

The Answering Service

FROM AMERICA'S PROMISE

Answers to questions from Radio and Tape Listeners

No. 14 - April 10, 1982

Question No. 1:

Should we keep the passover today?

Answer:

Passover, as well as the rest of the feasts with their sacrifices, are no longer in effect. Jesus was Israel's passover in every respect. Communion service is the memorial of His death, but in no way a continuation of the old feast day called Passover. It is a NEW INSTITUTION, based upon a NEW COVENANT. (**1 Corinthians 11:25**)

The subject of Israel's feast days has been greatly-perverted by many of our modern-day preachers. One of the worst offenders is Herbert Armstrong. Where most preachers tell us that the feasts of Israel are of no importance at all, Armstrong tell us that they (the feasts) are the rituals, whereby we are saved. Both are wrong! Armstrong approaches the subject from the Babylonian angle — salvation via ritual. On the other hand, many preachers say that the feasts were "an error" which was corrected by Jesus, and, therefore, of no importance to us today. I repeat, both are wrong!

The feasts were primarily a set of dates on Moses' annual calendar, which corresponded to an intricate system of ECONOMICS. In other words, the feasts were AN ECONOMICS SYSTEM, not a ritual for salvation. We know that the law of God doesn't save us, but rather keeps

things running smoothly here on Earth (when heeded). The feasts (sabbaths) were given for the same purpose, with attention to economics.

The sacrifices, and the feasts which facilitated them, pointed forward to Israel's messiah. When Jesus was crucified, resurrected and became King over Israel (**Matthew 28:18**), those rituals were canceled. Jesus fulfilled them. However, incorporated within their national calendar and its feast schedule, was the ECONOMICS SCHEDULE also. While Jesus did fulfill and cancel the sacrifice and ritual, He certainly didn't cancel the law; He simply instated the New Covenant, which was also in concordance with God's laws. This divine plan for national economy was put into the calendar, and it incorporated the feast days, which in turn, also, incorporated the sacrifices. Therefore, we Christians are faced with the need to discern where to draw the line between the ADDED rituals (**Galatians 3:19**), and the law which didn't change. We need to drop the things which were phased out, but retain the things which were not.

There were two elements in Moses' calendar: **1. Economy**, and **2. Sacrifice**. The sacrifice was dropped, along with its ritual formalities. But, the laws of economy were retained on the basis that they simply defined true principles (which cannot become obsolete, nor be destroyed). Israel's calendar was an economics sched-

ule; a national economics strategy. This is the reason why we feel it is important to teach basic truths about economy. Our nation has lost track of the simplest economic principles.

The cycle of "rests" (one out of seven — days, years, weeks of years, etc.) is an ingenious plan for financial abundance in any society which adheres to it. The catch here is this: the whole society needs to turn to it before it will work according to plan.

For study into this subject, we recommend the book, "Moses The Economist" by Parker.

Question No. 2:

I hear people talking about “the baptism of the Holy Ghost.” What is it? Is it Scriptural?

Answer:

The baptism of the spirit is scriptural, if the scripture is understood properly. Today, we face the problem of too many unscriptural preachers, who use that term to describe something that is altogether different than what is meant in the Bible. John tells us, in **John 1:33**, that Jesus "baptizeth with the Holy Ghost (Spirit)". But, if we don't know what that baptism is, we could easily guess wrongly when attempting to identify it. This, in fact, is what has happened in modern Christendom. The "Pentecostals" and "Charismatics" of today, are persuing "an experience" and then labeling that experience with the title, "baptism of the Holy Ghost." However, calling it by that title doesn't cause it to be so.

The word "baptize" means to IMMERSE. Water baptism is immersion in water. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is immersion in the Holy Spirit. God says

that He **POURED OUT** His spirit upon His servants "in those days," and that "in the last days" He would pour it out on "all flesh" (**Acts 2:17,18**). But not all who were among them that were baptized by the spirit that day, spoke in tongues. Also, later, upon Peter's instruction, about three thousand people were baptized and recieved the Holy Spirit (**vs. 38,41**). There is no indication that they **ALL** performed a miracle of some kind, such as speaking in tongues. In fact, there is no indication from the Bible that "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is necessarily-connected with manifested miracles of any kind, such as speaking in tongues. In **Acts 2**, the events happened simultaneously, but the scripture tells of scores of other incidents where those same experiences were separate and unrelated.

Beyond that, one should, also, take into account that what most today call "speaking in tongues" is nothing more than unintelligible gibberish. Biblical "tongues" are **VIABLE DIALECTS**, and "other tongues" are **VIABLE FOREIGN DIALECTS**. Unintelligible gibberish is the product of depraved preaching. The true miracle of speaking in tongues is a gift from God. There is a big difference between the two!

Question No. 3:

Why is your ministry so different from contemporary religions?

Answer:

The answer to this question is summed up in Revelation **13:4-7**. As you read those scriptures, notice that the beast has power to overcome (either by deception, or physical force) **ALL** kindreds, tongues, and nations. Virtually no one is able to make war with it. There are only a few who are called "remnant" who are able to see and understand the beast. These same

are the only ones who are able to refrain from accepting his mark; this is because everyone else is ignorant of who, what, and where the beast is.

Even the remnant (His called-out ones — the church) are surrounded by those who are worshiping the beast. Thus, we read in **18:4**, "Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." This message is the basis of our ministry. We are trying to relay God's warning and plea to His people. God wants His ministers to tell His people to "Come out of the confusion of the contemporary religions (Babylon), and see the great truths of the Word." It is the "contemporary religions which have hypnotized our people into a state of stupor, where they can't even get concerned about the injustice and crimes that are being perpetrated against Christendom.

When God sent Israel out into the nations of the world (7th century BC), He told them, in essence, "If you want to prostitute yourself with the gods of the other nations, then I will divorce you, turn you loose and give you over to your own imaginations. You will learn the ways of the heathen nations into which I will send you, and you will worship wooden gods, and metal idols. And when you have been totally broken, ruined and ready to repent and return to Me . . . then I will accept you back. In fact, I will redeem you with my own blood! " The gist of this can be understood from reading Zechariah 10:9, **Micah 5:7,8**, and **Amos 9:9**.

Then notice how **Daniel 12** describes the scenario. It is depicted as a revival (resurrection - bringing back to life) when Israel comes to her senses. The time preceding that revival is shown to be a time of great distress, in which many will be

purified; refined through fire. This means that in suffering (under Babylon's persecution) many Israelites will be forced to acknowledge their sins, and turn to God for salvation. Those who will "shine as the stars, and lead many to righteousness" are today's remnant; the same ones who are giving God's message to His people "Come out of her, My people!"

We Israelites, are still "coming out of her". God has guided a few of us to the point where we can instruct others of the process. But today, as we view the situation, the majority of Israel is still "in Babylon." Most of our Israelite countrymen are paganized to the point that their "Christianity" is too confused to bring them correction from the Word. Confusion is compounded, and the vision gets poorer. It is still only the remnant (the elect according to God's grace) who are able to see through the fog of confusion.

With the majority of contemporary churches preaching messages which are usually an amalgamation of both paganism and Christianity, our being in the minority is unavoidable. Apparently, this condition will continue until Israel repents and seeks her true God! In the meantime, Jesus is providing a few to preach the truths of the scriptures for the purpose of feeding those of His Israel sheep who are in the process of "coming out" of Babylon.
