

Autumn 2019

# THE DEAF MESSENGER



"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, ESV

*John Steel*

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**The Deaf Messenger magazine is published by:**

**Three Angels Deaf Ministries**

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Greenbelt, MD 20768-1946

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The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

**For Change of Address:**

Monday through Thursday

Voice/VP: 301-850-0542

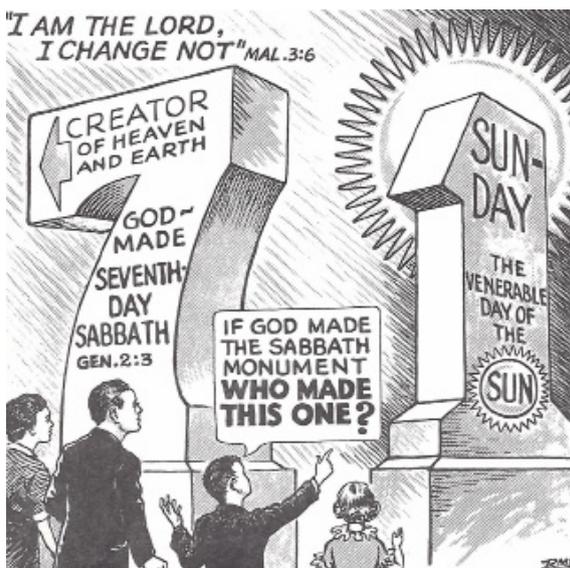
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# What Happened to the 7th Day Sabbath?

By Alfred Griffith



We need GO and STOP signs. During the creation of Adam and Eve the GO sign God wrote was "Love" into their hearts (so no need for written commandments to love). On the 6<sup>th</sup> day God tells them to GO and see that I have given you food on the earth to eat. GO and see that I have given you "Love" to have relationships with ME and one another (Genesis 1:27, 28). On the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath God created the next GO sign for Adam (means "mankind") and Eve. This holy "time" was a gift

of "a special relationship" with mankind (Genesis 2:1-3). This means the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath was not given only to the Jews but to all people of the earth (mankind).

After sin destroyed a great part of these relationships God gave Adam & Eve a new GO sign. They were given the promise of salvation through Christ. They were clothed with animal skins, which promised that they would be covered by Christ's righteousness (Genesis 3:15, 21). In this experience all mankind were

to GO and see that Christ would some day die to pay for their sins and in them re-create new hearts of love.

When God writes the Ten Commandments in stone to all mankind (Abraham > Israelites > Gentiles "...father of all them that believe..." (Romans 4:11) He gave us the reasons to remember the Sabbath day (that means the Sabbath command was already in place in Genesis). While the Sabbath is kept we are to remember that God is the only One who is the Creator God and only One who can save us (Exodus 31:13, 16, 17; 20:2). Later God again repeats His desire for mankind to remember He is the Creator God by keeping the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath holy. God also wanted us to remember He alone can save us and make us holy (Ezekiel 20:12; 20:19, 20).

God writes with His finger 8 STOP signs and 2 GO signs (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> commandments). These two commandments are to set up our relationships with God and with the human family. The 8 STOP signs guide our behavior in those

two relationships. God saves Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 20:2). Then He promises to have mercy on them that love God and keep His commandments (Exodus 20:6). What wonderful blessings can be seen in this beautiful relationship of love to both the Israelites and to us today.

Lucifer tries to destroy the truth of Christ's relationship of love with God and mankind by telling lies about God. He said God's law of love relationships limited our freedom. Lucifer continues this war by especially attacking the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> commandments. He lied to the pagan people by telling them the false idea of sun worship. Then he led the Israelites to worship the "day of the sun" god instead of the true God of the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath (Ezekiel 8:16). To do this they had to turn their backs to the temple (symbol of God's plan of salvation) and turn east to the sun. Long before this happened God had warned His people against being "driven to worship ... the sun" (Deuteronomy 4:19).

Some say that the apostles must have set up Sunday worship in Jerusalem because of Christ's resurrection. We ask if there are any New Testament and early history writings that show Sunday worship was kept in Jerusalem? No, there are not. Paul, writer of many New Testament books and defender of "The Way" Christians, did not teach Sunday keeping to the Jews and Gentiles. He met with both Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue on the Sabbath (Acts 18:4). Most of the Jerusalem members were converted Jews who were very zealous for the law (Acts 21:20). If Paul had taught Sunday keeping to these members they would have fought back against this teaching but there are no writings showing this happened. There is no command in the writings of Paul and no command by Jesus to the early church to keep Sunday holy.

What were the causes of the change from 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath worship to 1<sup>st</sup> day Sunday. Satan started the process of rebellion against

God's law in heaven. Later he led Eve into believing she could have higher knowledge than what God gave her. Paul warned us against this false knowledge "Avoid the antitheses of gnosis (knowledge), falsely so called" (1 Timothy 6:20, Literal Greek). Gnosticism taught that higher knowledge is more important than faith. It was a mixture of mysticism, philosophy and false spiritualism. This destroyed the historical connection between the Old and New Testament. Then people were led to believing that we don't need to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath because Sabbath is Jesus Christ Himself.

Greek philosophy said, "A lie is better than a hurtful truth." Under this belief false teachings in the church grew quickly. Without fear Paul continues the warning in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, MEV: "Do not let anyone deceive you in any way. For that Day will not come unless a falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself

above all that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself as God.”

The Jews in the Roman Empire became a hated people because of their fights against the Romans. In A.D. 49 Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome because of constant rioting. After the Jewish Wars early church leaders about 90-120 A.D. wanted to move away from anything “Jewish” (7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath), by saying that Sunday should be kept in honor of Christ’s resurrection.

In 312 A.D. Constantine of Rome, became a “Christian” after seeing a vision of “a cross above the sun.” Knowing the pagans worshipped the sun and that in Rome Christians had begun to keep Sunday Constantine decided to make his empire stronger by uniting these two groups through a Sunday law on March 7, 321 AD. Constantine continued to worship the sun and printed coins “on the one side the letters of the name of Christ,

on the other the figure of the sun god.” Arthur P. Stanley, History of the Eastern Church, lect. vi, par. 14. Constantine moved from Rome to Constantinople (modern Istanbul), which allowed the Roman Catholic Popes to rule in Rome as the successors of Constantine. When Papal Church grew in power, it turned against the Sabbath and supported Sunday sacredness and made the day change official by church tradition in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 363-364).

Dear Friend, God added to the 6 days of creation a 7th day to bless all mankind with an experience that God is both Creator and Savior. This blessing will continue in “the new earth ... from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says the LORD” (Isaiah 66:22, 23). I pray all of us will GO and follow Christ’s words, “If you love Me keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

*Alfred Griffith is a retired pastor for the Deaf who lives in Brush Prairie, WA.*

# What Happens After We Die?

By Bruce Buzzell



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That is a good question.

Every time we go to a funeral we are reminded that we will die someday. This raises questions. Where is my loved one now? Where do people go when they die? The most important question we will face is where will I go when I die?

Some people, especially religious people, will say you go to heaven if you have been a good person and to hell if you have been bad. Other people say you return to live in a different body

(reincarnation). Others say that death is an eternal sleep which no one will ever wake up.

Which view is the correct one? Let's go to the Bible to find the right view of where we will go after death. It is very important to know the truth about where we will go after death. An example of ignoring this truth was seen in this story in I Samuel 28:1-25.

The Philistine army moved into an area called Shunem and set up camp to prepare for war against

Israel. King Saul set up his army near Mount Gilboa to prepare for the Philistine's attack against them.

In the past, God's presence had helped King Saul to lead Israel to defeat its foes with no fear. This time King Saul was not sure about if he could defeat the stronger Philistine army without Samuel's help. Because Samuel had died not long ago and he had been buried in his home town. King Saul had turned away from God for a while. When he realized that the Philistine army was too strong, he asked God for help to know what would happen in the battle. God refused to communicate with Saul.

The fear of the unknown in the future (whether he would win or lose the battle) made King Saul more worried and fearful and nervous. Saul wished Samuel was alive to counsel him on his battle plan against the Philistine army.

Saul decided to seek advice from a medium (a person who contacts a "dead" person) to call

Samuel out of the dead to counsel him about the next day's battle. He met a woman medium and told her to call up Samuel from the dead.

The woman called the dead Samuel from the grave and said to Saul, "I saw a spirit ascending (come out) out of the earth." Saul asked her again, "What is his form?" The medium answered, "An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle." Saul realized that it was Samuel (I Samuel 28:13, 14).

Later in I Samuel 28 the "dead Samuel" told King Saul that not only he would lose the war, but he and his sons would be killed. The prediction came true. Did Samuel's spirit make that prediction? How could a medium, judged by God, have power over the spirit of Samuel—God's prophet? If it was not Samuel's spirit that spoke to Saul, then who was it? Did Samuel roam in the spirit alive after his death? We need to examine the Bible to see what King Saul missed.

The word immortality

means “cannot die,” always live forever without death. Do human beings have immortality as God does? I Timothy shows that only God has immortality.

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen” (I Timothy 1:17, NKJV).

“That you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen” (I Timothy 6:14-16, (NKJV).

The Bible never says humans have immortality or his spirit/soul has inherited immortality. This shows that humans cannot live forever, even at death.

With this truth in mind, did Samuel live after his death? No! Then how did the medium called Samuel out

of the earth? It was a demon who turned himself to look like Samuel to deceive King Saul.

If death is the end of life, then what does the Bible say about a person’s condition in death? It is important for us to understand this Bible teaching.

Death is a sleep. Death is only a time of unconsciousness (not aware—cannot see, hear, smell, touch, and taste) while a person awaits for resurrection. The Bible calls this death a sleep. It means dead people stay in their graves until God calls them out of the grave.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 says, “For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten” (NKJV).

Psalms 115:17 says, “The dead do not praise the LORD, Nor any who go down into silence” (NKJV).

Acts 2:29 & 34 says, “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and

his tomb is with us to this day. . . . For David did not ascend into the heavens, . . .” (NJKV).

These verses show that a person goes to the grave and does not go to heaven to praise God and is not awake during the time in the grave. Even David is still buried in his grave and has not gone up to heaven yet.

Does that mean people who have died will remain in their graves forever? The answer is no. When Jesus comes the second time, He will raise all the dead people who have accepted Him as their Savior and Lord from their graves.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and I Corinthians 15:51-54 show that all the dead in Christ will be raised from their graves at Jesus’ second coming and become immortal while those Christians who are alive will be changed into glorified bodies just like Jesus and the raised Christians and they will meet Jesus in the clouds and go to heaven to be with Him forever.

All humans right now are not immortal (never

die) except for those who accepted Jesus into their lives but they are still mortal (can die, doesn’t have everlasting life) until Jesus comes a second time.

There are two resurrections that everyone needs to know about. Let us look at the verses in Revelation 20:4-6 and 7-15.

Revelation 20:4-6: “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (NKJV).

The verses shown above speak about the first resurrection. This resurrection happens at Jesus' second coming when all the Christians (dead or alive) become immortal and will live with Jesus in heaven forever. The Christians will rule with Jesus in heaven for 1,000 years and at the same time span the wicked people will be dead on earth.

The next verses talk about the second resurrection, and we do not want to be one of those people who are in the second resurrection.

Revelation 20:7-5:  
"Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived

them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire" (NKJV).

The verses above explain the second resurrection and those people who will be raised at that time will not get

immortal bodies. That means they will be destroyed at the lake of fire. They will never live again forever.

It is better for us to be involved in the first death (go to the grave and be raised again and never die forever), not the second death (lake of fire and not live forever). Pray that we will be in the first resurrection (at Jesus' second coming) and avoid the second resurrection (wake up in a mortal body and face the judgment and be destroyed in the lake of fire).

It is important to know and understand where we will go after we die. The Bible shows clearly that the body

will go back to the grave at death in a sleep state. No one remain alive right after death.

If King Saul had obeyed God faithfully by following the Bible truth, he would not have asked for a medium to call out a dead Samuel for help. We need to seek Biblical truths to protect ourselves from Satan's lies and deceptions to destroy our souls like he did to Saul. The next time we go to a funeral, we will know the truth about where dead people go—into their graves and sleep.

*Bruce Buzzell is a Deaf writer who lives in the metropolitan area of St. Louis, MO.*



# Be Thankful!

By Nohelani Jarnes and Brennan Jarnes



This year is the 398th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving celebrated by the English colonists and the Wampanoag Indians in November 1621. The colonists had come to America aboard the Mayflower so they could freely worship God. They arrived in September of 1620 at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, far north of the intended destination, which was Virginia Colony. One month later they had crossed Massachusetts

Bay and began to make a settlement at Plymouth. Most of the colonists stayed aboard the ship while others made the settlement. That winter, half of the colonists died from sickness and exposure to the brutal weather conditions. The following spring, the rest of the colonists arrived ashore. They met an English-speaking Indian, and he returned several days later with Squanto. Squanto taught the colonists how to plant corn and raise

food. The colonists were grateful, and made a peace agreement with the local Indians. That November the Indians and the colonists had the first Thanksgiving together. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a holiday.

Every year we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with lots of food and fellowship with those dear to us. What if we celebrated being thankful every day of the year? We all have something to be thankful for; the colonists were thankful for their new connection with Squanto to teach them how to plant corn and raise food. We can be thankful for much: food, home, family and friends. The Bible says in Psalm 100:4, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name” (NLT). We can practice being thankful to God for the things that He provides for us every single day! Do not save all the thank-yous for God for one day in the year. He wants to hear you say thank you every day!

“Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him” (Psalm 95:2, NLT). Sometimes it’s easy to think that we have nothing to be thankful for. We always have problems that we deal with every single day, but we can be thankful for the little things. Did someone smile at you today? Can you see? Are you breathing? God wants to hear thank you for even the little things that we may think are not as important.

As we go through the holiday season this year, practice being thankful for today and every day. Find things to tell God thank you every single day because He loves to hear from you!

\*All historical facts that appear in this are taken from the History Channel.

*Nohelani James is an interpreter and the director of a Deaf ministries. Brennan James is a son of Nohelani. Both lives in Puyallup, WA.*

# Come to Me

By Pamela Joachim



GOODSALT

I have sinned.  
There is a gap  
Between God the Father and  
me.

How can I get across?  
I cannot reach God the Father.  
Who will help me?

Oh, if only  
My sins have been forgiven.  
How can I get across?

God the Father wants me but  
Someone must die  
For my sin.

Who will die?  
Will it be the Son of God that is  
to come across the gap.  
Jesus, Son of God  
Died for my sin.

He died on the cross.  
Jesus put the cross over the  
gap  
To build a bridge.

“Come to Me”  
Jesus said,  
“Come to Me.”

Jesus, forgive me  
Forgive my sins  
Bring me to God the Father  
there,

My cross has covered the gap  
To bring you across the bridge.

“Come to me.  
I’ll bring you to God the Father.  
I’ll bring you home.”

“All you have to do is come to  
Me.  
Come to Me.”

*Pamela Joachim is a Deaf writer  
who lives in Iron River, MI.*

# To Be or Not to Be

By Stanley Combridge



EERIKISTOCKPHOTO

One beautiful summer day, a king went out into his beautiful garden. But he was disappointed because all the plants were dying. He asked an old oak at the gate what was the problem, and the tree complained that it was weary of life and determined to die because it was not as tall and stately as the pine.

Turning to the pine, he found that it was unhappy because it couldn't give grapes like the vine. The vine grew on the ground, dying, because it thought that depending on others for support was unworthy. Sadly, the king walked away and

was about to leave when he noticed a bright, uplifted face full of cheerfulness.

"Well, daffodil, I am glad to find one brave little flower among all this discouragement," he said. "You don't seem one bit disheartened."

"No, Your Majesty. I know I am small," the daffodil replied, "but I knew you want a daffodil when you planted me, so I decided to be the very best daffodil that I possibly can be."

*Adapted from "Signs of the Times,"  
July, 1952*

# Preventing Inflammatory Bowel Disease

By Sue Radd

The exact cause of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) is not known. Most researchers believe that inflammatory bowel disease is caused by the combination of a genetic weakness that “loads the gun” and a Western-style diet that “pulls the trigger.”

## What is IBD?

IBD involves chronic inflammation of all or parts of the digestive tract (small and large intestines). It includes Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. There is presently no medical cure. In the acute phase (the time period immediately after the beginning of illness when symptoms are worse), a person usually get loose and bloody stools, severe abdominal pain, and weight loss. Taking strong anti-inflammatory, immune-suppressing drugs helps to control the disease. Bowel surgery may also be needed. But your diet may be a key in preventing or promoting the disease.

## Why does it happen?

Change of intestinal bacteria can cause IBD in people with weak genes. What you eat can affect the type of bacteria that live in your intestines. A diet that is rich in animal protein and lacking in dietary fiber can promote the wrong mix of intestinal bacteria, which cause inflammation to occur directly inside your intestines.

A high fiber, plant-based diet

can help to treat IBD and possibly even to prevent it. One two-year study from Japan showed that a semi-vegetarian diet was highly effective in preventing relapses (getting sick again) in people with Crohn’s disease.

## Foods to eat

Make sure your diet has 40-50 grams of fiber daily. This is easily achieved if your meals are based on unrefined plant foods such as legumes and whole grains. Such foods also contain prebiotic fibers, which are a food source for good bacteria to grown on.

Avoid animal-based foods, including meats (especially red meat) and dairy, which have been identified as strong risk factors for IBD.

Probiotic supplements may be helpful, but there is no agreement yet on the best types.

Use only fats from whole plant foods such as nuts, and cook with extra virgin olive oil. Avoid ultra-processed foods such as refined vegetable oil, margarine, fast food, and processed snacks, as these usually hide pro-inflammatory fats. Various food additives, such as emulsifiers, which commonly exist in ultra-processed foods have also been implicated.

Avoid alcohol.

*Nutritionist Sue Radd is the award-winning author of *The Breakfast Book* and coauthor of *Eat to Live*.*

# Vegetarian Recipe

## Mexican Tomato Rice

By Francisca Trexler



This recipe was from my dear Mother who made the Mexican Rice when I grew up and love it so much. It is so different from the common Spanish Rice.

In a large skillet:

1 Tablespoon of olive oil

1 cup of Bastimi Rice (or your preference)

1 small can of tomato sauce

1/2 cup of chopped onion

4 cups of water

1/4 teaspoon of salt

1/2 Tablespoon of Chicken Seasoning (McKay)

Method:

Brown rice in the oil with the medium heat till the rice is lightly golden brown. Then add onion, water, and tomato sauce. Let it boil for 5 minutes and then simmer for about 15 to 20 minutes till the rice is done fluffy with the lid on the skillet.

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