

# Last Generation News

Richard Drake Editor

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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I recently read the first six chapters of "The Desire of Ages" and the following quote jumped out at me. "Many of the exiles suffered persecution. Not a few lost their lives because of their refusal to disregard the Sabbath and to observe the heathen festivals." DA 28. Two of the most prominent heathen festivals were Easter and December 25. Any good encyclopedia will tell you that Tammuz (Baal the sun god) was conceived on Easter and born on December 25. So according to the above quote, many of the exiles died for refusing to observe these days among others. How is it then that today these days play such a central role in most Christian churches—including our own? I believe that the following section from "The Great Controversy" will give us insights into what we must do to keep us in a close relationship with our Creator. May we not make the same mistakes that our forefathers made.

## was the result of sinful neglect.

The Jews were building monuments for the slain prophets of God, while by their deference to the great men of earth they were paying homage to the servants of Satan. Absorbed in their ambitious strife for place and power among men, they lost sight of the divine honors proffered them by the King of heaven.

"With profound and reverent interest the elders of Israel should have been studying the place, the time, the circumstances, of the greatest event in the world's history—the coming of the Son of God to accomplish the redemption of man. All the people should have been watching and waiting that they might be among the first to welcome the world's Redeemer. But, lo, at Bethlehem two weary travelers from the hills of Nazareth traverse the whole length of the narrow street to the eastern extremity of the town, vainly seeking a place of rest and shelter for the night. No doors are

had stooped to take upon Himself man's nature; He was to bear an infinite weight of woe as He should make His soul an offering for sin; yet angels desired that even in His humiliation the Son of the Highest might appear before men with a dignity and glory befitting His character. Would the great men of earth assemble at Israel's capital to greet His coming? Would legions of angels present Him to the expectant company?

"An angel visits the earth to see who are prepared to welcome Jesus. But he can discern no tokens of expectancy. He hears no voice of praise and triumph that the period of Messiah's coming is at hand. The angel hovers for a time over the chosen city and the temple where the divine presence has been manifested for ages; but even here is the same indifference. The priests, in their pomp and pride, are offering polluted sacrifices in the temple. The Pharisees are with loud voices addressing the people or making boastful prayers at the corners of the streets. In the palaces of kings, in the assemblies of philosophers, in the schools of the rabbis, all are alike unmindful of the wondrous fact which has filled all heaven with joy and praise—that the Redeemer of men is about to appear upon the earth.

"There is no evidence that Christ is expected, and no preparation for the Prince of life. In amazement the celestial messenger is about to return to heaven with the shameful tidings, when he discovers a group of shepherds who are watching their flocks by night, and, as they gaze into the starry heavens, are contemplating the prophecy of a Messiah to come

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## Outreach needs:

- 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.
- Elder Allen Fine has a radio ministry with a potential audience of over 18 million people. He is in need of funds to keep his radio ministry going. If God impresses you to help, contact him at 304-565-7808.
- Jesus is coming soon. Are you doing everything you can to get ready?

## Lessons from Bethlehem By Richard Drake

"At the time of Christ's first advent the priests and scribes of the Holy City, to whom were entrusted the oracles of God, might have discerned the signs of the times and proclaimed the coming of the Promised One. The prophecy of Micah designated His birthplace; Daniel specified the time of His advent. Micah 5:2; Daniel 9:25. God committed these prophecies to the Jewish leaders; they were without excuse if they did not know and declare to the people that the Messiah's coming was at hand. Their ignorance

open to receive them. In a wretched hovel prepared for cattle, they at last find refuge, and there the Saviour of the world is born.

"Heavenly angels had seen the glory which the Son of God shared with the Father before the world was, and they had looked forward with intense interest to His appearing on earth as an event fraught with the greatest joy to all people. Angels were appointed to carry the glad tidings to those who were prepared to receive it and who would joyfully make it known to the inhabitants of the earth. Christ

to earth, and longing for the advent of the world's Redeemer. Here is a company that is prepared to receive the heavenly message. And suddenly the angel of the Lord appears, declaring the good tidings of great joy. Celestial glory floods all the plain, an innumerable company of angels is revealed, and as if the joy were too great for one messenger to bring from heaven, a multitude of voices break forth in the anthem which all the nations of the saved shall one day sing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. **Oh, what a lesson is this wonderful story of Bethlehem! How it rebukes our unbelief, our pride and self-sufficiency. How it warns us to beware, lest by our criminal indifference we also fail to discern the signs of the times, and therefore know not the day of our visitation.**

"It was not alone upon the hills of Judea, not among the lowly shepherds only, that angels found the watchers for Messiah's coming. In the land of the heathen also were those that looked for Him; they were wise men, rich and noble, the philosophers of the East. Students of nature, the Magi had seen God in His handiwork. From the Hebrew Scriptures they had learned of the Star to arise out of Jacob, and with eager desire they awaited His coming, who should be not only the "Consolation of Israel," but a "Light to lighten the Gentiles," and "for salvation unto the ends of the earth." Luke 2:25, 32; Acts 13:47. They were seekers for light, and light from the throne of God illumined the path for their feet. While the priests and rabbis of Jerusalem, the appointed guardians and expounders of the truth, were shrouded in darkness, the Heaven-sent star guided these Gentile strangers to the birthplace of the newborn King.

"It is "unto them that look for Him" that Christ is to "appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Hebrews 9:28. **Like the tidings of the Saviour's birth, the message of the second advent was not committed to the religious leaders of the people. They had failed to preserve their connection with God, and had refused light from heaven;** therefore they were not of the number described by the apostle Paul: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." 1 Thessalonians 5:4, 5.

"The watchmen upon the walls of Zion should have been the first to catch the tidings of the Saviour's advent, the first to lift

their voices to proclaim Him near, the first to warn the people to prepare for His coming. But **they were at ease, dreaming of peace and safety, while the people were asleep in their sins. Jesus saw His church, like the barren fig tree, covered with pretentious leaves, yet destitute of precious fruit.** There was a boastful observance of the forms of religion, while the spirit of true humility, penitence, and faith—which alone could render the service acceptable to God—was lacking. Instead of

the graces of the Spirit there were manifested pride, formalism, vainglory, selfishness, oppression. **A backsliding church closed their eyes to the signs of the times. God did not forsake them, or suffer His faithfulness to fail; but they departed from Him, and separated themselves from His love. As they refused to comply with the conditions, His promises were not fulfilled to them.** {GC 315.4}

**"Such is the sure result of neglect to appreciate and improve the light and privileges which God bestows. Unless the church will follow on in His opening providence, accepting every ray of light, performing every duty which may be revealed, religion will inevitably degenerate into the observance of forms, and the spirit of vital godliness will disappear.** This truth has been repeatedly illustrated in the history of the church. God requires of His people works of faith and obedience corresponding to the blessings and privileges bestowed. **Obedience requires a sacrifice and involves a cross; and this is why so many of the professed followers of Christ refused to receive the light from heaven, and, like the Jews of old, knew not the time of their visitation.** Luke 19:44. **Because of their pride and unbelief the Lord passed them by and revealed His truth to those who, like the shepherds of Bethlehem and the Eastern Magi, had given heed to all the light they had received.**" {GC 313-316}

### The Trial of Jim Sanders Part 3

To fully understand Part 3 of this story, you must first read Parts 1 and 2 contained in our September and October newsletters. You may access those newsletters at [www.GodsHolidays.com](http://www.GodsHolidays.com) and then click on Newsletters located on the left side of the page.

After a moment, the audience recovered, and all pandemonium broke loose in the courtroom. Above the din, one man shouted, "This man has shown himself to be against Jesus and all Christianity when he spoke against Christmas, the day of Jesus' birth, and against Easter, the day of Jesus' resurrection. Trouble is coming upon the earth because of people like him. To save our planet, this man, and all people like him, need to be put to death!" At this the audience started chanting in unison, "Kill him! Kill him!" and, but for the police rushing in at that moment to restore order, the audience would have killed Mr. Sanders on the spot. Through it all, Mr. Sanders remained calm, for he had the assurance that angels surrounded him with their protection (Psalm 34:7).

After order was restored, Professor Martin spoke. "Mr. Sanders, I have deeply studied into church history and you are correct when you state that Christmas and Easter used to be pagan holidays that the church brought into Christianity. However, after all these centuries, why does it really matter? These celebrations have now become Christian because they have been changed to honor Jesus." Mr. Sanders answered, "Remember when you read the history of Israel in the Old Testament, how it would state that an evil king came on the throne and brought Baal worship into Israel for a period of time. Israel would then suffer under God's judgments. When that king died, a godly king would take over the throne, who would cut down all the places of Baal worship, restore the temple and the observance of the Sabbath and the feast days, and then Israel had God's protection because they were following after God.\* Well, Christmas and Easter were two of the biggest holidays of the year in Baal worship and they were directly honoring Baal. In fact, many of the same customs we have today in the observance of Christmas and Easter were the identically same customs that the pagans observed when they celebrated Christmas and Easter. Take for instance the Christmas tree. Jeremiah 10:2-4 states, "Learn not the way of the heathen... for the customs of the people are vain. For one cutteth a tree out of the forest...they deck it with silver and with gold." So by observing these holidays today we are really honoring Baal, not Jesus." But for the strong presence of the police, pandemonium would have again broken out. Profes-

sor Martin seemed strangely shaken and quiet.

At that moment Jim Sanders felt a boldness and a power he had never felt before, and without even having to think he began speaking with such authority that the audience felt compelled to listen. “Ladies and gentlemen, all of you know that in Revelation, the last conflict on this planet is over the Mark of the Beast versus the Seal of God. Those who are saved receive God’s Seal and those who are lost receive the Mark of the Beast. That time is now. The end is near. If you want to be saved, you must know what the Seal of God is. The Bible clearly tells us what God’s Seal is. In the Bible, the words “seal” and “sign” are interchangeable. Exodus 13, verses 7-9 are speaking of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and it says, “And it (The Feast of Unleavened Bread) shall be for a **sign** unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD’s law may be in thy mouth.” Professor Martin, where is the Mark of the Beast placed on people?” In a daze, Professor Martin replied, “On the forehead and hand.” “Correct,” replied Mr. Sanders. “Satan always counterfeits God’s truth. Satan places his mark in the same location that God places His Seal on His people. This text I just quoted stated that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is God’s Sign or Seal upon the forehead and the hand. But there is more. Ezekiel 20:11-13 states, “And I (God) gave them My statutes, and shewed them My judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. Moreover, also I gave them My **Sabbaths**, to be a **sign** between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. But the house of Israel rebelled against Me...and My **Sabbaths** they greatly polluted. Then I said, I would pour out My fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.”

“If we want the protection of God in these end times, we must have His Seal, and His Seal, according to these texts, are all of His Sabbaths. Note that in this text the word “Sabbaths” is plural, meaning more than one kind of Sabbath. Leviticus chapter 23 lists out all of God’s Sabbaths, both weekly and yearly, and calls them all by the same name of “Sabbath.” Ezekiel 20:20 continues saying, ‘And hallow My **Sabbaths**, and **they** shall be a **sign** between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.’ Again note that in addition to the word ‘Sabbaths’ being plural, the word ‘they’ is used, again meaning more

than one kind of Sabbath, a direct reference to both the weekly and yearly Sabbaths. God is saying in these texts that all of His Sabbaths are His special Sign or Seal.”

“Professor Martin, since God’s Sabbaths are His Seal, and since Satan always counterfeits truth, what then, is the Mark of the Beast?” By this time Professor Martin was pale and haggard, and great drops of sweat were on his forehead, but he replied, “The Mark of the Beast has to be making other days holy worship days in place of God’s Sabbaths.” “You are absolutely correct,” replied Jim, which leads me to the real reason why we should observe all of God’s Sabbaths, both weekly and yearly.

“In Revelation chapter 14, God sent His last message to earth through three angels. What do they say? “Fear God and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come; and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” God’s Sabbaths, both weekly and yearly, tell us who to worship, when to worship, and how to worship. Only those who observe all of God’s Sabbaths will be able to obey God’s last command that He sends through this angel. Which leads me to the biggest reason I observe all of God’s Sabbaths.”

“God’s Sabbaths are designed to give us extra time to spend with Him. Hebrews 10:25 tells us that at the end of this world we need to spend more time with God, not less. God knew that especially at the end time, we need all the time that His weekly and yearly Sabbaths give us to spend time with Him, in order to have the strength we need to go through the earth’s final trouble before the Second Coming. That time is now. I implore you, before it is too late, receive God’s Seal. Obey His final message.” With that last remark, Jim Sanders sat down.

Professor Martin was left standing alone before the courtroom. All eyes were glued on him, waiting, breathlessly, for his response. “Mr. Sanders, I have studied the Bible intently for many years. You have made the Seal of God crystal clear. You have spoken the truth. For some time now, the Holy Spirit has been impressing on me the truth of God’s Sabbaths, but I have resisted it. I will resist no longer. I want to obey all of God’s word and receive His Seal. I urge all of you to do the same.”

At this the audience went wild yelling “Kill them both” while the police fought to

restore order. In the midst of the pandemonium, no one noticed a policeman escort Professor Martin and Jim and Mary Sanders out a side door that led to a courtyard. The policeman was surrounded by an unusual light that had not been apparent before. He said to them, “I have been sent by God to protect you.”

Night was beginning to fall and this “policeman” gave them an address to go to out in the country. He said, “There you will find an elderly couple who believe the truth. They are expecting you and will give you a place to stay. From there you are to labor quietly from door to door, sharing God’s last message to this world. God will be with you and guide you.” The Sanders and Professor Martin obeyed. From their new refuge, they did hasten from door to door, and many gladly accepted the last message. Although they faced many trials and tribulations, God sustained them through to the end, just as He had said He would. “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:20.

\* Read II Kings chapters 22 and 23. In these chapters Josiah succeeds the throne. The Book of the Law was found (this would have been the Torah or the first five books of the Old Testament) and was read to King Josiah. When he heard how to worship the true God, he restored the temple and had Baal worship expelled. The very next thing Josiah did after that was to institute the celebration of the feasts. Note Ellen White’s comment on this story. “In Josiah’s day the Word of the Lord was as binding, and should have been as strictly enforced, as at the time it was spoken. And today it is as binding as it was then (GCB April 1, 1903).” {3BC 1133.3}

## A Plea for Harmony

By Shauna Manfredine

### A Prayer Matter and a Plea for Harmony

– It has come to our attention that some of our dear brethren may be concerned about competition between retreat locations. Heaven forbid that we should all begin to look at one another with suspicion and question one another’s loyalties! Dear ones, we -who love Torah- need to press together in the Holy Spirit. Now is the time to pray for and support one another, not count heads at retreats. We are on the same team, wher-

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**We are on the web!**  
**GodsHolidays.com**

Our newsletter is now on the web! Forward it to your friends or download it into your archives.

<http://www.godsholidays.com/newsletter.shtml>

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

ever we are.

It concerns us greatly to see groups of feast keepers drawing apart and seeming to look with disparaging eyes toward their feast-keeping, Torah-believing brothers who have taken the message to more distant areas or may believe slightly differently. This attitude is reminiscent of the disciples when they complained to Christ about a man who was not His disciple (directly) and yet was doing the work of heaven. The disciples wanted to shut the man down because he was not of their group. But Christ told them not to saying: "For he that is not against us is on our part" Mark 9:40.

How much more should this be true for us, who are not strange to each other, but good friends? Please, dear ones, let us lift each other up in love and prayer as we draw together in deep and loving bonds. We seek to spend eternity together. Let us live as a unified force for Christ in the **here and now**. We beseech you to join us in prayer that this spirit of rivalry and suspicion will be gone from the S.D.A. Torah-keeping camps and

that we may all recognize that we, who love YHWH and Torah, all carry the Elijah torch of truth. We must fight against the enemy of souls – not each other!

Editor's Note: When we disagree, let us not be disagreeable—Thanks Shauna!

We enjoyed a wonderful Tabernacles Convocation near Lincoln City, Oregon this last October. If you would like DVD's of the presentations at this convocation, Contact Linda Jacobson at:

84576 Telephone Pole Rd

Milton Freewater, OR 97862

541-938-5749

The DVD's are sent on a donation basis or until the funds run out. Call Linda for info.

We are now in the process of uploading video of different presentations to our website so that you can download it for free. We don't have all of the bugs worked out yet, but we are working on it.

## Comforting Promises

"To all who are reaching out to feel the guiding hand of God, the moment of greatest discouragement is the time when divine help is nearest. They will look back with thankfulness upon the darkest part of their way. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly." 2 Peter 2:9. From every temptation and every trial He will bring them forth with firmer faith and a richer experience." Desire of Ages 528

"Jesus has been over the ground. He knows the power of every temptation. He knows just how to meet every emergency, and how to guide you through every path of danger. Then why not trust Him?" RH 7-19-1892

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." Philippians 4:4

"The man who commanded, "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon," is the man who for hours lay prostrate upon the earth in prayer in the camp at Gilgal. The men of prayer are the men of power." Patriarchs and Prophets 509

"Thy faith hath made thee whole." Mark 10:52

**\*\*Check [www.GodsHolidays.com](http://www.GodsHolidays.com) under "Articles" for 92 questions and answers about God's feast days.**

I recently received an email from Igbo Izekor in Nigeria, Africa requesting 50 Bibles—they also need 14 large print Bibles. KJV is preferred. Any other literature would be welcomed. Igbo found us on the web—God's providence? Can you help? Send to: Igbo Izekor P.O. BOX 5125, GPO AIRPORT ROAD, OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE, NIGERIA. Please insure the Bibles.

### *Blueprint for the Bride*

Pam Benton is making her DVD "Blueprint for the Bride" available to our readers. You should receive your copy in the near future. If you would like to hand these out in your church give Pam a call at 707-263-5871. This is a wonderful witnessing tool that will introduce your friends to God's Law in a new way. Pam is doing this on a donation basis—her costs are about \$2.00 per copy plus shipping. Help us get the good news out! Also ask her about "Diamonds in the Sand."

### **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.