



MAP ♦ P.O. Box 128 ♦ 575 U.S. Highway 250 ♦ Savannah, OH 44874 ♦ (419) 962-1515 ♦ January 2016

## Satan's Domain

—Shawn Brasseaux

### WHERE IN THE BIBLE DID GOD GIVE SATAN DOMAIN OVER THE EARTH?

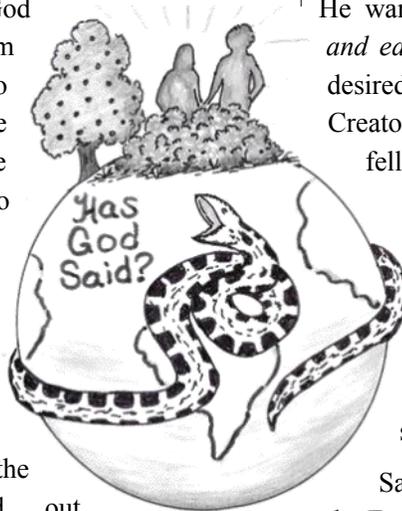
If our answer is to be one of faith, we need to look at relevant verses in the Holy Bible, and then we need to believe those verses.

On the sixth day of creation, after God created terrestrial (earth-based) animal life, Genesis 1:26-28 says: “[26] *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.* [27] *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.* [28] *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*”

Please pay special attention to the above bolded phrases that demonstrate God's

purpose for man. Why did God place man (Adam) on the Earth? The Bible says that the human race was to be God's chief creation in the Earth. In other words, God appointed Adam (the first man) to be king of the Earth, and Eve his wife was to be queen of the Earth. Adam and Eve were to be God's representatives, His rulers, in the Earth; as the angels carried out God's will in heaven, Adam and Eve were to “have dominion” over the earth, to “subdue [earth],” to “have dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

Sometime before God created mankind on Earth, He created spirit creatures (angels) to function in the heavenly places. One of these angelic-like creatures—which is actually called a “cherub” (Ezekiel 28:14,16)—was



named “Lucifer” (Isaiah 14:12), and Lucifer wanted to glorify himself instead of the Lord Jesus Christ. Lucifer wanted to be “like the most High” (Isaiah 14:14). He wanted to be “possessor of heaven and earth” (Genesis 14:19, 22), and he desired the praise that the Lord, the Creator, alone deserved. This creature fell into sin, and was re-named “Satan” (Hebrew for “adversary”). Satan became God's chief enemy (Ezekiel 28:11-19). Once Satan polluted heaven with sin, he moved toward infiltrating the Earth with sin and rebellion against God.

Satan knew that in order to control the Earth, he would first have to take that power from God's human race. We read in Genesis chapter 3 how Satan deceived the first woman (with Adam voluntarily following his wife into the trap) into believing and following his lie program first begun in the heavens:

“[1] *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said*

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unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? [2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: [3] But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. [4] And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. [6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. [7] And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

It was in Genesis chapter 3 that Adam surrendered his crown to Satan; Satan gladly assumed dominion over the Earth in Genesis chapter 3. Romans 5:12 continues, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...." Satan's policy of evil succeeded in involving Earth: Adam willfully gave up his divinely-ordained earthly dominion. So, God gave man the dominion over the Earth; when man willfully sided with Satan, man became controlled by Satan and sin, and through fallen man, Satan gained power over the Earth. Consequently, Satan dominates the world's political, religious, social,

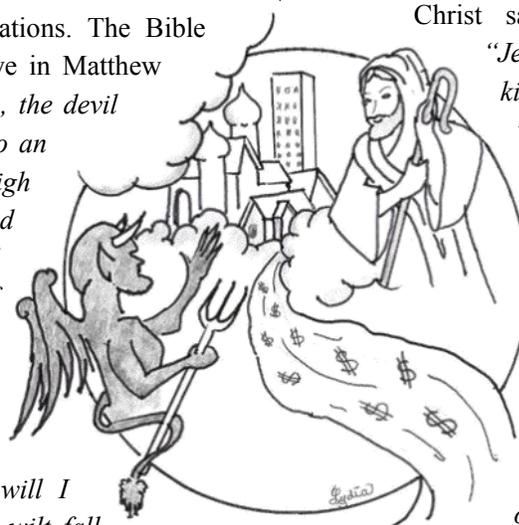
economic, and educational systems. Hence, the Bible talks about "this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4). Satan is called "the god [or ruler] of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). The Bible says in 1 John 5:19, "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." Ephesians 2:2 speaks of the evil "course of this world."

We need to notice what Satan told Jesus during His temptations. The Bible relays the narrative in Matthew 4:8-9: "[8] Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; [9] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Luke 4:5-7 is the comparative passage: "[5] And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. [6] And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. [7] If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine."

Did you notice how Satan offered to give the world's kingdoms to Jesus? The Lord Jesus, knowing full well that Satan had dominion over the Earth, never argued with him. He knew that Satan was

controlling this world system, and that the only way to restore the world system to God was **not** to bow down to and worship Satan, but to die for man's sins. In hindsight, we see how the shed blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary is now the means whereby God will restore heaven and earth to Himself (more on this later).

Satan is currently usurping God's authority in the Earth. Hence, Jesus Christ said in John 18:36: "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." Jesus' kingdom was "not of this world" in the



sense that His kingdom was one from God rather than one from Satan. The Lord Jesus' kingdom would **not** originate from the evil world system that is presently operating on Earth and in the heavens.

The book of Job describes Satan's activity in the Earth. We read in Job 1:6-7: "[6] Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. [7] And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said,

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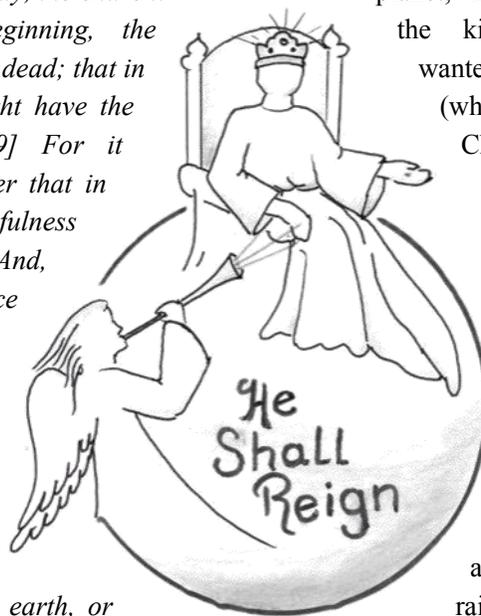
Since our beginning in 2000, many people have written to us, asking to be added to our mailing list, while others have sent us names of their friends and family members. We think it's important for us to tell you that the cost of *The Amish Voice* is \$.50 a copy and is totally funded by readers from across our great country who appreciate the ministry and care to support it. If the Lord would lay it on your heart to come along side of us by helping with expenses, it would be a great benefit as well as highly appreciated. In order to continue receiving the Amish Voice, please keep us informed of any changes to your address. Thank you.

From **going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.**” And again, we read in Job 2:1-2: “[1] Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. [2] And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From **going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.**” Walking denotes ownership; Satan admits to God that he is active on planet Earth, “going to and fro in the earth... walking up and down in it... going to and fro in the earth... walking up and down in it” (notice we read that expression *twice*, indicating a prolonged action, not just a one-time motion). This is significant, since we read in 1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, **walketh about, seeking whom he may devour....**” Satan is active on planet Earth, and he will especially be doing this in the future—when he is banned from outer space and confined to Earth (Revelation 12:7-10)!

Colossians 1:16-20 tells us the good news: “[16] For by him [the Lord 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: [17] And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. [18] And he 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. [19] For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; [20] And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” (God will give the heavens to us, the Church—the Body of Christ [2 Corinthians 5:1; Ephesians 1:3,20-23; Ephesians 2:6-7; Colossians 3:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:18]—currently, Satan has polluted the heavens [Job 15:15; Ephesians 2:2; Ephesians 6:12]. He will give the earth over to redeemed Israel [Psalm 37:11; Matthew 5:5; Revelation 5:10]—remember, currently, Satan has polluted Earth).

Thankfully, one day, God will remove Satan from the Earth. The Bible says that when Jesus Christ will return at His



Second Coming, He will bind all evil spirits (Zechariah 13:1-2). He will then usher in His 1000-year reign on the planet, Israel’s earthly kingdom, the kingdom He originally wanted to establish with Adam (when God Himself, Jesus Christ, dwells with man on the Earth). According to Revelation 20:1-10, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit during that millennium, and then released to tempt the new generations of people born. Once that is accomplished, God will rain fire down from heaven to consume Satan and his minions, confining them forever in the lake of fire and brimstone!

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever*” (Revelation 11:15). The best is yet to come, and in the end, Jesus Christ will **not** have to worship Satan to get Earth’s kingdoms!

—Shawn Brasseaux, *For What Saith the Scriptures Ministry*

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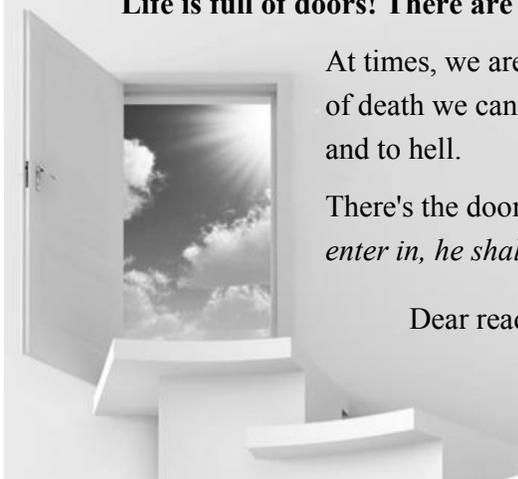
### **Life is full of doors! There are doors to success, to failure, to wealth and to poverty, to truth and to lies.**

At times, we are forced to enter a door that leads to ill health, cancer, and diseases. The door of death we cannot avoid; and don't forget the doors beyond the grave—the doors to heaven and to hell.

There's the door which Jesus spoke of in John 10:9. He said, *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

Dear reader, have you entered the Jesus door?

When you do, you will never have to worry about entering the door of hell, where the fire is not quenched and the worm (body) never dies. —Joe Keim



Does it scare you when someone says to you: I got saved?

The answer oftentimes is yes, and there are various reasons why. Here are some of them:

1. Those who get saved leave the Amish. For that reason, many Amish people have associated those getting saved with excommunication and leaving the Amish church.
2. To say I got saved, means that I can live any way I want to and still go to heaven.
3. Getting saved and having assurance of my salvation means that I am filled with pride.

I understand why these reasons might cause you to put up a wall and draw back from the truth as presented in God's word. However, I'd like to help you understand a few things that might benefit you, not only today, but for all eternity.

First of all, the word SAVED is used 57 times in the New Testament.

Secondly, the word SAVED means the same as BORN AGAIN.

Here are some examples:

**John 3:3 & 7:** *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (V-7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

**Acts 2:21:** *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**Acts 4:12:** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

**Acts 16:30-31:** *And brought them out,*

*and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...*

**Romans 10:13:** *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**1 Corinthians 1:18:** *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

**2 Timothy 1:9:** *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.*

**Titus 3:5:** *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us...*

You may be asking, what are we saved from? The answer is found in Romans 5:9! The Apostle Paul wrote: *Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

There's something we must all understand, and that is this: When you and I draw our last breath, all decision making is placed in God's hands. If you want to be saved from the wrath or eternal damnation to come, you must be saved before you die. And when you get saved, you will know it without a shadow of a doubt.

The Bible says to those who have been saved:

**1 John 3:2:** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

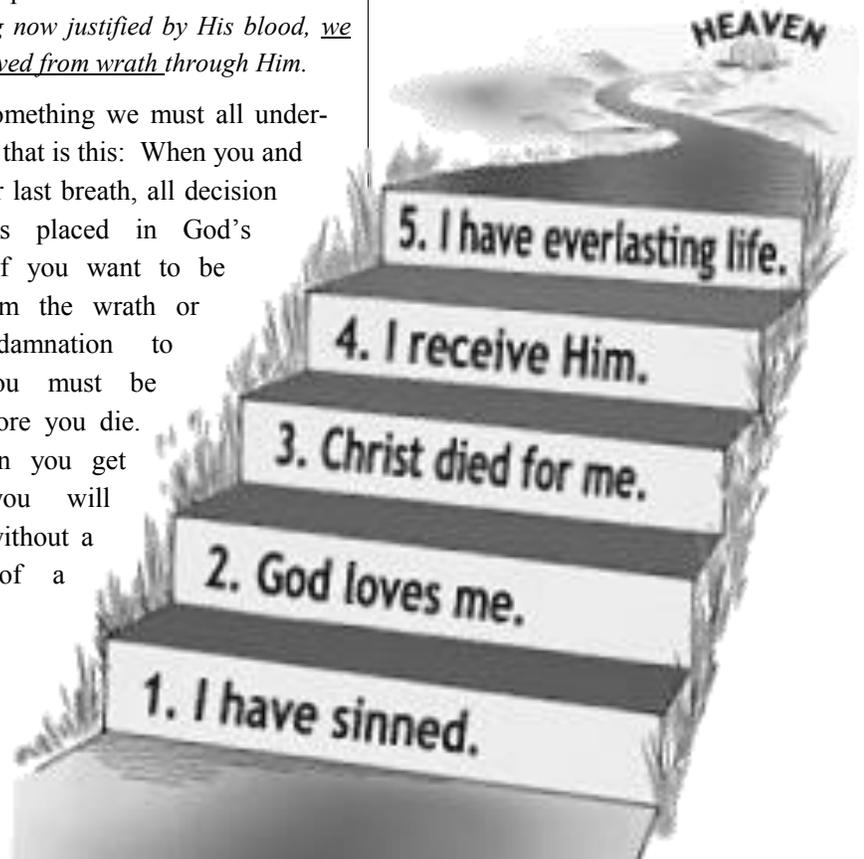
No one gets out of this world alive. No one! Not one soul will ever slip past Almighty God. Not one! All of us will come face to face with God.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 states:** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...*

**John wrote:** *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God... Revelation 20:12*

With those important facts in mind, let me remind you that the most important thing you can do (before you are thrust into eternity and stand before a perfect, holy, and righteous God) is to ask Jesus

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to save you.

The Bible was written, “so that ye may know that ye have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).

Before you can get saved, you have to first realize that you are a sinner. If you do not realize you are a sinner, you will not recognize your need for a Savior. The Bible says we “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Secondly, you must repent of your sins. Repentance is an old English word that describes a willingness to:

- ◆ Turn from our sin
- ◆ To stop trusting in our own works to save us

It literally means a complete U-turn on the road of life—a change of heart and a change of mind. It means that you are willing to stop trying to become righteous (perfect) and fully trust that Jesus became your righteousness.

*For He (God) hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor 5:21*

Jesus didn’t just take my sin away; He literally became my sin. Then He suffered the wrath of God for my sin. He became what I was so I could become what He was.

Finally, to believe that Jesus took your place—became your sin—means to be willing to receive.

*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (the right) to become the sons (family) of God... John 1:12*

To truly receive Jesus Christ is to trust in and depend on Him alone to be the Lord of our lives here and now and our Savior for all eternity.

It takes more than knowledge (the devil knows about Jesus and trembles).

It takes more than agreement that the knowledge we have is accurate (the devil

agrees that Jesus is Lord).

What it takes is to fully and only trust in Jesus Christ for eternal life. The requirements for eternal life are not based on what you can do, but on what Jesus Christ has already done. He stands ready to exchange his perfection for your imperfection.

According to Jesus Christ, those who realize they are sinners, repent of their sins and trusting in self to become perfect in God’s eyes, and receive Him as Savior and Lord are “born again” (John 3:3)—not physically, but spiritually.

The reality of our salvation is not dependent on our feelings, but rather on the promise of the Savior who says:

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24).*

**Do you believe?**

**END**

## The Amish Voice

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### Comments and Prayers Welcome!

1. If you have comments, ideas, suggestions, questions, prayer requests, or might want to contribute a possible article for the Amish Voice, please let us know.
2. If you enjoy the Amish Voice and would like to help us with the cost of printing and postage, or if you know of others who might benefit from the Amish Voice, please contact us.
3. Please pray for us and with us that we would all grow nearer to God in 2016.



#### Do you struggle with lust or other sins and addictions?

*To Kill a Lion*, written by Bruce Lengeman, is designed to help men find the roots of their sexual addiction. The theme is, “Men cry out, I know it is wrong, but why can’t I stop!” The book is for both counselors and strugglers. *To Kill a Lion* will help men understand their

own sexuality and what makes it operate “out of alignment” with God’s design. You’ll learn why it is healthy to be sexual as a man, but in a pure and Godly way. Though this book was not written for women, many are reading it and getting understanding of things they never knew about sexuality.

To order, call us at (419) 962-1515 or mail a check to “The Amish Voice, PO Box 128, Savannah, OH 44874.

The price of the book is \$15 (includes S&H).

## Readers Respond

### Response #1

*The following is a response to an article we printed in the September 2015 issue, called Fornication, Adultery, and Homosexuality.*

**D. Miller:** I beg and plead with the Amish Voice, please, for Christ Jesus' sake, unto the glory and praise of Almighty God the Father, our Creator, please don't publish about such perversion.

Read Ephesians chapter three, and especially verses three and twelve. There may be many innocent young girls and boys who have never heard of any kind of perversion, until they may read what is published in the so-called Amish Voice. What a shame. What a shame. Please! Please! Please publish and distribute only the New Testament, the gospel of Christ Jesus our Redeemer. You could set up tables at shopping malls, schools, anywhere Almighty God would open up doors. I believe I would be willing to help with money.

**Joe Keim:** Thank you D. Miller for

taking the time to write. We do take your response seriously. I realize that topics, such as the one I wrote about in September are very sensitive. However, it is also important for you to know that not everyone felt quite the same way you did. A large number of parents ordered the set of books we offered — Teaching and Equipping Our Children for Life.

I would love to hear from the parents who are going through the books with their children. If you would rather not have us publish your response, please let us know.

Lastly, let us not forget that God has plenty to say about the *gift* and *curse* of sexuality.

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**Anonymous:** Please do not send any more of these foolish questions and vain babblings . . . . Print the Holy Scriptures, please. No more and no less. All commentary or commentaries are foolish and vain babblings.

**Joe Keim:** I'm sorry to hear you feel that way, Anonymous. In Acts 17:11, the Bible says: *These were more noble than*

*those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

The Bereans listened to Paul as he taught in the synagogue. Every day, they searched the Scriptures, saying, "Let's check out the teaching Paul's giving. Let's consider what he's saying as it relates to the Scriptures." And because the Bereans searched the Scriptures daily, they have been noted throughout the ages as being noble.

It is our goal and passion to challenge and encourage men and women to study the Word of God, to compare what we write with the Scriptures, and to let us know when we write something contrary to the Scriptures.

Every week, a group of us gathers to pray for those who write and read the articles in this publication. We are very much aware that we must stand before God and give an account. Please pray for us and feel free to write to the Amish Voice.

We would love to hear from you! —Joe Keim

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## Join Our Amish Voice Conference Call!

Join us for a live conference call on the first Sunday of every month at 8:00 p.m. EST.

Simply dial **(302) 202-1110**, and then enter the conference code **409703**. Join us in discussion or just listen to the call!

Some of our future conference calls will be taken from topics in the Plowman Academy's ABC study.



You can also call in and listen to some of our past conference calls:

- ◆ The Family Altar
- ◆ The Holy Spirit
- ◆ God the Father
- ◆ Jesus Christ
- ◆ The Lord's Supper

The recordings are about an hour long. To listen to our past recordings, dial: **(641) 715-3800** and enter pin # **89752**.

After you listen to a conference call recording, leave us a message and tell us what you think!

### Upcoming conference calls:

**February 07: New Birth:** What does the Bible say?

**March 06: Obedience**



As the world continues to turn its back on God, we want to take a look at what the future holds according to the One who is the Beginning and the End—God! We hope you enjoy and benefit from this series, courtesy of Middletown Bible Church. Follow along, fill in the blanks, and look up! May we all be ready for the return of Jesus Christ!

**You Will Need a Bible for This Lesson**

**The Rapture**

*The Story of Enoch*

Enoch was a man who lived in this world even before the time of Noah. Enoch had a most unusual life story. Something happened to him that was very unique. In Genesis chapter 5 we have the names of different men (like Adam, Seth and Methuselah) who lived in the days before the great flood. Read Genesis chapter 5, verses 5, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 20. What are the last three words in each of these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

All of these men died! Methuselah was the oldest man who ever lived. How old was he when he died (Genesis 5:27)? \_\_\_\_\_ These men all died, but there is one man mentioned in this chapter who did not die. Something very unusual and something very special happened to this man and he never died!

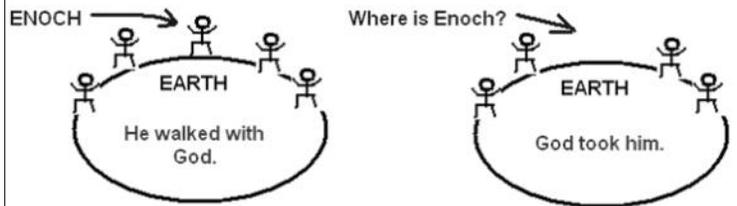
We learn about this man in Genesis 5:21-24. His name was Enoch. Did Enoch fight against God and disobey God, or did he love God and walk with God? (Genesis 5:22)? \_\_\_\_\_

The days when Enoch walked upon the earth were not easy were very was going to judge the whole world by sending a great flood. But in the middle of this wicked world there was a man who pleased God and walked with God. What happened to this man? \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible tells us what happened to Enoch in Genesis 5:24: "And Enoch \_\_\_\_\_ with God: and he was

\_\_\_\_\_ for God \_\_\_\_\_ him."

Enoch was walking with God and all of a sudden HE WAS NOT! He was, and then suddenly he was not! All of a sudden he disappeared because God took him and removed him from the earth!



**FIRST HE WAS THERE . . . . THEN HE WAS NOT.**

We also learn about Enoch in Hebrews 11:5. According to this verse, did Enoch ever see death? \_\_\_\_\_

We are told that Enoch was TRANSLATED (Hebrews 11:5). This means that he was moved from one place to another. He was quickly moved from earth to heaven! Enoch WAS NOT FOUND! Those who were still on the earth could not find him because God took him!

Was Enoch a man who pleased God or displeased God (Hebrews 11:5)? \_\_\_\_\_

Was Enoch a man who believed God (Hebrews 11:6)? \_\_\_\_\_

Enoch was a man who never died. What happened to him was very unusual! But the amazing thing is that the Bible tells us that what happened to Enoch is going to happen again, perhaps very soon! And this time it will not happen to just one man, it will happen to many people. There will be a whole group of people who will never see death. There

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will be a whole group of people who will suddenly be removed from the earth and they will not be found by those who remain on the earth. This unusual future event is called THE RAPTURE.

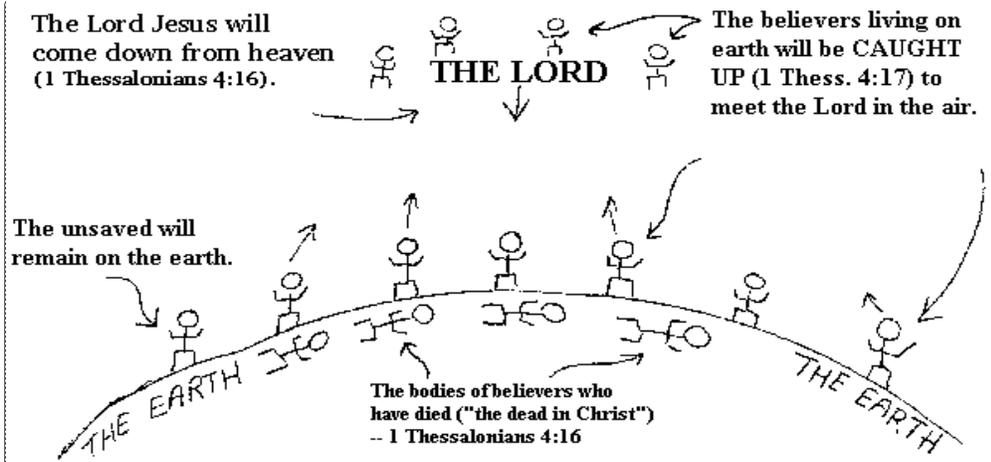
### What does the word RAPTURE really mean?

Christians often talk about the RAPTURE and we need to understand what this word means. The word RAPTURE means "TO BE CAUGHT UP, to be snatched up, to be taken or carried away suddenly, to be taken away quickly by force." The word is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be -- together with them in the clouds to meet Lord in the air."

This same Greek word [harpatzo] is used elsewhere in the New Testament:

- 1) In Acts 8:39 this word is used. We learn that the Lord "C\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more." Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, and when they came out of the water, suddenly Philip was gone! God had moved him from one place to another place.
- 2) In 2 Corinthians 12:2 this word is used of Paul who was caught to the third heaven" (see also verse 4).
- 3) This word is used of the Lord Jesus (the "MAN CHILD") who was \_\_\_\_\_ unto God when He ascended back to heaven (Revelation 12:5). We also read about the day when Christ was taken up into heaven in Acts 1:2, 9.

Enoch was removed from earth and taken to heaven. Someday Christ will come and remove a whole group of people



from the earth and take them to heaven. Christ will also raise up the bodies of those Christians who have already died (such as Peter, Paul, John, George Whitefield, George Mueller, and a great host of others). The most important passage in the Bible that tells us about this is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Read these verses and consider the following diagram:

THEY (the believers coming down with the Lord) and WE (the believers walking with the Lord on earth) will meet together in the air to be with the Lord FOREVER in new bodies that will last forever! See 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

When Christ comes down from heaven (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16) there are two things that will happen.

- 1) What is the first thing that will happen (see 1 Thess. 4:16)? THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL R\_\_\_\_\_ (God will raise up their bodies).
- 2) What is the next thing that will happen (see 1 Thess. 4:17)? Those who are living when Christ returns will be C\_\_\_\_\_ u\_\_\_\_\_ (raptured) with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.

Yes, the Bible teaches that there will be a group of people living on the earth who will never SLEEP (see 1 Corinthians

15:51). This means that they will never DIE, just like Enoch did not die. The reason they will never die is because they will be CAUGHT UP to heaven just like Enoch was. If Christ were to come down from heaven today, would you be CAUGHT UP?

### Who Will Be Caught Up?

There is only one kind of person who will be "caught up" (1 Thess. 4:17). This person must "B\_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus Christ died and rose again" (1 Thess. 4:14). The Lord Jesus spoke of the rapture in John 14:3. If a person wants to take part in this great event, what must he do (John 14:1)? \_\_\_\_\_

In other words, the rapture is FOR BELIEVERS ONLY!! If a person wants to be CAUGHT UP in the air to be with Christ (John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:17), he must first COME TO CHRIST for salvation (John 6:35, 37)!

Have you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior (John 1:12)?

Have you honestly and from your heart said to God that you are a sinner and that you need a Savior?

Have you confessed that the Lord Jesus Christ died, was buried and was raised up from the dead because of your sin and

that He took your place and received God's judgment of sin for you?

Have you put all of your trust in the Lord and in Him alone?

Are you trusting Him to be saving you from sin and from sin's penalty and power?

Do you know that He forgave all your sin?

If you have done this, then the rapture is for you! When Christ comes He will take all of the saved people. Those who are not saved will not be taken. They will remain on the earth. Every believer should be able to say this: "I know that Christ died for me and that He rose again for me and that He is coming back for me someday!"

### **Where Will The Caught Up People End Up?**

Where is Christ today? Is He in heaven or on the earth (John 14:2)? \_\_\_\_\_ He is preparing a wonderful place for His believers (John 14:2). When Christ comes again, where will He take us to be (John 14:3)? Will He take us to heaven?

If we are saved, heaven is our true home. Someday Christ is going to come to take us home (Philippians 3:20-21). Usually we think that a person must die to go to heaven. But when Christ comes He will take all living believers straight to heaven. He will do for us just what He did for Enoch!

### **How Quickly Will They Be Caught Up?**

That which happened to Enoch happened quite suddenly. One moment he was there and the next moment he was not. The rapture will also be a very sudden event. The Bible tells us that the rapture

will take place "in a \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of an \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 15:52).

The word "MOMENT" means "SPLIT-SECOND" (faster than you can snap your fingers). [Note: It is the Greek word "atom" which literally means "uncut." For example, an hour can be cut into 60 minutes and one minute can be cut into 60 seconds. An "atom" is a unit of time that can't be cut anymore because it is such a small unit. Thus "split-second" would be a good translation]. It shall also be "in the twinkling of an eye" (faster than you can blink). This event will take place very rapidly.

Suppose an unsaved young person said something like this: "There is no need to be saved now. I'll wait until the last minute. When I think Christ is coming, then I'll believe in Him and He will take me to heaven." Do you think this person's plan will really work? Why not?

### **Why Will They Be Caught Up'?**

In John 14:3 Jesus said, "I will come again." According to this verse, why will He come again (circle the correct answer)?

- To set up His kingdom on the earth
- To judge the wicked and send them to hell
- To remove Satan from the earth
- To receive believers unto Himself to take them to heaven

Today, we are ABSENT FROM THE LORD. The Lord Jesus Christ is in His resurrected and glorified body in heaven at the right hand of God. He is in heaven and we are on the earth (even though as God He has promised to be with us at all times — Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5).

When Jesus comes for us, then we will be PRESENT WITH THE LORD and have

an even more wonderful relationship with Him (see 1 Thessalonians 4:17--"then shall we ever be \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord"; see also 2 Corinthians 5:8). Is there a difference between talking to your grandmother on the phone when she is miles away and actually being with her? Christ is coming so that we can be with Him!

### **When Will They Be Caught Up?**

When will the rapture take place? Today? Tomorrow? Next month? Next year? First we need to understand what God is doing in the world today. Christ is building His church (Matthew 16:18). This means that every person who is saved becomes a member of Christ's church (see Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13).

Think of a motel. If the sign on the motel says VACANCY, this means that there is still room for people. The motel is saying this: "Please come and spend the night with us. We have room for you." If the sign said, "NO VACANCY," this would mean that the motel is all filled up and there is no more room. The motel is saying this: "Sorry, you are too late. There is no more room! "

Today, God has a sign that says VACANCY. God is saying this: "You are invited to be saved and to become a member of the church. There is room at the cross for you. If you believe on Christ, you can be a member of the church." There is coming a day, however, when God's church will be filled up and there will be no more room for any other members. There will be a NO VACANCY sign then: "Sorry, you are too late. You cannot be a member of the church. There is no more room for you! " When the church is all filled up, Christ will come and take the church (believers) to heaven.

**Continued next page**

**Prophecy, cont. from previous page**

When will the rapture take place? We do not know. It is possible that there is only one more person that needs to be saved before the Church is complete. Maybe there are 10 more people or 100 people or 1,000 people that need to be saved before the Church is complete. For about 2,000 years, God has been saving people and making them members of His Church. But we do not know when He will finish building His church.

The Lord Jesus could come at any time. We know He will come (John 14:3) but we do not know exactly when. Even Paul thought that he might be alive to experience the rapture (see 1 Thess. 14:17 and notice the word "WE"). Today we can pray the same prayer that John once prayed: "Even so, \_\_\_\_\_ Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20). The rapture could happen at any time and we need to be ready.

**Are You Ready To Be Caught Up?**

The first thing that you should do to be ready for the rapture is to make sure you are saved. If you are not sure that you are saved, be sure to talk to someone so that they can help you understand how to be saved.

If we are saved, we need to be ready for the Lord's coming also. The story is told about a certain man who visited a small one-room country school. He made the promise that he would give a prize to the student whose desk was found in the very best order when he came back. He gave no indication, not even a hint, when he would return. He had no more than left the room when one of the students announced that she meant to win the prize. She was a girl whose desk was usually a mess. Her schoolmates laughed at her saying, "Why Mary, your desk is always out of order. It's never clean." "But, starting right now," Mary responded, "I'm going to clean it

every Monday morning." "But, supposing our visitor comes at the end of the week?" someone asked. "Well then," Mary said, "I'll clean it up every morning." "But, what if he comes at the end of the day?" another questioned. At that thought, Mary was silent for a moment. Then her face lit up and she said, "I know what I'll do. I'll just keep it clean all the time!"

Christ may come at any time. Therefore we must keep our lives clean ALL THE TIME!

The Apostle John wrote these words: "And now little children, \_\_\_\_\_ in Him (stay in a right relationship with the Lord and keep your life clean ALL THE TIME and use 1 John 1:9 whenever you need to); that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be \_\_\_\_\_ before Him at His coming (at the RAPTURE)."-- SEE 1 JOHN 2:28.

When you have guests about to come over to your home, your family makes sure that everything is ready. The house is prepared for their coming. The rooms are cleaned up. Everything is put in its place. Everything is neat and tidy. Food items have been purchased and prepared. Everything is ready for your guests.

Our heavenly Guest is coming, but we do not know when. It could be soon. We need to be ready always. He is not coming to stay in our home. He is coming to take us to His home. We need to be ready and prepared for His coming. When He comes we do not want to be found in the wrong place, doing wrong things, saying wrong things. Wouldn't you want Him to find you serving Him, pleasing Him, thanking Him and obeying Him?

**WILL YOU BE READY?  
IT MAY BE TODAY!!**

*These Bible studies are published by the MIDDLETOWN BIBLE CHURCH, Connecticut*

<b>THE RAPTURE</b>	
<b>As taught by Jesus (John 14:1-3)</b>	<b>As taught by Paul (1 Thess. 4:13-18)</b>
<b>Comforting Words</b>	
"Let not your heart be troubled."	"Comfort one another with these words."
<b>The Necessity of Personal Faith</b>	
"Ye believe in God, believe also in Me."	"If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him."
<b>We Can Take Christ at His Word</b>	
"If it were not so, I would have told you."	"This we say unto you by the Word of the Lord."
<b>The Promise of His Coming</b>	
"I will come again."	"The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven."
<b>The Removal from Earth</b>	
"and receive you unto Myself."	"We...shall be caught up... to meet the Lord in the air."
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"That where I am, there ye may be also."	"and so shall we ever be with the Lord."



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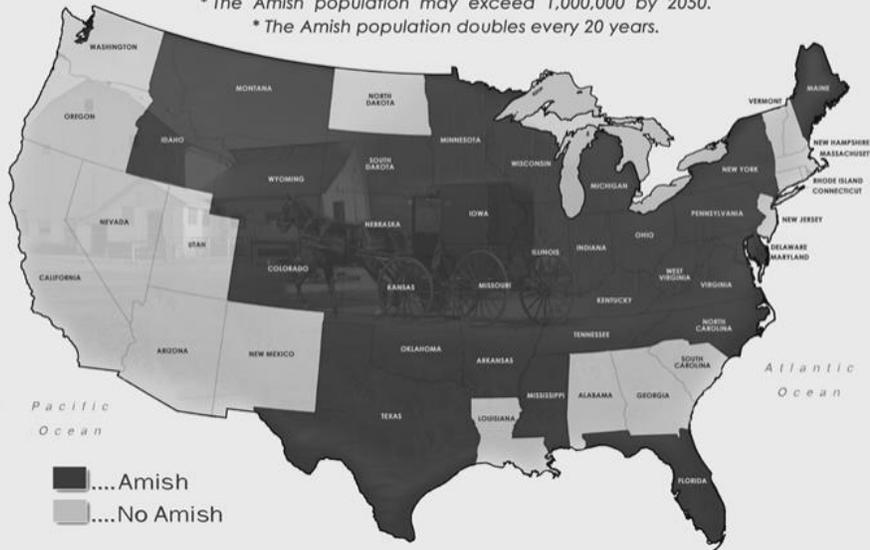
# Amish Population by State

State/Province	Settlements	Districts	Est Population	State/Province	Settlements	Districts	Est Population
Ohio	54	513	69,255	Nebraska	5	6	810
Pennsylvania	54	465	68,820	Oklahoma	3	6	810
Indiana	22	364	50,955	Colorado	3	5	675
Wisconsin	50	138	17,665	Maine	5	5	675
New York	52	128	17,280	Montana	4	4	540
Michigan	43	109	14,495	Arkansas	2	2	270
Missouri	43	96	11,230	West Virginia	3	3	225
Kentucky	43	86	11,010	Mississippi	1	1	150
Iowa	23	61	8,785	North Carolina	1	1	135
Illinois	18	52	7,280	South Dakota	1	1	95
Ontario	16	38	5,130	Florida	1	1	75
Minnesota	23	36	4,535	Texas	1	1	75
Tennessee	9	22	2,750	Idaho	1	1	75
Kansas	7	15	2,025	Wyoming	1	1	75
Delaware	1	10	1,500	New Brunswick	1	1	20
Maryland	3	11	1,485	Vermont	1	1	15
Virginia	6	8	1,080				
<b>Total</b>				<b>501</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>300,000</b>	

(Continued on next Column)

## There are 300,000 Amish Living in the U.S. and Canada

- \* A New Amish Community is formed, on average, every 3-1/2 weeks.
- \* The Amish population may exceed 1,000,000 by 2050.
- \* The Amish population doubles every 20 years.



- **Population:** The Amish population expanded 20.2% since 2010. It doubles about every 18 to 20 years.
- **Settlements.** Seventy-four new settlements (geographical communities) were established since 2010.
- **Districts:** Since 2010, the number of districts grew from 1,826 to 2,193, for a net gain of 367.
- **Note:** The data includes all Amish groups that use horse-and-buggy transportation, but excludes car-driving groups such as the Beachy Amish and Amish Mennonites.

The information on this page was taken from: "Amish Population Change 2010-2015, Summary." Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College. [https://groups.ets.edu/amishstudies/files/2015/08/Population\\_Change\\_2010-2015.pdf](https://groups.ets.edu/amishstudies/files/2015/08/Population_Change_2010-2015.pdf).

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(see other side for details)

## Amish Population Change Summary, 2010-2015

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Settlements	427	448	463	469	480	500
Districts	1,826	1,913	2,007	2,056	2,119	2,192
Est Population	249,495	261,150	273,710	281,675	290,090	300,000
# of States	28	28	30	30	30	31
# of Provinces	1	1	1	1	1	2

## 150 Questions Answered From the Bible, Part 2 of 3

51. **What is grace?** Grace is God's kindness to us when we deserve punishment. (Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Romans 3:22-24; 5:1-8, 19-21; Ephesians 2:8-9)

52. **What is the work of Christ?** The work of Christ is to keep perfectly the law of God and to suffer the punishment due for our sins. (11 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:10; Hebrews 5:8-9; 9:11-14; 10:11-22)

53. **Can anyone be saved by his own works?** No one can be saved by his own works. (Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7)

54. **Did Christ ever sin?** No, Christ was holy, sinless, and undefiled.

(Isaiah 53:9; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:21-23)

55. **How could the Son of God suffer?** Christ, the Son of God, became man that He might obey and suffer in our nature. (Romans 5:1-21; Philippians 2:7-8; 3:10; Hebrews 2:9; 5:8-9)

56. **What is meant by the atonement?** The atonement is Christ's satisfying divine justice by His sufferings and death in the place of sinners.

(Romans 5:8-11)

57. **What do we gain from the work of Christ?** God regenerates, justifies, and sanctifies those who believe in Christ. (I Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 2:9-11)

58. **What is justification?** Justification is God's forgiving me and treating me just as if I had never sinned. (Romans 3:24-25; 8:1; II Corinthians 5:19, 21)

61. **What are the two parts of sanctification?** The two parts of sanctification are dying to sin and living to righteousness. (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:5; Romans 8:13)

62. **For whom did Christ obey and suffer?** Christ obeyed and suffered for sinners. (Romans 5:8)

63. **What kind of death did Christ die?** Christ died the painful and shameful death of the cross. (Luke 23:33-38; Galatians 3:13; Philippians 2:8)

64. **Who will be saved?** Whoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved. (Isaiah 55:7; Luke 13:3; 24:47; John 3:16; 6:47)

65. **What does it mean to repent?** To repent is to be sorry for sin and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God. (II Chronicles 7:14; II Corinthians 7:9)

66. **What is faith in Christ?** Faith in Christ is trusting in Him alone for salvation. (Romans 3:22-25; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9; Hebrews 12:2)



59. **How am I justified?** I am justified by faith in the work of Christ and on the grounds of His righteousness. (Acts 13:34; Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:25-28)

60. **What is sanctification?** Sanctification is God's making me holy in heart and behavior. (I Corinthians 6:11, 19-20; Ephesians 1:3-4, 4:22-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; II Timothy 2:19-21; Hebrews 13:12)

Turn  
Page...

67. **Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?** No, I cannot repent and believe in Christ without the help of God's Holy Spirit. (John 3:5-6; 16:7-11; I Corinthians 2:9-12; Titus 3:5)
68. **Does Christ care for little children?** Yes, for He says in Mark 10:14, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:14)
69. **How long has it been since Christ died?** Christ died more than 1,900 years ago.
70. **How were people saved before the coming of Christ?** People were saved by believing in a Saviour to come. (Hebrews 11:13)
71. **How did people show their faith before the coming of Christ?** People showed their faith by offering sacrifices on God's altar. (Hebrews 11:4)
72. **What did the sacrifices represent?** The sacrifices represented Christ, the Lamb of God, Who was to die for sinners. (John 1:29, 36; Hebrews 9:11-14)
73. **How many offices does Christ have?** Christ has three offices. (Acts 3:22; Hebrews 5:5-6; Revelation 19:16)
74. **What are Christ's offices?** Christ's offices are prophet, priest, and king. (Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 4:18; Acts 3:22; Hebrews 4:14-15; 5:5-6; Revelation 19:16)
75. **How is Christ a prophet?** Christ teaches us the will of God. (Luke 4:18; John 15:15)
76. **How is Christ a priest?** Christ died for our sins and pleads with God for us. (Romans 3:26; Hebrews 7:25-27; 9:14, 28)
77. **How is Christ a king?** Christ rules over us, defends us, and will establish His Kingdom on earth. (Psalm 27:1-5; Isaiah 33:22; I Corinthians 15:25)
78. **How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?** God gave ten commandments. (Exodus 20:1-17)
79. **What are the Ten Commandments sometimes called?** They are called the Decalogue.
80. **What do the first four commandments teach?** The first four commandments teach our duty to God. (Exodus 20:1-11; Matthew 22:37-38)
81. **What do the last six commandments teach?** The last six commandments teach our duty to our fellowmen. (Exodus 20:12-17; Matthew 22:39)
82. **What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?** The sum of the Ten Commandments is to love God with all my heart, and my neighbor as myself. (Matthew 22:37-40)
83. **Who is your neighbor?** All my fellowmen are my neighbors. (Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 6:10)
84. **Is God pleased with those who love and obey Him?** Yes, for He says in Proverbs 8:17, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." (Proverbs 8:17)
85. **Is God displeased with those who do not love and obey Him?** Yes, for He says in Psalm 7:11, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." (Psalm 7:11)
86. **What is the first commandment?** The first commandment is "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)
87. **What does the first commandment teach us?** The first commandment teaches us to worship God alone. (Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 26:17; Matthew 4:10)
88. **What is the second commandment?** The second commandment is, "Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." (Exodus 20:4-6)
89. **What does the second commandment teach us?** The second commandment teaches us to worship God in a proper manner, and to avoid idolatry. (Exodus 20:23; Deuteronomy 6:13-18; 12:30-32)
90. **What is the third commandment?** The third commandment is "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Exodus 20:7)
91. **What does the third commandment teach us?** The third commandment teaches us to reverence God's name, Word, and works. (Psalms 29:2; 107:21-22; 138:2; Revelation 15:34)
92. **What is the fourth commandment?** The fourth commandment is "Remember the sabbath day (last day of the week) to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8-11)
93. **What does the fourth commandment teach us?** The fourth commandment teaches us that one day of the week is God's special day. (Leviticus 19:30; Deut. 5:12)

94. **On which day of the week do Christians worship?** Christians worship on the first day of the week, called the Lord's Day. (John 20:19-26; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2)
95. **Why is it called the Lord's Day?** On that day Christ rose from the dead. (Matthew 28:1-6; Mark 16:1-6; Luke 24:1-6; John 20:1-9)
96. **How should the Lord's Day be spent?** The Lord's Day should be spent in prayer and praise, in hearing

and reading God's Word, and in doing good to our fellowman, (Leviticus 23:3; Psalm 92:1-2; Isaiah 58:13; Luke 13:10-13; Acts 15:21; 16:13; 17:2)

97. **What is the fifth commandment?** The fifth commandment is "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)
98. **What does the fifth commandment teach us?** The fifth commandment teaches us to love and obey our

parents. (Romans 13:1; Ephesians 6:1-3)

99. **What is the sixth commandment?** The sixth commandment is "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13)
100. **What does the sixth commandment teach us?** The sixth commandment teaches us to avoid anger and injury to others. (Genesis 9:6; Matthew 5:22; Galatians 5:15; 1 John 3:15)

**More to come in the next Issue!**

**END**

**Like the Amish, cont. from back cover**

not venerate the Virgin Mary, as in the Orthodox and Catholic faiths.

Orthodox believers, Greek Catholics, Evangelists and one family of Jehovah's Witnesses also inhabit the village. There are no religious conflicts between the various groups, Shtepula says.

Unlike the U.S. Amish, who dress plainly, the members of this Ukrainian community prefer simple cuts but bright colors. The women wear long skirts and cover their hair with a headscarf. A married woman wears two headscarves.

The men and boys wear flat caps, which has earned them the nickname kashketnyky –from the word kashket, meaning a flat cap.

The children attend primary school but never leave the village to continue studies in a college. The members of the community never travel – except when taking on temporary jobs in the cities.

Their houses in Stinka are simple, with whitewashed walls. The windows are draped with clean, white tulle curtains. Life for them is frugal – they don't have electricity and water supply, and wash

clothes in the Dnister River or in washtubs in their yards. They cook on wood-burning stoves, grow vegetables, and keep cattle and poultry.

In one concession to modernity, some have begun using mobile phones a few years ago, but lacking electricity, they have to charge them at neighbors' houses.

The villagers don't regularly visit and tend the graves of their deceased relatives, as in the Ukrainian tradition. The one exception is the grave of Derkach, the founder of the community. Expecting his resurrection, pious villagers have been visiting his burial place every day for six years now.

The community's men are the sole bread winners by taking jobs in the cities of Lviv, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk, but never too far away. They are skilled in working with stone and making fences. Although they do not have electricity in their homes, the men do use electrical tools and devices when working for others.

The earned money gets divided between all the families, and a tithe goes to the community budget.

"The biggest family in our village has 18

children," Shtepula says. "They say 'There shall be as many as God gives us.'"

Shtepula recalled an old man from the neighboring village of Yavoriv who had 70 grandchildren. He didn't remember their names but could recognize them among other children.

Living as they do in a community apart, far from the conflict in the Donbas, the current crisis in the country has had little impact on the community – they are aware of it, but they are against using firearms and will not serve in the Ukrainian army for religious reasons. Some of them were imprisoned in Soviet times for their refusal to serve in the army.

They also don't vote in the presidential or parliamentary elections. Locally, they do vote for the village head.

Although the community is not active in national politics, some do subscribe to the newspaper *Ukraina Moloda* (Young Ukraine) to keep up-to-date with the news in the rest of the country.

"I can talk about any political topic with my 'Amish' neighbor Vasyly," she says.

**END**

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# Current Resident



## They Live Like Amish, but They are Not

—Yuliana Romanyshyn

*This article was first published in the Kyiv Post, a newspaper in the Ukraine, and is reprinted with permission.*

Students sit in a classroom in the village of Stinka in Ternopil Oblast. Almost 80 percent of the students in the school come from the local religious community, mistakenly referred to as Amish.

There are many mentions of Ukrainian Amish community in western Ukraine, but they are wrong.

Small religious communities living in Ternopil and Ivano-Frankinsk oblasts are identified as Amish, but are not.

They are closed Christian communities who have no name for themselves and live in rural settlements along the Dniester River.

Their neighbors call them Amish for their similarity with the renowned traditionalist movement, but the Ukrainian communities are autonomous

and have developed independently from similar communities in the West. They were founded in the 1950s by a man called Ivan Derkach, but not much else is known. The religious beliefs are close to Baptists.



They refuse to be photographed and won't speak to journalists.

The only way to learn more is to talk with those living next to them in the villages of Stinka, Kosmyryn, Snovydiv, Mostyshche and Budzyn.

Valentyna Shtepula, a resident of the village of Stinka and the principal of a local school, lives next to the reclusive members of religious community. At least 1,800 of the village's 3,020 residents are from this mysterious community.

Shtepula's school is the biggest in Buchach District in Ternopil Oblast, with 630 pupils enrolled. That's mainly due to the rapid growth of the religious community – at least 90 babies were born in Stinka last year.

“They are Christians, but they don't go to church,” Shtepula says about her neighbors. “I know that they are a rather closed community, so women pray apart from the men and children.”

According to school principal, they use the Bible while praying at home, but being a Protestant denomination, they do

**Continued inside back cover**