

lived, Israel remained faithful to the promise they made on this day. It all began because the leader of the people made a decision for himself and his family. Others inspired by this effort did the same.

**Elijah** was preparing to do battle with the prophets of Baal. It was a battle for the minds of God's people. God would show His superiority over the false god of Baal. Before the battle was ever engaged, Elijah went to their hearts. He asked a very tough question. How long will you halt between two opinions (I Kings 18:21)? It is important to note that the people did not answer until the contest was over. They needed to have aligned themselves with God before the battle, but they did not. When the soul is being fought for, decisions need to be made before it's too late.

We have **some preachers** who cannot make up their mind about where they stand. They move easily with whichever group they are with at the time. Such movement does not speak about taking a stand, rather, it indicates a person has not yet made up their mind where they are in their relationship with God.

When one chooses to walk in the light, he of necessity must reprove the darkness (I John 1:7 and Ephesians 5:11). Standing with the agents of darkness does not show an individual has made up his mind yet. Now is the time to make the right decision for the Lord in these matters.

However, not only preachers, but there are **some congregations** which cannot make up their minds either. They do not want error being taught in their pulpits, but will use their bulletins to announce workshops, meetings and lectureships where false teachers are working their wares. How long can they have it both ways? At some point, decisions need and must be made. Where do we stand? Are we on the Lord's side (Exodus 32:26)?

It is time for people to make some hard choices. What do we want the church to do in the future? Do we want it to be a church where women preach, choruses sing in worship, clapping and losing control of one's spirit and emotions, disregard for the written Word, and broad acceptance of the religious world? If that is the kind of church we want, then make the decision now. However, if we want what the Lord wants, then let us go back to the Bible and find the church there and bring it into our lives through the Word.



### Why Should We Tell Others about the Truth?

Roman Catholics.....	60,280,000	} Lost/Many
Southern Baptists.....	15,663,296	
United Methodists.....	8,538,662	
Church of God in Christ...	5,499,875	
Mormons.....	4,711,500	
Presbyterian.....	3,669,489	
Lutheran Church.....	2,594,555	
Episcopal Church.....	2,536,550	
Assemblies of God.....	2,387,982	
Misc. Religions .....	4.5 Billion	

church of Christ.....1,239,654—Saved/Few

Why should we be telling others about the truth? Because billions of souls are at stake. The above numbers show how many souls are lost, as compared to the number saved (Matthew 7:13-14). Christians have been called by God to defend the truth and preach the gospel. Let's get busy.

## Heartland Herald

1899 Saint Joseph St.  
Dubuque, Iowa 52003

# Heartland Herald

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Email: [the\\_bible\\_says@dbqheartlandcoc.org](mailto:the_bible_says@dbqheartlandcoc.org)

## Heartland church of Christ

3430 Dodge St., Suite 1  
Dubuque, Iowa 52003  
(563) 588-1974

### Evangelist

Michael Demory

### Ministers

All members of the church

### Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am  
Wednesday—7:00pm

### Evangelistic Efforts

Dubuque Advertiser &  
TV Program

"The Bible Says"

Public Access  
Cable Channel 16  
Mon. & Thurs. @ 8:30pm  
Tues. @ 2:30pm  
Fri. @ 9:00am

### Steps to Salvation

1. Hear the Word (Rom. 10:17)
2. Believe (Heb. 11:1,6)
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3)
4. Confess (Matt. 10:32-33)
5. Baptism (1 Pet. 3:21)
6. Remain Faithful (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 3:14)

## Is It Angel Food— Or Devils Food in Disguise?

By Mike Demory

**T**HE appeal for all Christians to "Serve God unto all pleasing" (Colossians 1:10), is part and partial to the duties one owes God and his fellowman. God has left us with the responsibility to carry on the work of Christ, by spreading His good news (Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47); edifying the saints (Ephesians 4:11-16); and helping others who are in need (Galatians 6:10). Each of these areas of the Christian walk (life) should at all times be motivated by supreme love (Agape) (1 John 4:19).

Evidence that love dwells within our hearts will never reveal itself unless it results in action (1 John 3:18). Jesus reminds us that the poor will always be around us, no matter how hard the world tries to eradicate it (John 12:8). For this reason we are told to "remember the poor" (Galatians 2:10). Pure religion demands that we assist the fatherless and the widows (James 1:27), and that we do so for the stranger, but first and foremost to fellow members of the Lord's church (Matthew 25:35-36; Galatians 6:10).

Many congregations have established programs which assist those in need. Some provide a bag of groceries that will feed a family of 4 for a week, and others give away clothing, or assist when disaster prevails. The Lord's church (locally and congregationally) has always provided the necessities of life out of their own treasury, or from donations provided by members over and above their weekly contribution to the Lord's work.

Unlike denominations who ask for community assistance at every turn, to assist them in helping others, the Lord's church has never turned to such unscriptural means. True benevolence demonstrates the love and sacrifice that the church (Christian) recognizes is only one aspect of sharing the truth with others. However, the way we do that is paramount.

Many communities have city pantries established by denominations in which they assist the poor once a year, or quarterly. Each denomination in town provides money or food to help with that effort. While the Lord's church answers God's call in a Scriptural manner with each congregation assisting those in need on an individual, as needed basis. I recently came upon a new slant to the work of benevolence when I heard of a local denomination refer to their benevolent work as "Angel Food Ministries." For just \$30, a family of four can order a weeks worth of groceries from this congregation. They tout that a family can save \$60 by purchasing their food from them. Sounds great—but how is that benevolence? Christian benevolence?

I find nothing in the Scriptures about the Christians of the first century discounting food or clothing for the poor. In Acts 6, the Christians were not told to make sure the Grecian widows received their discounted needs, they were to make sure they received it "freely," "sacrificially." Did Jesus say, "when I was hungry or thirsty, or naked, you did Me a favor by discounting my needs"? (Matthew 25:35-39). Absolutely not! Groups such as Angel Food Ministries and the Salvation Army

should be ashamed of themselves for the manner in which they help others. I'm not saying that it is not good that they are willing to help others, but the manner in which they do it is wrong—it is unscriptural! Charging for assistance, and getting others to contribute and then take the credit. Are we going to begin charging for prayers like the Catholic Church?

Upon further investigation I learned that "Angel Food Ministries," is a national organization that encourages churches to join as "Host sites," for their program. They offer to those in need, three or four monthly menu's (depending upon your needs) which are sent to each hosting congregation across the United States and then distributed locally. Each "hosting" church is given \$1 for each bag of food they give out, to be added to whatever work they desire. Added to each bag of food is a magazine entitled "The Servant" which has articles written by Pastor Joe, "Testimonials," as well as the sinners prayer. To become a hosting church, you must submit a request form with IRS information plus a \$50 fee.

While benevolence is most definitely a scriptural work and one commanded by God, the error creeps in one begins to charge for it, make a profit from it, and in joining hands with those who teach error (2 John 9-11). Just as there is no Scriptural support (authority) for charging the needy for benevolence, receiving money (profit?) for the work of the church, neither is there support for a "sinner's prayer," or "Testimonials." Yet, as shocking as it may be, congregations of the Lord's church across the country are involving themselves in this program! When will brethren learn, to observe to do according to all the law, and not turn to the right hand or the left hand (Joshua 1:7)? How can the Lord's church become a beacon of light, or pillar of truth, when it insists on joining hands with denominations steeped in error? This ministry is anything but "Angel food," it is from the devil and must be put behind us!



# The Israel Of God

By Gary McDade

**I**n the Trinity Broadcasting Network (03-13-06) John Hagee stated that to suggest that the promises of God to Israel have carried over to the church today is false doctrine. For twenty-five years the church where he preaches in San Antonio, Texas has celebrated an "appreciation for national Israel" month. He said, "We need to cease emphasizing respect for dead Jews like Abraham and David and honor living Israel today, the Jewish people." As proof, Hagee offered the explanation from Genesis 22:17 to the approving nods of his wife, another couple, and two Jewish rabbis that multiplying Abraham's descendants "as the stars of heaven" meant the heavenly Jerusalem or the church

and "as the sand which is upon the sea shore" meant physical, national Israel since sand and sea shores are on earth. He stated that if he had a 28-foot chart and a piece of chalk he could explain it all. Well, it won't take me the space the size of a post card to list all the scriptures that expose his strained effort to make unbelieving Israel acceptable to God today.

### There Is No Salvation Outside Of Christ

*"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6).*

### There Is No Special Favor For Physical Israel

John the Baptizer said to the Jews of his day, "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (Lk. 3:8). The apostle Paul wrote, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom. 2:28-29). Paul made a very clear statement about the status of the Jews outside of Christ in the next chapter, "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:9-10). Later in Romans Paul argues that the same gospel that saves the Gentiles also saves the Jews (Rom. 11:26).

### Jews And Gentiles Are In One Body

The Ephesian letter places reconciled Jews and Gentiles into one body, "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Eph. 2:16). Obedient Jews and Gentiles alike partake of the benefits of the same body today, "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (Eph. 3:6). And, whether John Hagee and others like it or not, that one body is spiritual Israel, the church (Gal. 1:2). And, this arrangement which began in the first century was designed to continue in perpetuity, "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16). The church of Christ is the one body of Christ (Rom. 16:16; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4).

### In Christ All Are One

Paul wrote, "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. . . . For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:22, 26-29).

### Conclusion

When the Jews crucified Christ they forever lost their "favored-nation" status. A discussion between the Jews and Christ himself during his personal ministry proves this truth beyond all possibility of question. Jesus said, "Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet" (Mt. 21:33-46).



# Make Up Your Mind

By Charles Blair

**H**OW long does it take to make a decision? One might rightly conclude that it depends on the importance of the decision. The soul is the most valuable thing that any of us has in our possession (Matthew 16:26). Decisions, which affect the outcome of the soul, are truly important. Hence, why would we delay making a decision when our very souls hang in the balance?

**Joshua**, the good servant of the Lord, challenged Israel to make a decision (Joshua 24:15). In short, he told them to make up their minds about who they would serve. It had reached a point that the decision for God or against God had to be made. The evidence is that as long as Joshua and the leaders

# Remember in Prayer

### Special Prayers

- Preston Estes family
- Raylyna Johnson—kidney problems
- Our new evangelism effort
- Lilly Rucker & family
- Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer— more tumors are growing
- Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis
- Yolanda Ritchwood—M.S.
- Natalie Bauman—M.S.
- Wade Miller—diabetes
- Susan Noel— that she studies to understand God
- Russell Bender— that he studies to understand God
- Freeman Dudley—liver cancer
- Kaiser family
- Jones family
- Walker family
- Brother Odom (Abilene)—COPD
- Eric Boor—blood disease
- Rockfalls church of Christ
- TV Program
- State of our Nation
- The closing of Planned Parenthood
- The church
- The erring & the Lost

### Evangelizing the World

- Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.
- Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.
- Brian Sherrell—LaCrosse, Wisc.
- Bernie Guzman—Philippines
- Fred Rhodes—Newton, Iowa
- Johnny Robertson— Martinsville, Vir
- James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC
- Derrick Brown —Jamaica
- Gary Workman—Ukraine
- Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India
- G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India
- John O'Neal—India & Ghana
- Tom Wacaster—India & Russia
- Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan
- Ernie Lawrence—Hutto, Texas

### Military

- Chip O'Neal—Afghanistan
- Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan
- Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY
- Daniel Heflin—Afghanistan
- Jason Cunningham—Stateside
- Jon McCain—Tech Training
- Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way