energy, goes from complex to simple, from a higher to a lower energy level. It will wind down like a mechanical spring-driven clock. This is opposite the proposed evolutionary process of development from simple to complex.
- There is intelligent design (ID) in nature as indicated by the DNA, for example, which carries meaningful information. Such information could not be the result of random local forces.
- A primitive reducing atmosphere cannot be proven for certain.
- Similar skeletal structure in different animals does not necessarily mean one arose from the other by evolution. Similar design due to similar function is equally plausible and requires no additional assumptions regarding order of occurrence. Their simultaneous creation is consistent with the data as well. □

must be in the vicinity of Earth where AIR EXISTS TO CARRY the VIBRATIONS of SOUND. Although the atmosphere ends about 100 miles above Earth's surface, it appears likely Yahweh is nearer than that, perhaps somewhere in the 99 percent of the atmosphere that exists below 18 miles (below 95,000 feet).

Though, to some, the real, physical personification of the Creator may seem foreign, it is clearly the Biblical record. Not only can He hear, but He also sees (has eyes: Psa. 34:15), has a heart (Jer. 33:20), hands (Psa. 102:25), etc.

Truly as Yahshua said, "He that has seen me has seen the Father (Jn 14:9)." [Jesus ("Zeus is Savior"), KJV, RSV, etc., should be translated Yahshua ("Yah is Savior.")].

Also, recall what Yahweh said, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness (Gen.1:26)."

Mystery of mysteries: Yahweh "rides the wind" in the atmosphere of Earth. He maintains a presence near or even on the Earth, year in and year out.

The astonishing Biblical truth is THE EARTH IS YAHWEH'S HOME!!

These facts of Scripture cannot be spiritualized away. The Bible is about reality, the real world.

HOW and WHY Life Exists on Earth

The Scriptures reveal the truth of Yahweh's dwelling place near the Earth's surface as He sits on the circle of Earth in the very atmosphere of our planet!

There is further evidence, Scriptural evidence, of the presence of Yahweh near the surface of the Earth.

Notice Yahshua's stunning comment when tempted by Satan: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF YAHWEH (Matt. 4:4)." Yahweh has life in [inherent in] Him (Jn 5:26)."

What process is usually given for life? Is it not that we live through respiration, by imbibing necessary nutrients, and water? Is that really all that is required for life?

Is there something more, something wholly unsuspected, that is essential for life as we know it?

Yes. What is it? It is the WORDS YAHWEH SPEAKS-something in His

breath.

Notice too, that Yahshua said, "The WORDS that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are LIFE (Jn. 6:63)." [Yahshua breathed on the disciples and they received the holy spirit (Jn. 20:22)].

Now, was Yahshua just making some rather "spiritual" analogy or was He stating a real scientific fact? Did He know?

Clearly, Yahshua shows that the words spoken by Yahweh sustains man, continually keeps him alive. It is not just what we eat, drink, and the oxygen we breathe. There really is something more.

What is it? The very life energy which Yahweh transmits by speaking into our surroundings on a continual basis. Breathing into our atmosphere via His WORDS, Yahweh sustains life here on Earth by HIS VERY PRESENCE.

The inevitable conclusion, demanded by the authority of the Bible itself, is that without Yahweh's ongoing presence, life on Earth would cease to exist!

If Yahweh left Earth, life as we know it would die out, leaving an empty barren wasteland behind...**LIKE THE SURFACE OF MARS!!**

Further Evidence

Earth was devoid of life when the Biblical record begins in Gen. 1:2. For reasons unknown, Yahweh had apparently left the environs of Earth for some time.

What started the restoration of the planet? What began the renewal of life?

First, we find "...And the Spirit of Elohim moved upon the face of the waters (Gen. 1:2)." The word translated Spirit (SEC 7307) here is the word translated breath in Psa. 18:15: "...O Yahweh the breath of your nostrils."

Second, notice the repetition of "...And Elohim SAID..." (vv. 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 22, 24, 26) to initiate life (vv. 11, 12). Until He spoke, breathed the words, THERE WAS NO LIFE.

Truly there is something more in the atmosphere-a heretofore undiscovered essence, a life force, life field, radiation or element which is the real kinetic component of life! Until Yahweh's words were released into the firmament and waters, there was no life on Earth.

This unknown ingredient of life is prevalent here on Earth and its atmosphere, because Yahweh Himself is here.

The existence of life is PART OF THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF HIS VERY PRESENCE, of the existence of Yahweh, the Creator!

Why has life not been found ANYWHERE man has searched in our solar system and beyond (exobiology)? The scientific data on this is unanimous.

WHY WILL THE MARS ROVERS UNDOUBTEDLY NOT FIND LIFE ON MARS?

Is it not truly because Yahweh is NOT "out there" but here, on or near the Earth?

Life has not been found in other parts of the solar system, because HE is not there. This is the secret, the Biblical and scientific secret of life!

When did Adam-made complete physically-become a living being? It was ONLY after Yahweh breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, the energy-essence of life, from Yahweh Himself (Gen. 2:7; Jn 5:26).

This is the astonishing Scriptural record, and none can in truth deny it.

The Miller-Urey Experiment

Apparently the Miller-Urey experiment (See inset page 9), enclosed in glass, did not screen out this invisible but real life radiation, life field or element. This is apparently why organic compounds appeared to be formed from the inorganic elements of ammonia, methane, hydrogen and water subjected to electrical discharge.

To test the Biblical theory of the "Yahweh essence", this life field, force, or element, the Miller-Urey experiment should be performed in an isolated environment known to be devoid of life, SUCH AS THE LUNAR SURFACE. This would provide a more objective set of test conditions for Miller's prebiotic experiment. Would it yield the same results as on Earth where life is already known to exist?

What this means is that we now have the technology to test the very existence of Yahweh Himself!

The indisputable Biblical fact, the unrealized fact, is that Yahweh is STILL breathing the breath of life into us through the words He speaks, breathes, into the atmosphere.

So why does life exist here on Earth in all its myriad forms, and not on Mars? It is because Yahweh is HERE. **-ICY**

Law and Grace and THE "Dispensation of Grace"

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY ABOUT THESE TOPICS?
Are they what you have always believed? Does Yahweh's grace "do
away" with the Old Testament Laws?**

Does grace do away with the laws of the Old Testament? A common belief goes something like: "We live in the dispensation of grace which nullifies the need to observe the laws of the Old Testament. This is *because* we now have 'freedom in Christ,' and are no longer under the law but under grace." Are these statements *true*? Are followers of the Messiah free from the need to obey the laws of the Old Testament?

Have the definitions of good and evil really changed in the centuries since the atoning death of the Messiah?

Some would have us believe they have indeed changed, and Yahweh's grace does away with the Old Testament Law which *did* once define good and evil, but *now*, in the *dispensation of grace*, they can no longer be used to tell us what is sin and what is not.

Has there actually been a fundamental change in right and wrong? If so, then acts which were sinful in the days of Cain and Abel, or the days of Moses and Aaron are no longer wrong or harmful in Yahweh's eyes. Did Yahweh not say, "I am Yahweh, I CHANGE NOT (Mal. 3:6)?"

A World Without Law?

Recall that the Apostle John said that *sin is the transgression of the Law* (1 Jn. 3:4). Another Apostle, Paul, noted that *where there is no law there is no sin* (Rom. 4:15) and that "...not the hearers of the Law are just before Elohim, but the *doers* of the Law shall be justified. (Rom. 2:13 WY)." Paul also said, "Know you not...that the Law has dominion over a man *as long as he lives* (Rom. 7:1)." Did they mean what they said, or have their writings been "done away with" too, as many proclaim about the Laws of the Old Testament?

Few would argue that these New Testament writings are no longer valid, but if they stand, then so does the Law they refer to so emphatically.

So in the 'dispensation of grace' (whose meaning we will see later) is it wrong to lie? Will not all liars find their place in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8)? This is a future event...so there

must be a law against lying *then and now*. Truly, if there is no Scriptural Law, nothing would be wrong with stealing, murder, lust, sexual perversions, Sabbath-breaking, extortion, etc.

Ironically, many who advocate a *dispensation of grace without law*, believe there still are (or should be) laws against at least *some* of these actions.

Who would argue that corporate insiders who pilfer the retirement funds of employees should not be punished for theft? Or that serial killers should not get their justly deserved penalty? Admittedly, these are sins.

But why penalize these actions if we are living in the "dispensation of grace" in which law is replaced by grace?

If grace covers all, should not these criminals be given grace, pardoned, *saved from the penalty of their crimes*, as a free gift from the Creator, Yahweh, and society in general? Thus, there would be no crime and their actions would not cost them, "For by *grace* are you saved...not of works [works involving repentance and law-keeping, obedience] lest any man should boast...(Eph. 2:8, 9)?" So these criminals would have nothing to do but accept the pardon as a free gift-now free to steal or kill again with immunity!

Why bother with courts? Why not just empty the prisons and declare a general amnesty as a free gift of Yahweh and the court systems? Disband all police forces; eliminate the FBI; take down traffic signs; send the Armed Forces home-permanently. Do all this and replace any laws with grace and love for everyone.

Of course such extreme proposals are absurd and irresponsible. Under those conditions a civilized society would not be civilized long, nor would it last long, perhaps just a few days.

But such absurd proposals are exactly what the "Law has been done away and replaced by grace" doctrine advocates-*for religious societies*, i.e. the churches! A society-any society-family, church, state, nation, in which each person does as he sees fit and grace replaces law-keeping, is doomed.

So, any religion teaching such heresy is likewise doomed. Ironically, when it comes to the *Bible* and the Law on which it is built, we are asked to accept the "all grace" philosophy which would admittedly quickly ruin any civil government.

Yet, the Law of Scripture-the Torah-the laws defining

right and wrong, good and evil *are* the laws which must govern any society that is to be stable, peaceful, and prosperous.

The truth is any government not based on Yahweh's laws will fall. You can't legislate around these laws and get away with it for long.

AND, these Laws of government have everything to do with righteousness. They are the laws of government *and* righteousness.

For example, murder is a destabilizing social scourge. It is also a sin. Apply grace to murder in the measure advocated by those who want to do away with Yahweh's Law in general, and see what happens. No one would be safe.

It is bad enough when there *are* laws and enforcement exists at least to some degree. But let a "grace" philosophy dominate a society and it will implode in short order!

Obviously there must be law to maintain any form of civility. Why and how is the church supposed to run without it; its members supposedly finding themselves under no obligation to keep the Laws of the Old Testament?

Can't Have it Both Ways

In truth those who advocate a "grace covers all doctrine" want the peace, safety, orderliness, freedom, and prosperity LAW and LAW ENFORCEMENT provides; not the decadence, dissipation, and poverty lawlessness creates. When it comes to living the good life in the here and now, human nature wants, yes demands, the protection of law and the rights and freedoms it guarantees.

But when it comes to towing the mark on Yahweh's Law of the Old Testament that defines right and wrong, there is no end to the excuses given as to why the "law has been done away."

We can't have it both ways. Yahweh said, "See, I set before you this day life and good, and [or] death and evil (Deut. 30:16)." Notice. "...to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, [Why?] that you may *live* and multiply...(v. 16)." What is so bad about living? We must choose between the two ways.

Yahweh's laws produce life and liberty (James 1:25). Man's laws which run counter to these laws bring poverty, death, and enslavement.

Like it or not, the works of LAW KEEPING—obeying Yahweh's Law—bring the good life. Likewise, the inexorable working of law and law-keeping *also brings eternal life!*

Notice the Messiah's comments: "And,...one came and said to him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may *have eternal life?* [Notice] And he said to him...but if you will enter into life, keep the commandments (Matt. 19:16, 17)."

Notice that Yahshua *did not* say that eternal life was a free gift and no works of law keeping were required! He *did not* say "After my death, law-keeping will end '...lest any man should boast...' of his works."

He said, "...*keep the commandments!*"

Make no mistake about it. Outlaws spurning the Law of Yahweh will *not* inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of Yahweh.

The honest truth is the "grace-replaces-law doctrine" *does*

not in reality advocate no law. It just wants to *do away with Yahweh's law!* It is a way of picking and choosing which laws to obey.

Churches have plenty of rules, ritualistic procedures, standards, dos and don'ts, chains of command, etc. All churches run on *some* law and expect their members to dutifully obey what the church says is "right." But what is right?

Most churches have arbitrarily and *without Biblical authority, substituted their own laws* for those of Scripture. They have redefined right and wrong *on their own terms* by substituting their own laws for the Laws of Yahweh contained in the Torah (first five books of Scripture).

What Laws are Nullified?

This is all done under the guise of Scripture, invoking Yahshua's blood sacrifice and/or church authority to rescind most all laws of the Old Testament.

So what Law or laws is Yahweh's grace-using Yahshua's sacrifice-supposed to nullify? The answer depends on whom you ask.

Some say the seventh-day Sabbath and annual Holy Day commands are nullified. Others, ICY included, say they are not. Obviously, the religious friction is generated when one opinion of right and wrong encounters its opposite.

Something must be inherently wrong with the "grace" philosophy as men apply it to the Bible. It is obviously an unworkable social policy. What makes us think it should work anywhere else?

Does Yahweh not make any demands; set no boundaries? Is He all love and grace; soft on crime? Is He easily pushed around?

Is He in charge? Does He tell us what to do or do we tell Him?

We must respect Yahweh and the rules He has clearly set for us to follow. He demands obedience to His Law *for our good*.

The Law is nonnegotiable. Obedience is not "on the table" to be bargained away.

The "grace replacing law" doctrine is such an untenable premise that no one would advocate it as a general principle of government.

Paul clearly says that grace does not replace any part of Yahweh's Law: "...Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? May it never be (Rom. 6:1, 2)."

Notice how grace is supposed to reign or be given: "...even so might grace reign through RIGHTEOUSNESS unto eternal life by Yahshua Messiah our Master (Rom. 5:21 WY)." It must reign *through righteousness*—through law keeping, not through lawlessness! And through righteousness, grace-forgiveness of sins that are *PAST* (Rom. 3:25) *and repented of* will produce eternal life.

Why then is such illegal substitution of grace-for-law advocated as the premise of the Biblical codes of conduct?

There is a reason: *Human nature inherently resists Yahweh's Law.* It just wants all the benefits of law without having to do anything in return. That one-sided self-

"And He [Yahshua] said to him...but if you will enter into life, *keep the commandments.*" (Matt. 19:16, 17)

Does Yahweh not make any demands; set no boundaries? Is He all love and grace; soft on crime? Is He easily pushed around?

ishness is what we must work to overcome. We all fight the battle on many fronts of our lives, and it isn't easy-as everyone knows.

David said, "...*all* your commandments are truth...and *every one* of your righteous judgments *endure forever* (Psa. 119:151, 160)." Forever is not over yet.

What is Grace?

To understand what grace is and its role in Biblical doctrine, we must first define it. The English word *grace* is, according to the Random House unabridged dictionary, "mercy; clemency; pardon." It goes on to say "in Theology, the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God." So in English grace and mercy are synonyms.

The Biblical word translated *grace* (SEC 2580, Hebrew *khane* and SEC 5485, Greek *charis*) means graciousness which denotes kindness, pleasantness, goodwill, courteous, friendly, favorable, etc.). In some New Testament verses, *charis* (SEC 5485) means *the undeserved gift* and the grace under which we stand by the redemption that is through Yahshua (See *Ardnt, Ging*. p. 885-86).

The word translated mercy is contrasted with grace: "...Grace (SEC 5485), mercy (SEC 1656) and peace (2 Tim. 1:2)." Obviously, the Greek words are different but overlap in meaning in some verses.

The actual meaning of words translated *mercy* are: Hebrew: (SEC 2616) *to bow the neck only in courtesy to an equal*; (SEC 2617) *kindness*; (SEC 2603) *to bend or stoop to an inferior, favor*; (SEC 7356) *compassion* [Webster's: compassion is "sorrow for the sufferings or trouble of another, with the urge to help"]; (SEC 7355) *to fondle, by implication to love, espec. compassionate*; (SEC 3727) *lid* [used for mercy seat of ark of the covenant].

Also, the Greek *eleos* (SEC 1656) means literally *to be merciful, or show mercy* (*Ardnt, Ging*. p. 249).

How Grace/Mercy Is Applied

A major problem with law and grace discussions is the assumption usually made that we must have *either Law OR Grace* but never law *AND* grace.

Unfortunately, the "law *or* mercy

(grace)" view usually invokes a concept of grace or mercy in which all but a few arbitrarily selected laws have been set aside. The remaining laws "have no teeth" in that penalties are never exacted for breaking them.

Under this system, grace/mercy replaces law-keeping. It is licentious. THIS is where so many misunderstand the matter: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the *grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness* [licentiousness, NAS]...(Jude 4, WY)."

The Bible, on the other hand, clearly teaches a system of law and mercy/grace in *which penalties are STILL meted out for crimes* (Gen. 9:6; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 7:16; Rom. 6:23, etc.).

The sin is forgiven (SEC 5545)-grace is applied, *ONCE THE PENALTY IS FULLY PAID* (See Lev.4:20, 26, 31; 19:22; Num.14:19; 15:25, etc.). This has always been Yahweh's system of justice, and *it always will be*.

This is true justice. The penalty must be paid under all circumstances to balance the ledger; to bring nature into balance again; to pay our debt to Yahweh or our neighbor.

Now, if forgiveness is the application of grace, and penalties must be paid in order that grace can be applied, "How is that grace?" you might ask. "Is not grace a pardon given without payment?"

Where does mercy/grace enter the picture? To answer these questions it is necessary to understand what granting grace involves.

What Granting Grace Involves

Since grace involves pardon or mercy, some crime must have been committed. Therefore, a debt must have been incurred. What about the debt? *Who* pays it? Is the loss caused by the crime forever unpaid when grace/mercy is granted?

Does the victim of a crime have a natural right to have his loss restored? Does anyone have to pay, or, are debts just one-sided? Do they stay "on the books" unpaid?

Yes, there is a natural action-reaction principle-the law of equity, at work here *which demands remuneration for losses inflicted on another*. It is a

natural immutable LAW.

However, the basic question is "*Does grace mean that no one pays?*"

"THE ACT OF GRACE JUST MEANS THAT SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE GUILTY PARTY PAYS THE DEBT."

Can grace be *freely* given as the dictionary definition given earlier says? even Yahweh with all His wealth grant grace at no cost to *ANYONE*? Is it absolutely free? NO TO ALL THREE.

Notice: "...without the shedding of blood there is NO remission (Heb. 9:22)." None! A PAYMENT OF BLOOD IS REQUIRED.

NOTE CAREFULLY: **the act of grace just means that someone other than the guilty party pays the debt.**

This is the basic misunderstood point about grace!!

Grace is a matter of *another* paying what the offender or criminal rightfully owes. *But notice that someone does in fact pay!* Someone has to. If the guilty one does not pay with his blood for a capital crime, then another must.

There simply is NO forgiveness, without payment. So if the victim forgives the debt, he sustains the loss or makes up the debt himself if he can afford it. The lawbreaker, the sinner, on the other hand gets the debt canceled, but not without a price to *someone*.

The Bible is very clear that in offenses *WHERE THE LOSS CANNOT BE RESTORED* such as a death, loss of an eye or tooth, etc., the *offender must lose his life* (Lev. 24:17) or *lose his eye* or *lose his tooth* (v.v. 19, 20). This is perfect equity demanding equal and opposite actions.

However, does the fact that another pays the debt for that crime (assuming he/she can afford the loss), give the offender the right to continue incurring more and more debt? That is, is grace a license to break the rules with immunity? *Ask the person who is paying the bill!*

Yahweh says-as recorded by Paul under the inspiration of the holy spirit: "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law but under grace?"

May it never be (Rom. 6:15).” That is, once having grace-the sacrifice of Yahshua applied to our sins, so we do not have to pay with our own life in the “second death” (Rev. 20:6), we are not free to sin with immunity.

The grace is definitely a gift from Yahweh. He does not owe it to us. But in the process He had to get someone to agree to pay the debt of sin in our place. The gift of grace does not come at without a price. Someone must pay the penalty of the crime.

The One, Yahshua, who became surety for our crimes did so out of compassion, and freely offered himself as payment for our crimes. Though given freely *to the sinner, something had to be given for our life-another life. His life was given for ours.*

This is where grace enters. Forgiveness for deadly sin has been provided because someone, Yahshua, has stepped forward to pay the penalty for us-*when we repent.* His sacrifice has been accepted by Yahweh as full payment for our transgressions. This is the only way out for us since the death penalty hangs ominously over our head.

Yahshua has come to save us *from* [not in] our sins (Matt. 1:21) as a gift (Eph. 2:8,9) by the grace of Yahweh accepting His sacrifice in place of ours.

The Truth About The Dispensation of Grace

The expression “the dispensation of grace” is commonly used by those advocating the overthrow of Yahweh’s Law as a means to that end.

The essence of government is law. Any attempt to destroy the law on which government is built is an act of stubborn rebellion. Saul learned firsthand Yahweh’s view on this matter. Samuel told him without flinching that *rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry* (I Sam. 15:23).

Most do not realize the seriousness of the heinous crimes of rebellion and stubborn resistance against Yahweh’s majestic Law. Witchcraft and idolatry are punishable by *death* (Ex. 22:18; Rev. 21:8). Both are capital crimes! Though many may sin in ignorance in rebellion to Yahweh, yet they are guilty (Lev. 6:17) and must repent of such rebellious behavior.

As we have seen from this detailed

study, Yahweh’s grace does *not* replace His Law. It cannot neutralize His great Law of liberty that frees us from ignorance and superstition, and guarantees life and wealth (Deut. 8:1, 7-9, 13, 14, 17).

Now what about the Scriptural meaning of the phrase “dispensation of grace.?” How does the *Bible* define it?

In keeping with the principle of self-interpretation we must let the Scripture open Scripture on the matter of the *dispensation of grace.*

Notice what the BIBLE says this phrase means: “For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Yahshua Messiah for you *Gentiles*, If you have heard of the **DISPENSATION of the GRACE** which Yahweh [Notice carefully] is given me TO

“...the dispensation of grace...is the dispensing, or distribution of grace to the Gentiles...”

YOU [“for you” NAS] (Eph. 3:1,2).”

Now, for whom is the “dispensation of grace?” Notice: “...to you [Gentiles].”

He continues: “How that by revelation he made known to me the mystery...(v. 3).”

What mystery? The mystery of the *dispensation of grace!* For whom? Israel? No. The GENTILES!

And WHAT IS THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE? Notice from your own Bible Paul explains: “That the GENTILES should be FELLOWHEIRS, and OF THE SAME BODY, and PARTAKERS of his PROMISE IN MESSIAH...(v. 6).”

Where is the mention of doing away with the Law? Where does Paul say that in the dispensation of grace no more works are required, that grace replaces the need for good works? It isn’t there!

The Law of Yahweh is NEVER called into question as so many claim! The entire subject of the dispensation of grace is *simply that NOW GENTILES can be heirs to the promises given to Israel!* Paul clearly spells it out here.

Notice further: “Wherefore remember, that you being in time past in the flesh GENTILES...That at that time you were without Messiah, BEING ALIENS from the COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL, and STRANGERS FROM THE COVENANT OF PROMISE, having no

hope,...now IN MESSIAH...are made nigh by the blood of Messiah...NOW... you are...FELLOWCITIZENS with the saints...(Eph.2:11-13, 19).”

THIS is what the dispensation of grace is all about: BRINGING THE GENTILES INTO THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL AND THUS MAKING THEM COHEIRS TO THE PROMISES OF ABRAHAM!!

THIS is the dispensing or *distribution of grace* to the Gentiles as well: that their sins may be forgiven too, thus becoming sons of Yahweh and heirs to the promises!

The House of Israel and Judah already had/have grace dispensed to them and salvation was and is open to them, but to the Gentiles this was not always the case.

Where is the mention of an era of time in which grace overturns the immutable Law of Yahweh? It simply is NOT THERE. The Bible says nothing of the kind.

The concept of “dispensation of grace” has been misconstrued by theologians as a period of time (See the Scofield Bible) rather than its actual Biblical meaning of dispensing or distributing grace to the Gentiles as well as to Israel.

Remember, very importantly, that giving of grace to Gentiles DOES NOT DO AWAY WITH YAHWEH’S LAW!! IT DOES AWAY WITH PAST SINS FOR GENTILES WHO REPENT!!

Final Note

Note too, this final, very important point. Paul comments in the quote above (Eph. 2:12) that when the Gentiles were aliens to the commonwealth of Israel, were not part of Israel, they were strangers to the covenant promises as well. He emphatically says they were WITH-OUT HOPE.

The point? Unless a Gentile *actually becomes an Israelite* subject to all the Laws of the Covenant (Ex. 24:7, 8) they have NO HOPE of salvation.

This is the case for *all* who are not Israelites. They must be grafted into *that nation*. Yes, the Laws of the Old Testament were and *are* for Israel. The truth is ALL must *become* Israelites-subject to that *same Law* in order to be saved.

- ICY

Why the Conspiracy Against the PASSOVER?

IF YOU OBSERVE THE PASSOVER, THIS BOOK IS A MUST READ!

Did you know Passover, the 14th day of the first month, is a *Sabbath*, the first annual Sabbath of the year?

Did you know that Passover is the **first day of unleavened bread**?

It is commonly taught that the 15th day of the first month is the first annual Sabbath, AND that the 15th is the first day of unleavened bread. The Biblical facts show otherwise.

If the 15th day of the first month is a Sabbath, then how could Yahweh MOVE AN ENTIRE NATION (about 2 million) out of Egyptian bondage on that day with the enormous amount of physical work that entailed? We are commanded to *rest* on the Sabbaths.

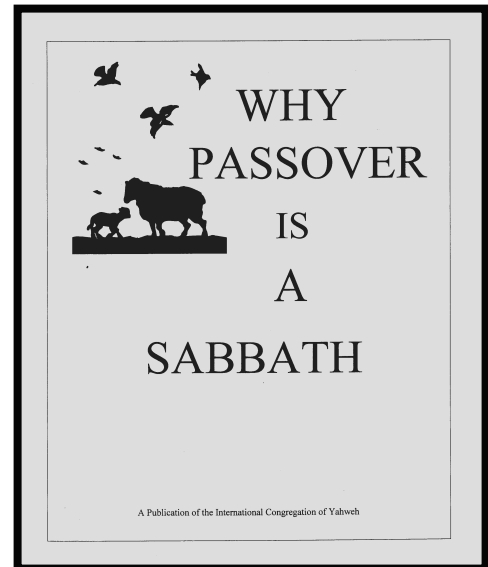
Why did the Apostle Mark say, "And the **FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD WHEN THEY KILLED THE PASSOVER**, his [Yahshua] disciples said,...where will you that we go and prepare that you may eat the **PASSOVER** (Mark 14:12)?"

Was it not because Passover IS IN FACT the first day of unleavened bread?

Is it not odd, too, that the customary Passover observance is strangely similar to the taking of the Eucharist?

Does it make sense that Yahweh would pattern the required observance of HIS Passover after the Eucharist? Hardly.

Something is amiss in the common teachings about Passover. Get the FACTS, the Biblical facts, about Passover. Read the in-depth study, "Why Passover is a Sabbath."



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