

# Last Generation News

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Last Generation Ministries

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ 1 Corinthians 1:4

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In our last issue we said that we were going to share ideas how to weather the coming storm that is soon to hit us. This month we will see in "The Trial of Jim Sanders" part 2 some answers that you may find useful. We hope and pray that this parable will motivate you to dig deeper into scripture and to find the answers that you will need to pass the soon-coming test. Do not take what we say as gospel—go to the scriptures and study for yourselves. It is vitally important for you to do your own studying and to let the Holy Spirit lead you to the truth that God wants for you. It is our intention to present the truth in as positive a light as possible, but we also realize that when truth conflicts with practice, we may be labeled as being negative.

Melody recently heard a sermon against the observance of the feasts. The preacher admitted that Paul, Jesus, and the early Christians kept the feasts, but he said that observing them was an option. He pointed out Ellen

Him by the priests and rabbis, were a cause of perplexity to the people about Him, and even to His own disciples and His kindred. In His teachings He had dwelt upon the blessings of obedience to the law of God, and yet He Himself seemed to be indifferent to the service which had been divinely established." DA 450

Several points need to be made about this quote. The reason that Jesus did not initially go to the feast in Jerusalem was "To avoid useless conflict with the leaders at Jerusalem." "His apparent neglect of the great religious assemblies..." was not a statement pointing out the option of keeping the feasts. If I don't go to my home church on Sabbath does not prove that I did not keep the Sabbath. I may have been visiting another church, been on vacation in another state, or been sick at home. The same reasoning holds true for Jesus as the following quote found four paragraphs later shows.

"But He was not to be presump-

says "Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught." In this instance Jesus was late arriving at the feast, but He did go.

John chapter four tells a very interesting story about a Samaritan woman that Jesus met at a well. Most of us are very familiar with this story, but have missed the significance of what is really being said. The woman said to Jesus, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." John 4: 20-23

Here is the point that we have missed until recently. The Samaritan woman pointed out that the Samaritans worshipped on "this mountain" and that the Jews worshipped in Jerusalem. Each week the Jews worshipped in their own local synagogue on the Sabbath, but three times a year they came to Jerusalem to worship on the feasts. Therefore, this whole exchange between Jesus and the woman at the well was over where the feasts were to be observed. Jesus went on to say, "Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father... But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth." Jesus affirmed that there was no

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## Are the Feasts Optional? By Richard Drake

White's quote regarding a passage found in John 7:1-14 as proof.

"As the sons of Joseph made preparation to attend the Feast of Tabernacles, they saw that Christ made no movement signifying His intention of attending. They watched Him with anxiety. Since the healing at Bethesda He had not attended the national gatherings. To avoid useless conflict with the leaders at Jerusalem, He had restricted His labors to Galilee. His apparent neglect of the great religious assemblies, and the enmity manifested toward

He was not to be presumptuous, not to rush into danger, not to hasten a crisis. Each event in His work had its appointed hour. He must wait patiently. He knew that He was to receive the world's hatred; He knew that His work would result in His death; but to prematurely expose Himself would not be the will of His Father." {DA 451.3} So we see the real reason that Jesus did not initially go with His friends to Jerusalem to observe the feast. His time was not yet come and the Jews were seeking to kill Him. It had nothing to do with being an option. Furthermore, John 7:14

## Special points of interest:

- Our ministry is a faith-based ministry operating on a shoe string budget. If you would like to help with your prayers, time, or finances we would be very grateful.
- Jesus is coming soon! Are you ready?

longer a requirement to go to Jerusalem to keep the feasts. He then practiced what He preached as we have already seen in John 7 and DA Page 450.

The apostle Paul clearly understood this point because we see in Acts 20:6 that he kept the feast of Unleavened Bread in Philippi, which was a Gentile city nowhere near Jerusalem. Ellen White has this to say about this passage. "At Philippi Paul tarried to **keep the Passover**. Only Luke remained with him, the other members of the company passing on to Troas to await him there. The Philippians were the most loving and true-hearted of the apostle's converts, and during the eight days of the feast he enjoyed peaceful and happy communion with them." {AA 390.4} So we see that Paul not only taught his Gentile converts to keep the feasts long after the cross, but he celebrated the feasts away from Jerusalem with those converts.

## The Trial of Jim Sanders Part 2

Last month we promised Part II of this parable. If you have not read Part I, in order to fully understand Part II we suggest you go to our website, [www.godsholidays.com](http://www.godsholidays.com), and read Part I first. We decided to keep the characters and the story the same as in Part I. The only change is that now Jim Sanders observes the yearly feasts along with the Seventh-day Sabbath.

Jim Sanders was a hard-working man. A third generation Seventh-day Adventist, he had graduated from Union College with a degree in business and a minor in religion. He owned his own trucking company and his wife, Mary, did the bookkeeping. Although the gas prices kept rising, by cutting corners wherever possible, the Sanders were still managing to make a good living. Jim and Mary were deep Bible students and they led a weekly Bible study in their home. Week by week they watched the unfolding of events in both the world and the church and they could see prophecies being fulfilled that they had been taught would happen just before the Second Coming. They pleaded with God for a deeper walk with Him and a deeper knowledge of His will. As they and their little group studied the Bible, they discovered that the feasts in Leviticus 23 were prophetic, giving additional details to the events in Daniel and Revelation. They also found that the feasts portrayed the gospel from start to finish and a deeper knowledge of the feasts gave them

a deeper knowledge of the gospel and the plan of salvation. Then they discovered that the Bible did not abolish the feasts at the cross as they had thought. They read how Jesus observed the feasts and Paul the apostle observed the feasts and taught his converts to do so. From reliable historians they found that the early Christian church observed the feasts until the Catholic Church abolished them at the same time they abolished the Sabbath and for the same reasons. They also discovered that the Waldenses received their faith from the apostles and observed the feasts until the nineteenth century. Then they found from the Bible where Satan, before this earth was created, said that he would start his own holidays in opposition to God's holy days. Satan had been very successful in doing just that as the majority of all Christians observed these holidays instead of God's holy days. After a year of intense study, the Sanders and their little group decided that since Jesus observed the feasts and since they had never been abolished by God, that they should observe them also. As they celebrated these feasts by studying on each feast day what part of the plan of salvation this feast represented, they were led into an even deeper knowledge of salvation and what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do for them. Their walk with Jesus became even closer as their love for Him deepened through this knowledge. Meanwhile, prophetic events around them continued to unfold, showing them they were indeed very close to the Second Coming.

It was a hectic Monday, and Jim decided to watch CNN in his office while eating his lunch. All of a sudden, the news was interrupted for a special bulletin. "Three nuclear suitcase bombs have just been detonated simultaneously in the heart of Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. The entire downtown area of each city has been totally destroyed and hundreds of thousands are suspected to have perished. As the nuclear fallout drifts eastward across this nation, millions more will eventually die. The President has declared a national state of emergency." In the chaos that followed, leading religious leaders declared that God was angry with our nation and the only way to end God's wrath was to pass a National Sunday Law, making it mandatory for everyone to cease from their work and to worship God on this day. After only one day of deliberation, Congress passed the law. Al-

though it was a financial hardship to do so, Jim and Mary now closed their trucking business on both Sabbath and Sunday in order to comply with the law. Over the next few weeks, as millions of American slowly died from the fallout, the religious leaders focused their attention on all Sabbath-keepers, stating that this group, by continuing to worship on Saturday, was still bringing the wrath of God upon them and the only way to stay the plague was to force this group to work on Saturday and worship only on Sunday. Congress promptly passed a law commanding everyone to work on Saturday and worship only on Sunday. Jim and Mary, faithful Seventh-day Adventists, disregarded the law and still kept their business closed on Saturday. Shortly thereafter, Jim Sanders was thrown in jail for refusing to comply. As Jim sat in jail, he remembered the Bible texts that he and his little group had thoroughly studied through, showing that the weekly Sabbath and the yearly Sabbaths have never been abolished. He spent his time in jail praying earnestly that God would keep him faithful and able to be a good witness for Him.

The day of the trial arrived and Jim was led into the packed court room. His wife Mary sat in the audience, quietly praying. The judge brought his gavel down and the proceeding commenced. "Mr. Sanders," the judge began, "We have brought Mr. Martin, professor of theology from New Beginnings Evangelical College, to question you. He will show you from the Bible that your position on the Seventh-day Sabbath is wrong." "Mr. Sanders," Professor Margin began, "Give me one reason why you insist on observing Saturday as the Sabbath." Jim Sanders responded, "My biggest reason for observing the Sabbath on Saturday is because Jesus did and He is our Example. I believe that text is Luke 4:16." "Yes," Professor Martin responded, "That text is Luke 4:16 and it says that Jesus, as His custom was, went into the synagogue on the Sabbath. That is correct. Jesus did observe the Seventh-day Sabbath." "However," Professor Martin went on, "Don't you believe that the feasts listed in Leviticus chapter 23 are part of the ceremonial law and were abolished at the cross?" "Oh no," responded Jim, "Jesus observed the feasts. It says so in Luke 2:41, 42; Matthew 26:17-18; John 2:23; John 4:45; John 5:1; John 7:10, 14, 37; and Luke 22:15-16. The ceremonial law is simply the sacrificial system which God instituted as an

object lesson to show how Jesus was going to die for our sins as the Lamb of God. Only sinners were to take part in this ceremonial law, and since Jesus never sinned, He never observed the ceremonial law. However, He did observe the feasts; therefore the feasts are not part of the ceremonial law which ended at the cross.” Professor Martin was taken aback as inwardly he was thinking, *All the Sabbath-keepers I know keep only the Seventh-day Sabbath and not the feasts since they believe the feasts are part of the ceremonial law. I was prepared to show the inconsistency of this thinking but this man surprises me. I’ll have to take a different stance.* (For the stance that Professor Martin was going to take, see Part I in our last newsletter.)

“Mr. Sanders,” said Professor Martin, “you are correct in that the Seventh-day Sabbath and the feasts stand together and that Jesus did observe them, as did all good Jews before the cross. However, in Colossians 2:14-17 it clearly states that the Sabbath and the feasts were abolished at the cross. Jim replied, “Colossians 2:14 states that the handwriting of ordinances that was against us was blotted out and nailed to the cross. I searched every text in the Bible that contained the words ‘blot, blotted and blotting’ and discovered that the only our sins are blotted out and nailed to the cross; therefore this text does not address the feasts. In Colossians 2:16 Paul says that Christians should not judge each other regarding the feasts, new moons, and the Sabbath. Many Christians think that this word ‘judge’ means ‘abolish’ but a study of the original language the Bible was written in shows that this word ‘judge’ means just that—to not judge. The Colossians were being judgmental towards each other in their observance of the feasts and the Sabbath and this is what Paul is telling them not to do. The implication of this is that they were keeping the feasts and the Sabbath, or else Paul would not be telling them to not judge each other in regards to these days. Furthermore, Paul is quoting from the only Bible he has, which is the Old Testament. For instance, 2 Chronicles 2:4 refers to the **Sabbaths**, and the **new moons**, and the **solemn feasts** of the LORD our God. The same phrase speaking of the Seventh-day Sabbath, the new moons, and the feasts is also found in 1 Chronicles 23:31, 2 Chronicles 8:13, 2 Chronicles 31:3, and Nehemiah 10:33. These Old Testament texts also speak of the sacrificial system along with the feasts, but when Paul quotes from these texts in Colossians 2:16 he drops out the sacrificial system,

showing that Paul was aware that the sacrificial system ended at the cross but the feast days did not. Paul was teaching his converts to observe all of these feast days. For instance, in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 Paul directly tells his Corinthians converts to ‘keep the feast.’”

“Mr. Sanders,” replied Professor Martin, “your Bible knowledge amazes me. However, in Romans 14:5-6 and in Galatians 4:9-11 it clearly states that Paul was preaching against the Sabbath and the feast days.” Professor Martin then read all of these texts. Jim replied, “Professor Martin, you will notice that none of these texts mention either the Sabbath or the feasts. Rather, Paul is teaching them not to go back to the holidays that they were observing before they became Christians. For instance read the context in Galatians chapter 4. In Galatians 4:3-5 Paul tells the Galatians that before they became Christians they were ‘in bondage under the elements of the world.’ Then in verse 9 Paul says that they are turning back to be under the worldly bondage that they were in before becoming Christians. In verse 10 Paul tells us what this worldly bondage was—it was celebrating certain days. What days did these Galatians celebrate before becoming Christians? They celebrated worldly pagan holidays. From any good encyclopedia you can do a study to find out what these pagan holidays were. They were holidays like Halloween, Christmas, and Easter. History tells us that between approximately AD 175 and AD 325 many Christians apostasized from the faith and brought pagan holidays into the church in order to entice the pagans to become Christians.” At this a murmur of shock went through the audience because Easter was that coming Sunday and all of the local Christians churches, without exception, had major celebrations planned. (To be continued in Part III.)

## Health Corner

by Melody Drake

### Nerve Tincture

The following is the recipe for a tincture that has amazing calming effects on the brain. We have a friend who had a brain injury several years ago and has had to take a pharmaceutical medicine to calm his brain down so he could think clearly. Recently he went on this tincture (1-2 dropperfuls each morning) and was able to stop taking his medicine. He found that this tincture works just as well to help him to think clearly and

now he doesn’t have to suffer from the side effects of the medicine he was on, one of which was difficulty sleeping. Others have found this tincture to work well for helping them to sleep, relax, relieve anxiety and stress, reduce muscle spasms, and reduce pain. At the end of the recipe we will tell you where to obtain the ingredients to make this tincture. The reason for the vodka in this recipe is that alcohol draws out the healing properties of the herb better than other medium. (If the alcohol in the tincture bothers you, put the tincture in 1/4<sup>th</sup> cup hot water, let sit for a few minutes, and the alcohol will evaporate out.) (If the alcohol in the tincture bothers you, put the tincture in 1/4<sup>th</sup> cup hot water, let sit for a few minutes, and the alcohol will evaporate out.)

Three to five drops of this herb tincture equals drinking one cup of herb tea, so if you take 1-2 dropperfuls of this herb tincture at a time, you will be getting the equivalent of 20-30 cups of herb tea all at once, making this tincture very powerful.

### Nerve/Anti-Spasmotic Tincture 1/2

Cup Valerian Root, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Cup Lobelia Seed, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Cup Lobelia (dried herb in seed stage), 1/2 Cup passion flower, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Cup Black Cohosh, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Cup Hops Flower, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Cup Blue Cohosh, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Cup Skullcap, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Cup Wild Yam. (Note: These are all herbs; the wild yam is not a vegetable.) 1/3<sup>rd</sup> part Braggs Organic Apple Cider Vinegar, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> part 100 proof Vodka, 1 quart Mason jar, dark tincture bottles, coffee grinder, blender. Grind all herbs that are roots (such as Valerian) and the seeds (such as Lobelia Seed) in a coffee grinder until fine. Put all the herbs in the blender and add just enough apple cider vinegar and vodka to blend well (each cup of liquid should be 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Cup vodka and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> Cup apple cider vinegar). Put in a Mason jar, add enough vinegar and vodka (in same ratio as before) to fill to within 1 inch of the top of the jar. Screw on the lid and shake thoroughly. Clearly mark the name of the tincture on the Mason jar. Put in a dark cupboard. Take the tincture out each day and shake for 1-2 minutes and then put back in the cupboard upside down from where it was before. We don’t know if the following is true or not, but we read that the tinctures are more powerful if they are made on the new moon and strained on a full moon. We do know that this tincture should sit for a minimum of two weeks before straining. The longer you let it sit the stronger it will become so we recommend making 2 batches, one that you will strain in two weeks and one that you will let sit longer.

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Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 2

Herb tinctures can sit for up to 50 years and still be good. To strain, put white cotton cloth inside a strainer which is put over a pot. Pour the tincture into this white cloth and let it drain. Squeeze it out firmly to get the last drops of tincture. Store in dark tincture bottles, clearly labeled. Any unused herbs store in a dark, dry, cool place. To use, take 1-2 dropperfuls at a time in 1/4<sup>th</sup> cup water. Frequency depends on symptoms. More severe symptoms warrants taking the tincture more frequently, up to once an hour all day. Note: If you take too much at a time, the lobelia can cause vomiting. This will not harm you and in fact, many times, people who have taken this amount feel better after vomiting, probably because this helped them to expel toxins.

Any herbs that you buy should be organic and not irradiated. Most herbs that are imported are irradiated when they pass through customs. Much to our surprise, we called several herb companies and had a hard time finding an herb company whose herbs were

from the US, not irradiated, and all organic. But, we did find two companies. Call them for their catalogs. The first is Pacific Botanicals, 541-479-7777. The second is Mountain Rose Herbs, 800-879-3337. All of Pacific Botanicals' herbs are from the US and most of Mountain Rose's are. On Mountain Rose's website they tell you what country the herb is from if it is not from the US. Pacific Botanicals sells their herbs only by the pound whereas Mountain Rose sells by the quarter pound. One pound of herbs is a lot, so unless you are going to make a lot of tincture, we advise getting it from Mountain Rose by the quarter pound. Or, order with several friends by the pound from Pacific Botanicals. Don't order more herbs than what you can use in a year as they will lose their healing properties over time if they are not in a tincture. If you don't find all the herbs at one company, you will find the rest at the other company. The most expensive herb is Lobelia Seed and it is available only from Pacific Botanicals by the pound. However, it is worth the investment as Lobelia Seed is much more powerful than

the Lobelia Plant, and Lobelia is the most powerful herb in this tincture. (We will be sharing more tinctures in the future that also use Lobelia Seed.) However, if you cannot afford the Lobelia Seed, just use the Lobelia Plant instead, which is a lot cheaper. Pacific Botanicals sells the dark tincture bottles. Your local liquor store sells the vodka. Your local health food store sells the organic apple cider vinegar. Save this recipe because we will share more herb tincture recipes in the future, but to save room will not go into as much detail about how to make the tincture or where to buy the herbs.

### God's Holidays

We believe that the time has come to send the book God's Holidays to believers overseas. If you would like to help us with this project you can send donations to Last Generation Ministries c/o Richard Drake at the address on this newsletter. We are also making the book available for \$5.00 each in quantities of 10 plus \$5.00 shipping.

## Comforting Promises

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense: He will come and save you. Isaiah 35:4

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee. Isaiah 41:10, 13

When we want light and guidance, we must look up; there is light beyond the darkness...if he (David) had but removed his mind from the distressing situation in which he was placed, and had thought of God's power and majesty, he would have been at peace. PP 657

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:1, 27

**\*\*Check our website under "Articles" for 92 questions and answers about God's feast days.**

Dear Richard and Melody, Thank you so very much for mailing God's Holidays to me so quickly...The pieces are falling together into such a beautiful living picture of God's redemptive plan. It is so full of life!...This is a most joyous message that must be accompanied with a like spirit. From a pastor's wife