



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 39 No. 4

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17)

April 2015

THE KING OF TERRORS

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him . . . Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet . . . His confidence, shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors” (Job 18:5–6, 11, 14).

Since the days of Bush “two” (George W.), America has been embroiled in a phony fiasco called “the War on Terror.” This cutsey piece of “double speak,” used by all the trucklers in the news media, was adopted to continue the tradition of propaganda that has been put out by both political parties since 1933 (e.g., the War on Crime, the War on Poverty, the War on Drugs, etc.). *No such “wars” ever existed.*

You see, wars are fought against *human enemies*, with *territories* being occupied by *armies*; at least that was the case for more than 5,000 years of human history before the nonsense above showed up. But all Presidents since FDR have been controlled by the news media when they talk, because the people who put them into office believe what they read in newspapers and magazines, what they hear on the radio, and what they see on television.

Unfortunately, Americans, as a nation, have long since given up consulting what *God says* about a matter *in His written word*, but if they are going to be occupied with “terrorism” and “terrorists,” then they had better know something about the one whom God Almighty called “**the king of terrors.**” Imagine some silly, deluded nut declaring “war” on terror without notifying its King of the decision. Neither Bush nor Obama (though he is loathe to call his Moslem buddies “terrorists”) know who “**the king of terrors**” is; neither do 90% of Americans.

“**The king of terrors**” is a reference to “**the son of perdition**” (2 Thess. 2:3) who will soon show up to lead the UN. As the “**profane**

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The Odd Couple

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

Back on October 28, 1965, during Vatican II, Pope Paul VI issued what is known as the *Nostra Aetate*. Among other things, it stated this:

"The Church regards with ESTEEM also the *Moslems*. They adore the ONE GOD"

What "God" would that be "Papa"? Would it be the God who said His name was *Jehovah* in the Old Testament (Exod. 6:3) and *Jesus* in the New Testament (1 John 5:20), or would that "God" be "the God" who has no name at all and simply calls himself "the God" (the word *Allah* in Arabic is not the name of God at all; it just means "the God")? Would "the one God" whom the Moslems "adore" be "**the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**" (2 Cor. 11:31; Eph. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:3), or would he be "**THE GOD [Allah!] of this world**" (2 Cor. 4:4)? According to Mohammed, "Allah" never begat a Son (Sura 23:89, 37:150, 25:2, 2:116, 112:1-3, 17:111, 19:34, 18:4). According to Mohammed and the *Koran*, if you believe God had a Son, you are a blaspheming sinner whom God has cursed to be *fuel for the fires of Hell* (Sura 2:24, 72:14-15, 21:29, 98, 17:39, 66:9, 98:6).

You "esteem also the Moslems" because "they adore the one God," do you? Well then, you esteem a bunch of *devils*. James 2:19—"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: **THE DEVILS ALSO BELIEVE, and tremble.**" But on the "Holy Papa" goes: ". . . They adore the one God, living and subsisting in Himself; merciful and all-powerful, the Creator of heaven and earth, who has spoken to men"

How? By a fornicating, sex-obsessed, child-molesting military dictator who couldn't control his gonads? You'd better go back and read your Bible again (Heb. 1:1-2)!

The Moslems "adore . . . the Creator of heaven and earth," do they? Well, according to "**the holy scriptures,**" the "Creator of heaven and earth" would be the *Lord Jesus Christ*.

"**For by HIM** [the Son of God who redeems us from our sins by His blood—Col. 1:13-14] **were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth**" (Col. 1:16).

"**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God All things were made by HIM; and without him was not any thing made that was made And the Word was made flesh,**



Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

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and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 3, 14).

“ . . . They take pains to submit wholeheartedly to even His inscrutable decrees, just as Abraham, with whom the faith of Islam takes pleasure in linking itself, submitted to God”

You gonna tell your Moslem buddies whom you “esteem” so much *how* Abraham “submitted” himself “to God,” “Papa”? Well, he sure didn’t do it by praying five times a day toward Mecca, fasting at Ramadan, giving alms, repeating the *Shahada*, or engaging in “jihad.” **“The holy scriptures”** (1 Tim. 3:15) say, **“Abraham BELIEVED GOD, and it was counted to him for righteousness”** (Gal. 3:6); **“BY FAITH Abraham . . . obeyed”** (Heb. 11:8). But then, what Pope ever knew enough about imputed righteousness (Rom. 4:20–25) to teach a daily vacation Bible school on the subject?

“ . . . Though they do not acknowledge Jesus as God, they revere Him as a prophet” Stupendous, absolutely tremendous. So did every Christ-rejecting Jew in Jerusalem on “Palm Sunday” (Matt. 21:10–11); what of it? If you don’t believe in the Jesus of that Book (and I don’t mean the “Isa” of the *Koran*), you have **“another Jesus”** (2 Cor. 11:4) and are *damned* (Gal. 1:8).

“ . . . THEY ALSO HONOR MARY, His virgin Mother; at times they even call on her with DEVOTION” In other words, although they won’t accept Jesus as the Son of God or God in the flesh, they’ll “venerate” Mary just like any pagan Roman Catholic will.

“ . . . In addition, they await the day of judgment when God will render their deserts to all those who have been raised from the dead” Hey, “Papa”! tell them who the Judge is at that judgment. It won’t be Mohammed or Allah.

“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, IN THAT HE HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD” (Acts 17:30).

No Moslem believes God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. He doesn’t even believe He died on the cross for anyone’s sins (Sura 23:50 note 1723, 3:54, 5:75 note 724).

“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men BY JESUS CHRIST according to my gospel” (Rom. 2:16).

“For the Father judgeth no man, BUT HATH COMMITTED ALL JUDGMENT UNTO THE SON” (John 5:22).

And no Moslem believes that either, because no Moslem believes Jesus was God’s Son (Sura 3:58, 9:30, 17:39, 2:116, 72:3, 6:102, 37:152).

“ . . . Finally, they value the moral life (slavery, polygamy, pederasty, murder in the name of Allah, lying to advance Islam, prostitution under the guise of a “temporary marriage,” raping women who don’t wear the burqa or who are outside their house without their husbands or fathers or who are not

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The Odd Couple

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Moslems, burning churches, beating their wives, etc., etc.) and worship God especially through prayer (see Isa. 1:15), almsgiving (see Matt. 6:1), and fasting (see Jer. 14:12). Since in the course of centuries not a few quarrels and hostilities have arisen between Christians and Moslems, this sacred synod urges all to forget the past and to work sincerely for mutual understanding and to preserve as well as to promote together for the benefit of all mankind social justice and moral welfare, as well as peace and freedom."

Here is Allah's command by his "prophet" to every good Moslem:

"Say to those who disbelieve [that would include every Catholic, Jew, Baptist, Hindu, Lutheran, Buddhist, Episcopalian, Greek Orthodox, atheist, Methodist, etc.—*any non-Moslem*] . . . And FIGHT WITH THEM until there is no more persecution and RELIGION SHOULD BE ONLY FOR ALLAH" (Sura 8:38–39). In other words, fight anybody who is not a Moslem until everybody professes Islam.

"When ye encounter the infidels [i.e., the unbelievers], strike off their heads till ye have made a great slaughter among them, and of the rest make fast the fetters [i.e., *make them prisoners*]" (Sura 47:4). How's *that* for "peace and freedom."

"Fight those who do not believe in Allah . . . nor follow the religion of truth, OUT OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE BOOK [who are they? Look at the next verse] . . . And the JEWS say . . . and the CHRISTIANS say . . . they imitate the saying of those who disbelieved before; MAY ALLAH DESTROY THEM"; Christians and Jews are to be fought "until they pay the tax in acknowledgement of superiority and they are in a STATE OF SUBJECTION" (Sura 9:29–30).

Now, 1965 was when "Mary" (Roman Catholicism) began "courting" "Mohammed" (Islam). Not only did it ignore everything the *Koran* says about destroying "infidels," it conveniently swept under the rug 125 curses by the Roman Catholic Church against every Moslem on earth (the "Holy" Council of Trent), and no Pope can become Pope without swearing he believes every one of those curses are still in effect (the Tridentine Confession). What you have, then, is "Mary" and "Mohammed" sitting at the same table *speaking lies* (see Dan. 11:27). Nevertheless, "Mary" continues to try to "get her John" (Rev. 17:1–2, 9, 18).

The material I am about to give you comes from an article by T. A. McMahon entitled "Catholicism and Islam: Ties That Bind," and you can get it from Reaching Catholics for Christ, P.O. Box 7019, Bend, OR 97708 (www.reachingcatholics.org). McMahon shows you how "Mary" is trying to "tie the knot" with her suitor "Mohammed." As all couples, the two have to have some things *in common* in order to "get along."

1. Islamic prayers match Catholic prayers in their *endless repetition*. I have a set of 266 Moslem prayers; some of them call for as many as *fifty to*

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a hundred repetitions a day, just as a good Catholic has to repeat the "Our Father" and the "Hail Mary" sixteen to 153 times. Jesus Christ called such sinners "heathen" (Matt. 6:7). In fact, Mohammedans have used *prayer beads* (the Moslem "rosary") long before St. Dominic invented the Catholic rosary in 1214.

2. Both Catholics and Mohammedans believe in making "sacred pilgrimages" to "holy places." Moslems are required to make a journey to Mecca once during their life (the "hajj"), while Catholics travel to "shrines" to gain indulgences out of Purgatory.

3. When it comes to *killing* in the name of their religion, all of Mohammed's followers are taught exactly what every Pope from Gregory the Great to Pius XII taught their church members: if you die defending your country or religion, you have an automatic ticket into Heaven or Paradise (Sura 4:74, 3:157–158, 169–170; *Hadith*, Bukhari, Vol. IV, no. 46). Don't tell me, stupid; I'll tell you. I was with the Catholics "in ranks" from 1944–1947; I know what their Priests told them about dying in battle.

4. Just like Catholics, the *Mohammedans worship Mary*. McMahan writes, "From the outskirts of Cairo to Bombay to Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, hundreds of thousands of the Islamic faith have congregated wherever processions carry her statues and where the apparitions are said to appear." In Islamic faith and practice, Mary is more "revered" than Mohammed's favorite daughter, Fatima, or his favorite wife, Aisha, with whom he went to bed and committed pederasty when she was nine years old (*Hadith*, Bukhari, Vol. VII, Book 62, No. 64). Mary is the only woman to have a chapter of the *Koran* named after her. In two hadiths (one by al-Siyuti [6/395] and another by Tabarani as given by a writer named Ibn Kathir [cited by Aliah Schleifer, *Mary the Blessed Virgin of Islam*, Fons Vitae, 1998, pg. 64], Mohammed claimed Mary would be one of his wives in Paradise. Where this puts the Catholic dogma of the Perpetual Virginity of Mary is problematic, to say the least.

5. Pope John Paul II, speaking to Moslem young people way back in 1985, claimed that Catholics worshipped "the same God" as Moslems. Well, then, I guess Roman Catholics worship a pagan Arab *moon god* (see chap. 4 of *The Islamic Invasion* by Robert Morey, 1992).

6. Like Roman Catholicism, Islam is *anti-Semitic*. Moslems are commanded in the *Koran* not to take Jews for friends (Sura 5:51) and to fight against them and *kill them* (*Hadith*, Muslim Book 41 No. 6985, Bukhari Vol. IV Book 56 No 791). If you want to get a brief history of how Papal Rome treated the Jew, get the work by Arnold Rubin entitled *The Evil That Men Do* (1977) and read chapter 8 on "The Jews, the Church, and the Nazis" (see our article in the March 2013 *Bible Believers' Bulletin* on "A Jew's 'Take' on the Pope and the Holocaust").

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7. And of course, the main commonality between Catholicism and Mohammedanism is *works salvation*. It's the old "good works outweigh bad works" plan of salvation (Sura 23:102–103; paragraph 1821 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church). You can get the Holy Spirit's comment on that in Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:5 (which see).

Now those are "the spiritual bonds" that "unite" "Mary" and "Mohammed," which John Paul II said Catholics needed to "develop" with Moslems. That's the "sweet communion" from which Jews and Bible-believing Christians are *excluded*. That's the "Odd Couple" that is getting together to welcome the Son of Perdition and kick the Jews out of Jerusalem and Palestine. They will be the ones in charge until Jehovah God's true Rock (Dan. 2:33–35; Deut. 32:31), and His true "**Apostle**" (Heb. 3:1) and "**Prophet**" (Deut. 18:18 cf. Acts 3:22–26), shows up "**in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our LORD JESUS CHRIST**" (2 Thess. 1:8 cf. Isa. 34:5–10).

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THE KING OF TERRORS

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wicked prince of Israel” (Ezek. 21:25), he is *Satan incarnated* (2 Thess. 2:7–8). He is the perfect imitation of the Lord’s Christ (Luke 2:26; Acts 4:26; Rev. 11:15, 12:10).

Jesus Christ is a *lion* (Rev. 5:5); so is Satan (1 Pet. 5:8).

Jesus Christ is personified on the cross as a *serpent* (John 3:14); Satan is a *serpent* (Rev. 12:9).

Jesus is the *Angel of the Lord* (Acts 27:23; Gal. 4:14) and is associated with *light* (John 1:1–5, 8–9, 8:12, 9:5); Satan appears as **“an angel of light”** (2 Cor. 11:14).

Jesus Christ is *God* in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16; John 1:14); Satan is **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4).

Jesus is a *Prince* (Isa. 9:6; Dan. 9:28; Acts 3:15, 5:31), as is Satan (John 12:31, 14:30; Eph. 2:2).

Both Jesus and Satan are *Kings* (Matt. 2:2; Zech. 14:9; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14, 19:16 cf. Job 41:34; Rev. 9:11).

Both have *brides that are cities* (Rev. 21:2 cf. Rev. 17:1–5, 18).

And just as Jesus has *ministers* (1 Cor. 4:1) and *apostles* (1 Thess. 2:6), so does the Devil (2 Cor. 11:13–15).

In fact, the Devil’s christ is such a perfect *imitation* of the real thing (see the *NIV*’s perversion of 1 Cor. 11:1) that he will deceive **“the whole world”** into thinking he *is* the real thing (Rev. 12:9; 2 Thess. 2:3–12; John 5:43). The *NIV* helps him out by assigning Christ’s title in Revelation 22:16 (the **“morning star”**) to the Devil in Isaiah 14:12. Nothing like an “up-to-date” “Bible” to make the “Word of God” “clearer,” is there?

Now here is **“the king of terrors”** whose “terrorism” the United States is engaged in fighting. According to the King of Kings (1 Tim. 6:15), he is a *thief* (John 10:1, 10). As a thief, he was able to steal Italy, France, Spain, Austria, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Philippines from the King of Kings and convert them into pagan, papal Church-States that officially declared 125 curses on every Buddhist, Moslem, Shintoist, atheist, agnostic, Hindu, Protestant, and Jew on the face of this earth. The Popes used these Church-States and their leaders to murder more than ten million Christians and Jews between A.D. 325 and 1945. Why? Because, dear heart, the King of terrors **“was a murderer from the beginning”** and **“a liar”** (John 8:44).

As a *liar*, this King was able to deceive over a billion people and get control over Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Nigeria, Jordan, Turkey, Syria, Malaysia, and Indonesia. There he slaughtered (and continues to do so to this day) several million more Jews and Christians. He is hard at work through Mohammed’s Church-State (the “Islamic Nation”) trying to get control of Germany, France, Britain, and the *United States*.

So what you have in the “global community” is two militant State-churches

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THE KING OF TERRORS

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seeking to control all the governments of this world: “Mary” (Catholicism) and “Mohammed” (Islam). Of course, the original religious-controlled government was *Israel*; it originated with *Moses* (Exodus–Deuteronomy). But “Moses” has been cancelled until Revelation 11:15, so until then, the world has “Mary” and “Mohammed” from which to choose. In the meantime, the King of terrors, who founded those two State-churches, has organized, nourished, and supported them in preparation for the coming of his “son” (John 17:12; 2 Thess. 2:3–9; Gen. 3:15).

The King of terrors has always been the most successful in his stealing and killing through *religious “faiths”* set up by State-churches. You see, the King of terrors is a *monotheist* who believes in one God (James 2:19); as a monotheist, he controls all Moslems in the “Islamic Nation.” But he also believes God has a Son who is Deity (Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34); as a believer in John 3:16, he controls all Catholics in the Vatican “State.” Add to those two the Communist States, and that gives him **“the whole world”** (1 John 5:19; Rev. 12:9) to “globalize” into “one nation under God indivisible”—with *he himself taking God’s place* just as he coveted it before Adam was created (Isa. 14:12–14).

“Moses” is on the “back burner” temporarily. The King of terrors is now in charge and in control globally. He is setting up *his* theocratic kingdom through “Mary” and “Mohammed.” This King’s *oil* (Mohammed) and *wine* (Mary) is temporarily protected by the permissive will of God (Rev. 6:6). The *figs* (Matt. 24:32) and *olives* (Rom. 17, 24) await the coming of the **“KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS”** (Rev. 19:16), who is **“God of gods”** (Deut. 10:17).

Right now, though, the King of terrors has already told his “forerunners” (the news media and the educational establishment) to spread the “gospel” that “God” is the *same god* for Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Catholics, Mohammedans, Protestants, Charismatics, Seventh-day Adventists, Eastern Orthodox, etc. They all just give him different “names”: Jehovah, Brahma, Allah, “the Force,” Jesus, etc.

So when the King of terrors shows up to destroy three-quarters of the world’s population through plagues, famines, two world wars, earthquakes, the drug traffic, and heads rolling (Rev. 6–19), all the world’s religions will have their own names for him. The Buddhists will call him *Maitreya, the fifth Buddha*. The Moslems will call him *Mahdi, the twelfth Imam*. The Hindus will call him *Krishna*. The Christians will call him *the Christ*. The Jews will call him *the Messiah*.

According to the Book, his body is called the *Son of Perdition* (2 Thess. 2:3), his spirit is called *Judas* (Acts 1:25 cf. Rev. 9:11), and his soul is called *Satan* (Rev. 13:2, 4; 2 Thess. 2:8–9). He calls himself “Allah”—“the god”

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THE KING OF TERRORS

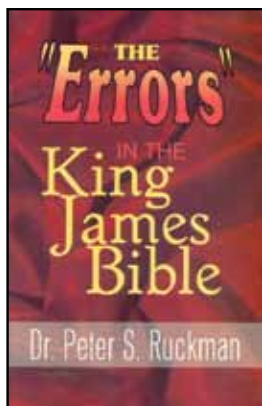
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(Dan. 11:38; 2 Cor. 4:4). That is the enemy America is currently fighting. This nation is under that enemy's thumb just like the terrorists he is using to behead our journalists, blow up our buildings, and kill our young men overseas (Luke 4:5-6). And the ironic thing is at the same time we are fighting that King, our sex-crazy, money-mad, power-hungry, Christ-rejecting politicians and leaders have made an enemy of the King of Kings by following the King of terrors right off the cliff and down into the Pit. Our Presidents (Republican or Democrat) have decided to challenge two Kings, and this nation will be "left the tab" to "pay the bill."

Amen! So be it! Don't expect God to bless or protect a nation that lives the way America is living right now. He didn't do it with His own chosen people ("Moses"), and He's not going to let this country get away with it. The King of Kings has turned the King of terrors loose on this country just as He did to Israel back in 586 B.C. and A.D. 70.

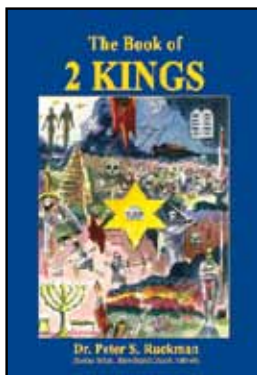
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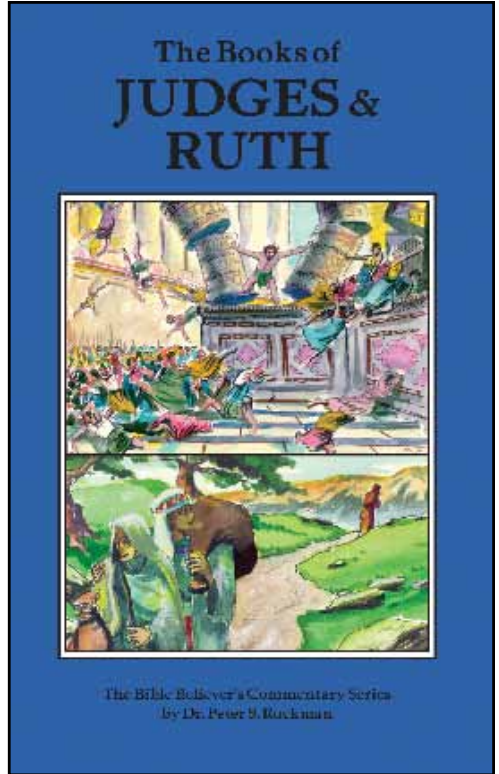
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Abraham Lincoln And American Jews

By Brian Donovan

This April 14th marks the 150th year since John Wilkes Booth shot and killed Abe Lincoln in Ford's theater. There will no doubt be a myriad of commemorations and new books that will continue to deify the sixteenth president, as has been the case since his death. Lincoln's "legacy" is an invented pipe dream that has taken place in a slow evolution, mainly from 1865 through about 1960.

During his lifetime, Abe was far from the media god he has become today. His Gettysburg Address, delivered in November 1863 at the official dedication of the Gettysburg cemetery and battlefield, has been lauded as "the greatest speech ever" by many of today's historians, but here is a sampling of just some of the reception it received immediately after it was given:

London Times—"Anything more dull or commonplace, it would not be easy to produce . . ."

The Harrisburg Patriot—"We pass over the silly remarks of the President. For the credit of the nation, we are willing that the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them."

Throwing aside the facts, and especially the truth, Americans today specifically picture Abe Lincoln in the following three ways: as the most beloved president in American history, as the Great Emancipator, and as the banner bearer of U.S. Constitution. As far as being the most beloved president, during his lifetime, he was arguably the most hated. As far

as being the Great Emancipator, he went on record as being opposed to the Negroes' right to vote, intermarry with whites, or serve on juries. Being the typical politician and knowing the racially segregated views of his fellow Illinois citizens, Abe said he hoped to free all slaves and ship them to Liberia (the recently founded country in Africa in 1821).

Even as he edited the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, good old "Honest Abe" met with freed slaves hoping to convince them to move and colonize Central America, letting them know that it would be "better for us both, therefore, to be separated." One of his quotes (about which no American schoolchild must ever hear) went as follows: "If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves, I would do it." Lincoln was persuaded (by Secretary of State William Seward) to hold off on the Emancipation Proclamation until the North won a decisive battle, lest it appeared to be a desperate move to avoid a lost war. The partial victory at Antietam gave Lincoln the opportunity.

As far as being the banner bearer of the U.S. Constitution, Lincoln suspended the writ of *habeus corpus*, denying accused citizens their right to appear in court, imposed martial law that allowed imprisonment without trial for government dissenters, and called out the militia in 1861 to begin war without congressional approval.

When asked about the greatest presidents, American students, almost

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Abraham Lincoln And American Jews

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without fail, immediately mention Lincoln. Black and white alike allow truth to fall into the streets as they are fed the lies of pseudohistory. American Jews are particularly fond of Lincoln as a result of three things that took place during his presidency. First of all, after the attack at Ft. Sumter in 1861, Lincoln asked Congress to raise a volunteer army from each of the Union states. Along with that move, the bill came out with appointment of military chaplains with the stipulation they be "regularly ordained ministers of some Christian denomination." After meeting with a Jewish leader named Fischel, Lincoln promised he would try to have the wording amended. Whether he did or not, we have no record, but the wording was later amended to read: "of any religious society."

The next thing that took place during his presidency that affected the Jews was General Grant's General Order Number 11, which expelled "Jews as a class of people" from the Yankee occupied southern territories of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Due to the problem of unprincipled traders and profiteers who were corruptly controlling cotton and commercial goods prices, Grant overstepped his bounds and issued the infamous order. Meeting with Jews who were recently expelled from Paducah, Kentucky, Lincoln told them he would grant them their rightful protection and immediately rescinded the order.

The third event affecting Jews during the Lincoln presidency was an attempt to amend the U.S. Constitution to include wording that would

show a national allegiance to Jesus Christ. The Christian group called the "Covenanters" got Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner to submit

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Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

April 10-12

Bible Baptist Church
154 S. Fayetteville St.
Asheboro, NC 27203
Pastor Tom Cochran
(336) 625-6095

May 1-3

Lakeside Baptist Church
3055 Bacom Point Rd.
Pahokee, FL 33476
Pastor Ted Hines
(561) 924-7592

June 5-7

Open Door Baptist Church
135 Knowles St.
Missoula, MT 59806
Pastor John Haveman
(406) 728-5562

July 10-12

Faith Baptist Church
1302 Independence St.
Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Pastor Paul Sherrouse
(479) 650-4028

August 28-30

For His Glory BBC
92 Butler Rd.
Union, ME 04862
Pastor Mike Kee
(207) 701-1962

Abraham Lincoln And American Jews

Continued from 13

their request to Congress, causing a Jewish outcry in both synagogue and press. Lincoln's only response to the Covenanters' request was to ask for more time as "the work of amending the Constitution should not be done hastily."

These three responses of Lincoln greatly endeared him to the American Jewish citizenry, along with his complete lack of Christian testimony. Rabbi Isaac Wise gave his personal recollections regarding the religion of Abraham Lincoln in writing thusly: "In spite of his puritanical piety, which surfaced at times in most poignant expressions, he never in public or in private spoke of a triune God, of a crucified Saviour, or of anything specifically Christian. He wasn't baptized, did not belong to any religious denomination, and had none of his children baptized or

confirmed."

A contemporary Lincoln scholar named Harold Holzer spoke of Abe's religion in this way: "Lincoln believed deeply in God the Father, but from early adulthood on, notwithstanding twenty years of Sundays in Baptist churches with his family, he seldom mentioned the Son or the Holy Ghost. He did not embrace Jesus as Messiah or Saviour, and opponents occasionally branded him an infidel . . . several of his earliest sympathetic biographers took pains to claim that he was a true Christian. But there is scant evidence for it."

These last few quotes came from the book *We Called Him Father Abraham: Lincoln and American Jewry* by Jewish scholar Gary Phillip Zola.

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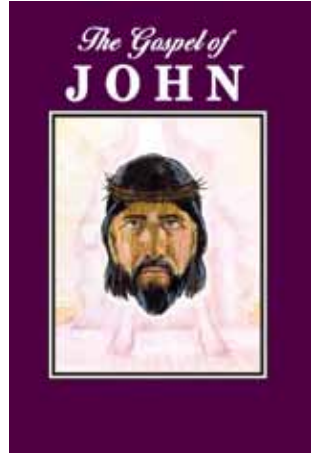
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The Resurrection

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” (Phil. 3:20–21).

This article is on the resurrection; specifically the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. According to Acts 1:3 in a *King James Bible*, the Resurrection has **“many infallible proofs.”** The word *infallible* means “never failing; incapable of being wrong.” That means the **“proofs”** for the resurrection of Jesus Christ have no legitimate arguments against them; they are *absolute truth*.

The new “Bibles” don’t like that word **“infallible,”** so they either get rid of it altogether (*“many proofs”*—*RSV, ESV* [the first is ‘Liberal’; the second is ‘Conservative. Both are the same trash]), or they change it to *“convincing”* (*“many convincing proofs”*—*NASV, NIV* [the first is ‘Fundamental’; the second is ‘Evangelical’—*same garbage*]). That is, according to the modern translations, *there are legitimate arguments against the resurrection of your Saviour*. Not in a *King James* they’re not: the **“proofs”** are **“infallible.”**

Not only are the **“proofs”** **“infallible,”** they are **“many.”** You ask, “How many?” The Apostle Paul tells you the resurrected Christ was seen by *500 eyewitnesses* at one time after His resurrection. *Five hundred*—that’s how **“many.”**

To illustrate these **“many infallible proofs,”** in my Ad-Lib Commentary, I

have Thomas defecting back to the Pharisees after the Crucifixion, and I give this exchange between Thomas and Christ’s enemies:

The Pharisees say, “We thought you were one of Jesus’ disciples, Thomas.”

“I was,” says Thomas, “but I don’t believe that stuff anymore.”

“Well, welcome back, Thomas. But what is this that we’ve heard about Jesus rising from the dead?”

“I don’t believe it,” says Thomas. “He’s dead and He’s going to stay dead. I haven’t seen Him.” (Thomas skipped that first Sunday night service, you’ll remember, and missed seeing the risen Lord.)

“Tell us something, Thomas. You’ve read a lot of books. How did the body of Jesus get out of the tomb?” ask the Pharisees.

“You said the disciples stole Him out of there while the soldiers slept,” replies Thomas.

“But Thomas,” say the Pharisees, “if the soldiers slept on the watch, why didn’t Pilate have them killed? If the disciples took Him, why did they unwrap Him and leave all the bandages there like there was a body in them?”

Thomas says, “The disciples were just trying to make it look like He arose.”

“But the soldiers, Thomas: what about the soldiers?”

Thomas fumbles for words, but he has no answer. In frustration he switches gears and says, “Well, the soldiers weren’t asleep. The disciples knocked the guards out.”

“You mean to tell us, Thomas, that ten men with only two swords (Luke 22:38) took on a highly trained

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The Resurrection

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and well-armed Roman guard and knocked them all out without anybody being killed?"

Thomas shuffles around and says, "Well, if the disciples didn't take Him, then Jesus just swooned on the cross and revived in the cool freshness of the tomb."

"But Thomas, that soldier there at the cross saw He was dead and stuck a spear in Him to get all the blood out of Him to make absolutely sure He was dead—we saw that. How could He revive if He had no blood left. And how could He move the stone that sealed Him in the tomb if He had no food or water for three days?"

Thomas never could answer them. Why? Because of the "many infallible proofs."

Do you know how Moslems handle the resurrection of Jesus Christ? They

say it never happened because *Jesus wasn't crucified.*

Sura 4:157—"And for their saying, Verily we have slain the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, an Apostle of God. Yet they slew him not, and they crucified him not, but they had only his likeness [another translation reads: "another was made to resemble him to them"]. And they who differed about him were in doubt concerning him: No sure knowledge had they about him, but followed only an opinion, and they did not really slay him."

In other words, nobody saw what he actually saw. All the Crucifixion accounts are just hearsay by men who didn't actually see or know what was going on. That was said by a man who lived over 550 years after the events of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; and who never got *anything* from God.

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The Resurrection

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“Allah” never said *anything* to Mohammed directly; everything in the *Koran* came from a 600-winged “angel” (*Hadith*, Bukhari, Vol. VI, no. 380).

John was right there at the cross. Christ’s mother was right there at the cross. The women who followed Him and ministered to Him weren’t more than ten feet from where He died. They saw Him give up the ghost; they saw the spear thrust in His side; they saw Him being buried. “In doubt concerning him”; “no sure knowledge had they about him”—aww, your father’s moustache! There was no doubt in the minds of the Roman legionnaires, who were experienced and trained in killing men, that Jesus Christ was dead. When John wrote his Gospel, he recorded what he saw as an eyewitness. When Matthew wrote his Gospel, he recorded what he saw as an eyewitness and what other eyewitnesses saw. When Mark and Luke wrote their Gospels, they recorded the eyewitness accounts of those who were at the cross and saw Him die and who saw Him when He rose from the grave (Luke 1:1–2). Mohammed saw nothing but a *demon* masquerading as Gabriel, and Mohammed saw the demon while having an *epileptic fit* (*Hadith*, Bukhari, Vol. I, nos. 1–4; Vol. II, no. 544; Vol. III, nos. 17, 829; Vol. IV, nos. 95, 438, 458, 461; Vol. V, nos. 170, 462, 618, 659; Vol. VI, nos. 447–448, 468, 478, 481, 508).

The Mohammedans don’t believe Christ rose from the dead. The Hindus don’t believe it. The Buddhists don’t believe it. The humanists, atheists, and agnostics don’t believe it. The Jews don’t believe it. The Sanhedrin of Christ’s day didn’t believe it. And

for a while, the disciples themselves didn’t believe it. After being told three times He was going to come back up (Matt. 16:21, 17:23, 20:19), John says that the very day Jesus rose from the dead: “**For as yet they** [the disciples, including himself] **knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead**” (John 20:9).

Who did believe it? The disciples when they saw Him personally (1 Cor. 15:5), His half-brother who grew up with Him once he saw Him personally (1 Cor. 15:6), a Jewish Rabbi known for persecuting the Man’s disciples when he saw the risen Lord personally (1 Cor. 15:8), and a medical doctor (Col. 4:14) who did what Paul suggested in 1 Corinthians 15:6 and interviewed the surviving eyewitnesses of his day to the greatest event the world had ever known up to that point (Luke 1:1–3).

Now why *don’t* people believe Jesus arose from the dead? For that matter, take the other side of the coin: Why *do* people believe Jesus rose from the dead? The reason is the same: *the risen Christ is going to judge them some day.*

“Because he [God] hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that HE HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD” (Acts 17:31).

Did you get that last phrase? “**He hath raised him FROM the dead.**” A lot of people believe in the resurrection OF the dead: Catholics believe everyone will come up at the Last Judgment; so do the Moslems and

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The Resurrection

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the Jews. But it is that resurrection FROM the dead that's the problem. That shows that someone is coming up *before* the Last Day.

Christ "**rose from the dead**," which means He will be the One who raises up everyone else (1 Cor. 15:12 cf. John 5:26–29). That's what the apostles preached, and that's what those Jewish Rabbis couldn't stand (Acts 4:1–2).

When Jesus Christ comes back, He first raises the members of His Body from the dead (1 Thess. 4:13–16), and right before His return to the earth in power, He raises the Tribulation saints from the dead (Isa. 26:19–21). That is called "**the first resurrection**" in Revelation 20:5, and the rest of that verse says, "**the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished**" (Christ's Millennial reign).

"**The first resurrection**" comes in three installments: the firstfruits, the harvest, and the gleanings. Christ Himself was "**the firstfruits**" (1 Cor. 15:20). The Rapture of the Church Age saints is the harvest (1 Cor. 15:23). The post-Tribulation rapture of Moses and Elijah (Rev. 11:11–12) and the 144,000 Jewish saints (Rev. 14:1) is the gleanings.

One time a close friend of Jesus died. The Lord promised the man's sister, "**Thy brother shall rise again**" (John 11:23). Martha said to Jesus, "**I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day**" (John 11:24). Jesus corrected her by saying: "**I am the resurrection, and the life** [He beat "**the resurrection at the last day**" by 3,000 years]: **he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live** [when?

At the "**last day**"? No, when He calls those who believe on Him out of the sleep of death—1 Thess. 4:16]: **And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die**" (John 11:25–26). If you are alive when Christ comes back—and have trusted Him as your personal Saviour—you go up without having to die (1 Thess. 4:17). You beat the general resurrection of the dead by at least 1,007 years.

Now what is the *purpose* of Christ's resurrection? Well, first of all, it *proves His Deity*.

"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD" (Rom. 1:4).

Do you know how you know Jesus wasn't just another religious fakir like Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, the Popes, Zoroaster, Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen G. White, Charlie Russell, and Joseph Smith? *He didn't stay dead*. That bunch of sinners stay dead until they are called up by the One who came up from the dead, and then *they bow down to Him* (Phil. 2:8-11).

Don't you know that will be a shock for some of these people whom the news media has elevated to the level of "gods" and "goddesses." I mean, down here on earth they were "puffed" and fawned over by the masses. Then they died and hit Hell. Then one day in the future, they are called up by Jesus Christ. They stand before Him in the filthy rags of their own self-righteousness (Isa. 64:6). They look down at their feet, and they are standing on nothing but empty space ("**the earth and heaven**" have "**fled away**" [Rev. 20:11] because they

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The Resurrection

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 were **“dissolved”** and melted **“with fervent heat”** [2 Pet. 3:10–11]). And for the first time they will realize that the only thing holding them up is their Creator—the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:16–17).

Then it will be: “Johnny Carson, front and center”; “Michael Luther King Jr. (that was the name with which he was born; not the alias he assumed to make you think he was liberating poor black folk when all he was doing was making a six-figure income for himself), front and center”; “Princess Di, front and center”; “Marilyn Monroe, front and center”; “Adolf, front and center”; “Einstein, front and center”; “Obama, front and center.” “Down, boy; roll over; play dead.” “On your knees, now, and confess who the real Lord is around here.”

And down they all will go and **“confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”** (Phil. 2:11). Then the next words they will hear from the “meek, mild, gentle Jesus” will be: **“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire”** (Matt. 25:41), and down they all will go.

Bob Jones Sr. used to say that the most terrible sound in the world is the sound of a lost soul falling a million miles into Hell, and as he falls, he yells, “AAAAAAMMMMMM-MEEEEENN!” Amen to what? *To his own damnation.*

That is what is going to happen to you if you don't trust Jesus Christ to save you. And that is why people won't believe in the Resurrection. It seals their fate. They will either have to trust the one Mediator God appointed to save them from sin and Hell (1 Tim. 2:5), or they will face Him as Judge.

They don't care for either option because they think they are too good (or at least not bad enough) for God to send them to Hell. They are trusting their own works instead of the work of Christ for them.

Finally, the resurrection accomplishes in less than a second every goal mankind has labored to attain in the last 6,000 years. The *defeat of death*? Taken care of. *Ridding the world of disease and infirmity*? Taken care of. When Jesus Christ comes back, if you are saved, your **“vile body”** is changed, and you get a glorified body just like your Saviour's (Phil. 3:20–21; 1 John 3:2): a body that will never die, grow old, or become sick.

The resurrection brings what the United States, the League of Nations, the EU, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the UN never could bring—*peace on earth*. **“The Prince of Peace”** isn't some fat wino over in Rome, swishing around in his long robes, praying for “peace on earth” and getting another war for his troubles (no Pope has ever had a “prayer for peace” answered in the affirmative). **“The Prince of Peace”** (Isa. 9:6) is the One who died and rose again for our sins to give us **“peace with God”** through faith in Him alone (Rom. 5:1–10; Heb. 13:20). He will be the One to bring peace when he comes in His kingdom, and when He does, it won't be a temporary “cease fire” to rearm for the next war—it will be *eternal* (Isa. 9:7).

And, of course, the resurrection brings *eternal life*.

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also

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The Resurrection

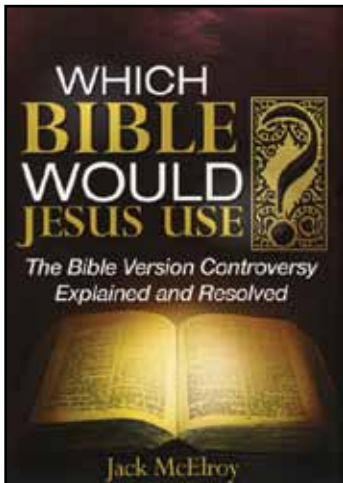
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quicken your mortal bodies by the Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:11).

Paul said that if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then all the dead Christians **"are perished"** (1 Cor. 15:18), and you have no hope for the future (1 Cor. 15:19). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is proof that He is coming back someday to get you; that is why it is called **"that blessed hope"** (Tit. 2:13). When He does, **"this corruptible [will] put on incorruption, and this mortal [will] put on immortality,"** and **"Death [will be] swallowed up in victory"** (1 Cor. 15:53-54).

Our **"hope,"** brethren, is not some vain wishful thinking; it is an **"earnest expectation"** (Rom. 8:19). I *know* Jesus Christ is coming to get me out of here, whether in life or in death. What I don't know is *when*. As M. R. DeHaan had engraved on his tombstone: "Perhaps today!"

Are you saved? Do you have that hope? Notice I didn't say, "Do you hope you're saved?" You can *know* you are saved (1 John 5:13). The hope is looking for your Saviour, who rose from the dead, to come and take you to be with Him forever (1 Thess. 4:17).

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CLOSET CHRISTIANS

Robert Militello

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22).

Brethren, willingness or even eagerness to hear the word of God profits little unless matched by works that manifest your zeal for Christ's cause. Millions of Christians remain in the closet, afraid to open their mouths for Jesus, even though they see clearly that we are in the last days. Why?

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe” (Prov. 29:15).

Look at what “gay” people have done over the past few decades. They have overcome their fear of so-called “straight society,” coming out of the closet with a boldness that has effectively intimidated our lawmakers and judges. What a powerful rebuke this is to Christians who ought to be just as bold in their witness for their Saviour.

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you” (John 15:18).

There are untold millions of Christians in America who do not want to be objects of hatred because of their faith. They are wise to devise ways and means to avoid the reproach of the cross. Notice the word “if” in John 15:18. “If” makes the matter *conditional*; you being hated by the world is not a given. So-called “respectable Christianity” is a way of keeping your zeal for God's truth under a wet blanket. Society has little to fear from respectable Christians. These docile Christians can be tolerated, and often, the world finds them useful and sometimes even amusing.

On the other hand, there is a particularly odious kind of Christian that even fellow believers will scorn and often slander. In Pensacola, this “offensive” brother appears on busy intersections on Saturday afternoons between April and September. He carries a scripture sign and raises his voice proclaiming God's word.

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isa. 58:1).

Why should a street preacher doing what Jesus did make other Christians uncomfortable? Is a public display of righteous indignation against sin something Christians would call fanatical? God help those respectable believers who feel the need to apologize to the unsaved for the “fanatics” who frighten sinners, rather than “loving them to Christ.” Isn't that pathetic? Is it any mystery why America is in the toilet morally when this dry rot (worldly Christians) shows up, offended by the zeal of a brother in Christ? A respectable Christian is one with a bad case of spiritual constipation, as far as I can tell. Amen?

“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Cor. 5:11).

Not long after I got saved, the above scripture produced a holy fear in me that, by the grace of God, I've had these past 37 years. It didn't take long to realize that my Saviour expected more out of me than just repeating “Praise the Lord” all day. He expected me to be a man of action and not just words.

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CLOSET CHRISTIANS

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The Lord as a terrorist is not a comfortable concept for today's Christian sitting under the likes of Joel Osteen and Rick Warren. In the verse prior to the above, the subject is the Judgment Seat of Christ. Your activity for the Lord, or lack of the same, is going to be examined by holy eyes and an all-knowing mind that knew your every motive for what you did or did not do. Think on that a while.

One year after I got saved, I spent my lunch hours on the corner of Wall and Nassau Streets, across from the New York Stock Exchange, preaching and handing out tracts. If you want to get a more thorough understanding of human nature and what is in man, spend a summer lunchtime on that corner. Every Christian ought to have had experiences in their pilgrim journey when manifestations of hatred toward the word of God pierced their souls. In other words, it is spiritually healthy for a Christian to get "shook up" over the hostility directed toward them when they are led to talk about sin, judgment, and a literal hell.

We are not called to preach and witness for a Jesus who is out to make people feel better or alleviate their stress. Many of God's dear saints can't seem to get hold of this, and that is why Jesus said, **"If the world hate you."** I don't want to be hated, but if I magnify the word of God over this world and its idols, I will be.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

As sure as God made little green apples, I'll be approached by well-meaning believers who will tell me that my method will not win the lost. These velvet-gloved Christians believe I am hurting the cause of Christ.

Once, I asked a saint who stopped to tell me of his concern for my "ill-tempered zeal" to define what he meant by the phrase *cause of Christ*. To him, the cause of Christ involved bringing the joy of the Lord into an unhappy heart. "How is that to be done?" I asked. I was told to pray for guidance and the Lord would show me.

Isn't that rich. Someone please show me one Christian relying on an *NIV* for light that got properly toilet trained (spiritually) and stopped wearing spiritual diapers.

"Now when they saw the BOLDNESS of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

A resurrected rabbi gave Peter and John what religion could not give them: boldness. The Holy Spirit uses the word *boldness* nine times in the New Testament, and nine symbolizes fruit. *Boldness* appears only once in the Old Testament, and it is in reference to a man being wise (Eccl. 8:1). Knowing who I am in Christ gives me boldness. Knowing that I have eternal life now gives me boldness. Everything in the New Testament directed to a blood-washed, born-again saint engenders boldness.

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CLOSET CHRISTIANS

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We have a certainty not found in the Old Testament. Those in Christ know where their souls go at death. The fear of death has been negated. Our bodies are habitations of the living God.

“Having therefore, brethren, BOLDNESS to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh” (Heb. 10:19–20).

These privileges were unknown to the Jews. We may be brought into His presence at any moment without experiencing physical death (1 Cor. 15:51–52). If anyone on this earth has a reason to come out of a so-called “closet,” it is the born-again child of God. Having the promise of God before us, how can a Christian not be passionate about declaring his faith? The answer to this is found in the last part of Acts 4:13. Have you been with Jesus?

A Christian in the closet can only come out of that closet if Jesus opens the door. He’s always knocking on our heart’s door seeking fellowship. He won’t open the door to your heart without your permission. Could He be satisfied with having a date with you every now and then, or does He want intimacy? What do you think?

Do you think spending time with Jesus means reading the assigned portion of *Our Daily Bread*, or some other “feel good” devotional? Do you read your ten Bible chapters daily as if it were a homework assignment? Are you hearing from Him, or just imagining that you are? If you are genuinely saved, then the only closet in which you should spend time is the prayer closet.

“Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy” (Psa. 107:2).

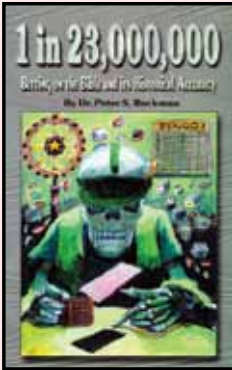
Have you ever noticed how folks that cannot speak can carry on animated discussions using sign language? I see them “speaking” to one another using a wide array of facial expressions. They listen to one another with their eyes. We who have been blessed with vocal cords and a tongue that works are charged by our God to speak His truth while we are on this earth. What peace is found by keeping silent? Who is going to fear God if we fear speaking plainly? How near is that day when we shall lose forever the chance to brag about our Saviour to those who don’t know Him?

“How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?” (Job 26:3).

What happened to plain speech *in America*? From where did the terms *politically correct* and *socially correct speech* come? I believe this practice originated with preachers over the past six decades. Men who put themselves into the pulpit pursuing a career of “ministry,” after graduating from a Bible college, found a way to remove the offense of the cross. The mouths of these men became adept at sliding and slithering like snakes past plain words like *sin*, *judgment*, *repentance*, and *hell*. How was one to build a following and succeed in ministry if folks were to associate going to church with verbal abuse?

Polished, refined speech is that which comes from man’s wisdom, not God’s. That’s the way to become admired and thus fill the pews. Joel Osteen,

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Here is a Book, the Holy Bible, written by forty male authors, writing from three continents, through a period of more than 1,800 years; and it displays a *mathematical miracle*, DEALING WITH HISTORICAL EVENTS, that no computer could display with the ability to record 50,000,000 pieces of information per second.

What particular quirk of perverted logic would lead any “modern man” to overlook such a Book?

Alongside this Book, the Holy Bible, all other “holy writings” are cheap, shallow, superficial, religious nonsense.

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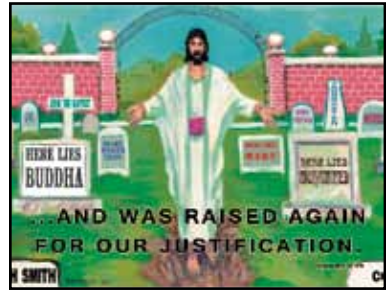
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CLOSET CHRISTIANS

Continued from 26

Rick Warren, and their clones, discovered early on that this was the right recipe for success. The master at speaking with a “forked tongue” is the clown in Rome calling himself “the Vicar of Christ.” Don’t hold your breath waiting for him to plentifully declare anything in line with God’s word. He can’t.

Now the respectable Christians who see me on a street corner raising my voice above the din of traffic would never say the Book I’m holding is offensive. They may see me as offensive, or my speech as offensive, but the Bible they profess to believe must never be characterized in that way. If I preach negative truth, I as a messenger must be attacked, not the Book. Respectable Christians convince themselves that people like me misuse the Book to judge and condemn; therefore, I am a “misguided brother.” My crime is that I fail to manifest in my speech the sweet savour of Christ.

With what “Jesus” have these “soldiers of Christ” been fellowshiping? The One I know would hold His nose at the offensive odor coming from these birds. They are found on Sunday nesting at social clubs that call themselves “Bible churches.” What a joke!

“A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies” (Prov. 14:25).

What happened these past sixty years in America to mute the power of direct speech? Frankly, if you sit in front of a box hour upon hour watching images that speak words of seduction, covetousness, and vanity, your ears will instinctively hearken to what it wants to hear and nothing else. Senior executives in the entertainment industry know this. They work hand in hand with the Madison-Avenue advertising agencies to package products and services the viewer will buy. The right voice must be matched carefully with a product before it can be marketed successfully. Many actors and actresses are hired to do “voice-overs” for commercials on TV. Having the right voice inflection, tone, and pace is critical.

Some of the slickest, smoothest talkers are those who entice investors, getting them plugged into Ponzi schemes. Capitalizing on the greed that is in men’s hearts has made many rich, and many others poor and feeling foolish. Selling folks on a product or a service or a company is the business of a motivational speaker. More and more firms are turning to motivational speakers to increase the performance level of their employees. Someone with oratorical ability, while projecting firmness, confidence, and conviction, can move millions. Hitler proved that.

“A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet” (Prov. 29:5).

American pulpits are filled with smooth-talkers. Years ago, as a new Christian, I went to an evangelical church where I soon discovered how nicely the world and the church can get along when it comes to money. This church paid to advertise on billboards along some local highways. Their advertising slogan was: “Come Grow With Us.” Isn’t that cute? One day, I was riding on a road in New Jersey and saw a billboard advertising a bank. It said, “Come

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CLOSET CHRISTIANS

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Grow With Us.” I’m glad the Lord had me pass that sign. It triggered my suspicious nature. I thought to myself, “What kind of church do I belong to?” Up until then, I was a dutiful, docile Christian fearful of the thought of questioning those in authority. This mindset was a holdover from my Jesuit school training and years as a Catholic.

What led the pastor of my church to choose a slogan that the bank was using? He “borrowed” that slogan. The bank used it first. My pastor later asked me if I was interested in attending a church growth seminar. I declined respectfully and told him I needed to spend more time in the Bible. It was God’s word that washed away the Catholic mindset I had about religious superiors. Second Kings chapter five opened my eyes. The prophet Elisha

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THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a **BOOK** as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word “*Christian*” originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son **OUT** of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob **OUT** of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph’s bones **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of “preference”—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are “almost the originals,” although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can “tolerate” these if those who believe in them will “tolerate” US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of “PREFERENCE.” You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

CLOSET CHRISTIANS

Continued from 29

had a servant named Gehazi. This guy was a slick operator. Read about him in 2 Kings 5:20–27, and you'll know what I mean. Leaving that place was a blessing and not a grief.

This Sunday, thousands of Christians will sit and be “preached to” by modern-day “Gehazis.” These respectable, friendly, loving Christians will look upon street preachers as an embarrassment. Some of these dear brethren will even take the time to tell a street preacher that what he is doing does more harm than good. How can anyone know whether a loudmouth preacher railing against sin was not used by the Holy Spirit to restrain some soul from performing the evil he had on his mind that day?

Standing on a corner being mocked for speaking truth is a spiritually medicinal experience that strengthens a Christian. Sadly, it is getting easier for the devil to use Christians to make the street preacher appear loathsome. Closet Christians are not at home on street corners. Ridicule terrifies them. They get none of that on Sunday when they show up for their “Hallmark-greeting card” sermon. The little sanctified, pious social clubs that pass as New Testament churches offer a comfortable atmosphere for fearful believers. Who wants to be in a place like that? Should I go to a restaurant with plush decor, dressed-up waiters, and fancy tablecloths that serves lousy food?

For those who are not ashamed to preach and witness on street corners, don't be surprised by believers who do not share your passion. Remember David dancing **“before the LORD with all his might”** in 2 Samuel 6:14? This kind of behavior is sure to bring a response, as David sadly discovered.

“And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart” (2 Sam. 6:16).

David's own wife was made uncomfortable by his zeal. The Lord saw that and she paid a price.

“Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death” (2 Sam. 6:23).

The Lord **“is not mocked”** (Gal. 6:7). Everything goes in His book. That Judgment Seat of Christ is going to be a real eye-opener. Fasten your seat belts, pull up your socks, and pray!

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Tupelo WCPC 940 AM		10:00 A.M. Sat.
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Suffolk—Ch 20		
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Los Alamos—PAC 8	6:00 PM Sun.	
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