

A Night to be Much Observed

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

In the Bible we read that God commanded the ancient physical and unconverted nation of Israel to hold a celebration throughout their generations called “....a night to be much remembered unto the Lord.....” What was the night that God wanted them to always remember, to be much observed? Let’s see what the Bible, our only sure source of truth, tells us about this matter.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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In the Bible we find the story of Israel's exodus from their captivity under the Egyptians and a description of what Israel was commanded to do on the night they left Egypt.

Let's start off this study by briefly examining why it became necessary for God to come to the assistance of Israel living in the land of Egypt.

Israel had been in Egypt for 430 years and had become slaves of the Egyptians. This happened because after the death of Joseph, there had arisen a new Pharaoh who had not known him and who became concerned upon realizing that "the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we [the Egyptians]" (Ex 1:8-9). The Pharaoh then decided to enslave them to prevent them from ever being able to take over Egypt.

Exo 1:13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

Exo 1:14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in morter, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

After many years in bondage, Israel sighed and cried and God heard them.

Exo 2:23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

Exo 2:24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

Exo 2:25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

God then used Moses and Aaron to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let Israel go in the wilderness to hold a feast unto Him.

Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

God sent 9 plagues unto the Egyptians and still Pharaoh would not let Israel go. Then God told Moses that one last plague would be sent after which Israel would be able to leave Egypt.

Exo 11:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether.

And here is the last or 10th plague that was to come upon the Egyptians.

Exo 11:4 And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt:

Exo 11:5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maid servant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.

Exo 11:6 And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more.

Exo 11:7 But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

Israel Preparations for the Night of the 14th of Nisan

In Exodus 12: 1-14 Israel is told what special preparations they had to make for the night of the 14th of Nisan when Egypt would be struck with the last or 10th plague. During the night portion of the 14th day they were to kill and roast a lamb that was to be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. None of its bones were to be broken and any leftovers were to be burnt with fire.

From the standpoint of Israel, the focal point of the events that were to occur during the night portion of the 14th day was for them to fully and carefully carry out the instructions given them in detail by God through Moses. In doing so they were observing the Lord's passover.

The Lord's passover is the time when the Lord passed over the doors of the Israelites when he saw the blood of the lamb upon the lintel and on the two side posts and did not allow the destroyer to come into the house and kill the firstborn of the families that were there.

Exo 12:23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

As for the Egyptians, all their firstborn of both man and beast would die that night.

Exo 11:4 And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt:

Exo 11:5 And **all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die**, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maid servant that is behind the mill; and all the **firstborn of beasts**.

Exo 11:7 But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

Exo 12:21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.

Exo 12:22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

During that night, the Israelites were to eat the passover lamb.

Exo 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.

The Passover An Ordinance Forever

Was the Lord's passover to be a one time thing or was it something that Israel had to continue observing.

Exo 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.

Exo 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this **night**, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Exo 12:14 And this day [the Passover held during the night time portion of the day of the 14th of Nisan] shall be unto you [physical Israel] for a **memorial**; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations [those of the physical nations of Israel]; ye shall keep it a **feast** by an ordinance for ever. [As long as there will exist an unconverted physical nation of Israel.]

The Passover as celebrated in the Old Testament by the unconverted, physical nation of Israel is for a memorial unto them and they are to keep that day as a **feast** to the Lord forever. The Passover is one of the annual feast days mentioned in Leviticus 23, Deu 16 and Num 28-29.

A memorial is something that is for the purpose of preserving the memory of an event or of a person. In this instance, the event whose memory was to be preserved in the minds of the Israelites and their descendants, is the Passover .

The Passover occurred during the **night** portion of the day Israel left Egypt.

Lev 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even [sunset] is the LORD'S passover.

Num 9:5 And they kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at even [sunset] in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.

A Night to be Much Observed

Did God institute a time of celebration called “a night to be much observed” that is a separate and different celebration from the Passover?

Exo 12:23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, **the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.**

This is the Lord's Passover that took place during the **night** of the 14th of Nisan. And, what were the Israelites commanded to do regarding the events of that night.

Exo 12:24 And ye shall observe [continue doing] this thing [**the instructions that you have been given for the night of the Passover**] for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons **for ever.**

The events of that night were to be observed by them forever.

Exo 12:25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that **ye shall keep this service.**

Once they entered the Promised Land, they were to continue keeping or observing this service which is to say, the Lord's Passover as made clear in Exo 12:26-27.

Exo 12:26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? [**the Passover service**]

Exo 12:27 That ye shall say, **It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses.** And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

Exo 12:41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

Exo 12:42 It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD **for** bringing them out from the land of Egypt: **this is that night of the LORD to be observed** of all the children of Israel in their generations.

The whole chapter of Exodus 12 is talking about the institution of the Passover and that the Israelites once entering the Promised Land were to observe or keep it forever.

So what is the night that was to be much observed by the physical nation of Israel and their descendants and which is to be observed forever?

It is clearly the night when the Lord passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt and delivered the houses of Israel by causing the death of all the firstborns of the Egyptians. It is a night to be observed unto the Lord **for**, or **because** it brought them out of the land of Egypt the following day (Exo 12:42).

The night to be much observed is not a memorial of the day Israel left Egypt. Exo 12:42 is the conclusion of all that was said in Exo 12 where we find detailed instructions about how Israel was to observe the Passover during the night portion of the 14th of Nisan. The Passover was a plague on the Egyptians but a blessing for Israel: their firstborns would not die and the following day, they would be able to leave Egypt.

The Passover is what is important to God. This is why it is mentioned as being an annual holy day in Leviticus 23, Deu 16 and Num 28-29. It is “....to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations....” (Exo 12:24).

If we look into the New Testament, we cannot find any reference anywhere to “a night to be much observed” celebration or memorial which is about the night Israel left Egypt. Christ didn’t keep it nor did the apostles and nor did any of the congregations that they raised up in their days. If they ever did, no mention is made of it in the New Testament.

Also, there are no instructions in the Old or the New Testament about how this night is to be observed if we assume wrongly that that night is about Israel departing Egypt. Usually, in the Old Testament, there was a requirement for offerings to be made, for the people to gather in the tem-

ple, for symbolic ceremonies to be carried out by the Levitical priesthood but we don't see anywhere in the Bible that there ever were any such requirements given by God while detailed instructions were given for the Passover.

Final Comments

For those of us who at one time or another have been part of the organization known as the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), we were taught that the "night to be much observed" was something New Testament Christians had to celebrate. This memorial for the WCG was about the 15th of Nisan when Israel walked out of Egypt (Num 33:3).

If this were so, then why were no instructions whatsoever given to ancient Israel on how to observe it and why is there no other mention of "a night to be much observed" anywhere else in the Bible. All the holy day celebrations continued on into the New Testament but their meaning and the way of celebrating or keeping them changed with the foundation of God's spiritual nation of Israel on the day of Pentecost.

So, this very real question poses itself, how are Christians to keep the night to be much observed if it is a memorial of the departure of Israel from Egypt which occurred on the night portion of the 15th of Nisan? (Num 33:3) We have no instructions whatsoever from God in the Bible on how Christians are to do so. Are men at liberty to decide how the night of Israel's departure from Egypt is to be kept? What would Christians do to keep it without God giving them the knowledge on how to do so? Are men, even truly converted ones, free to decide how they will worship God? Would different men have different ideas on how to do so? Would any of them be acceptable to God?

In the absence of instructions from God as are given for the Passover and the other holy days, confusion would be created with everybody, though well intentioned, doing what they think is the right thing to do.

Exo 12:24-27 makes it clear that the night that is to be much observed by Israel through all their generations is the night of the 14th of Nisan when God instituted the Passover.

Exo 12:24 And ye shall observe this thing [the Passover which took place in the night time part of the 14th of Nisan] for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever.

Exo 12:25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.

Exo 12:26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service?

Exo 12:27 That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshiped.