



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 41 No. 8

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

August 2017

Recognition of The Spirit World

By Brian Donovan

Both the pagan and religious lost masses of mankind have been willing to acknowledge the existence of a spirit world. Not only do they acknowledge that world, but they take part in worshipping the many gods that move within it. However, the modern educated scientist, doctor, psychologist, and psychiatrist live in denial of the existence of the spirit world. Their goal is to find a natural and physical explanation for every situation and problem and the Bible is smirked upon as an antiquated, superstitious Book, written by and for religious folks who don't know any better. The Bible is placed last on their list for finding the truth as it is viewed as a collection of myths and legends written for teaching moral and ethical ideals. The scientific community believes that when they put a label on something (gravity, atom, quark,

black hole, worm tube), that it means they have explained the physical phenomenon, and thus, no need for the Bible and spiritual knowledge. While the scientist searches for the physical demonstrations only, the medical and psychiatry fields search for answers only with what involves the physical functions of the brain, heart, nerves, muscles and inner organs. If it's not something they can find physically, it is diagnosed as being in the patient's mind and their answer is drugs. Hence, at least 50 million Americans alone are on some type of drug for depression, anxiety or other invented maladies, while never dealing with the issue of sin and the spirit world.

As Dr. Daniel Carlat (M.D. with psychiatric training at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital) wrote regarding his growing disillusionment with his field, “the main thing that you learn in a psychiatric residency, then or now, is how to write prescriptions”. From there, choosing one drug over another (Zoloft, Celexa, Prozac, Paxil, Xanax, etc.) is a matter of guesswork and preference, with the preference being motivated by which pharmaceutical company happens to be providing the best financial

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Cold Water

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country” (Prov. 25:25).

In the text, someone is expecting news **“from a far country.”** It can either be good news or bad news. Bad news can mean destruction (Isa. 13:5, 46:11; Jer. 4:16), but good news can be just like getting a cold drink of water when you’re dying of thirst.

If you are a Christian, you understand what that **“good news”** is: it’s the *gospel*. The word *gospel* means “good news.”

The bad news is if you live right, keep the commandments, observe the sacraments, get baptized, live by the “Golden Rule,” take communion, “pray through,” tithe, join the church Christ founded, repent, and confess your sins, you MIGHT make it to Heaven. The good news is **“that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”** (1 Cor. 15:3–4). If you receive that good news by faith (1 Cor. 15:1 cf. Eph. 2:8), you can be saved (1 Cor. 15:2) and *know* it (1 John 5:13).

So if we apply the words of our text to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we can draw comparisons to *water*, because the **“good news”** is likened to **“cold waters.”** You find that other places in your Bible. Twice at the end of Revelation, the Lord invites the thirsty sinner to come and drink **“the water of life freely”** (Rev. 21:6, 22:17). Jesus said, **“If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink”** (John 7:37). He told that woman at the well, **“whosoever**

drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). In the Old Testament, the Lord says, **“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters”** (Isa. 55:1). So the gospel is like water.

The first thing to note about water is that it is *powerful*. You know that to be true if you have ever seen what a flood or a storm surge from a hurricane or a tsunami can do. I have seen films of flood waters pick up a 4,000-pound vehicle and just carry it away like it was nothing.

The flood waters of Noah’s day took rocks (some of them the size of a house) and moved them dozens, and sometimes hundreds of miles; those are called “erratic boulders.” In order to get out of believing Genesis 6–7, all the scientists now say that glaciers are responsible for moving those rocks. Glaciers don’t start any lower than 6,000 feet. Why, there have been erratic boulders moved from Texas (1,700 feet) to the Ohio River Valley (800 feet); no “glacier” was responsible for that. Besides, glaciers go *over* rocks and grind them down to the ground; they don’t go under them and pick them up and carry them. But there is plenty of evidence for flood waters moving huge boulders. Tsunamis have been known to move 200-1,000-ton boulders.

Now, that Bible says the gospel **“is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth”** (Rom. 1:16). I have seen the gospel save triple “lifers”: felons who were serving three life sentences con-

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secutively; they were *never* getting out of prison. But they believed the gospel and were saved, and the Lord changed their lives right there in prison.

That's what happened to the Apostle Paul. As Saul of Tarsus, he had Christians arrested, tortured, and murdered. He said that before he had them killed, he "**compelled them to blaspheme**" (Acts 26:10–11). But the Lord knocked him down on the road to Damascus and saved him and called him to preach (1 Tim. 1:12–13). That's the power of the gospel.

The second thing about water is that it is *refreshing*. I grew up as a boy in Topeka, Kansas. Back then, during the summer, we would leave our doors and windows open all night. You say, "Why?" To catch a cool breeze so we didn't die of heat stroke. Back when I was coming up, we didn't have air conditioning or ceiling fans. We had a little electric fan that sat on the table and moved the hot air around the room. A glass of ice water during those hot summer days was refreshing.

Kids are spoiled nowadays. You hardly see any of them outside playing; they're all inside messing around with video games. But when I was a boy, we would be out playing all day long until it got dark. On a hot day, you would see kids outside playing with the water hose (later on, it was the water sprinkler). If you were outside playing and you got thirsty, you'd just go over to the hose and get you a drink.

If you want "refreshing," get you a "polar dip" like I got. I use that thing

summer, fall, winter, and spring. You get into that cold water, and it's like getting plugged into a 220-volt circuit. I got one of those things because I heard Bob Jones Sr. say once that he read a book that said if you wanted to live to be a hundred, spend time in a cold bath first thing in the morning, every morning. He said, "You might have your idea of what a brave man is, but my idea of bravery is looking at the cold water for a minute before you get in."

Do you know what that rich man in hell there in Luke 16 wanted? All he wanted was a drop of water from the fingertip of Lazarus to cool his tongue (Luke 16:24). You get reading something like that, and there is something inside of you, especially if you have lost loved ones who ended up in hell, that wants to believe that is just "figurative." I think that is what messed up Billy Graham. He started out his ministry believing in a burning hell, and you can tell it by his early preaching. But as time went by, he stopped believing that, and the power and conviction went out of his delivery. It became more like speaking than preaching.

Now, brethren, it doesn't do you any good to make the fires of hell figurative. If you did, what would they be a figure of? It would have to be something as bad as, if not worse than, being burned alive forever. Over in Matthew 13, Jesus gives the parable of the tares and the wheat. When He interprets that thing for the disciples, He says the field is this, the seed is that, the enemy is this. Each part of that parable represents something (the world, the children of

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the kingdom, the devil, etc.—Matt. 13:38–39). But when it gets to those tares being burned in the fire, do you know what the fire “represents”? It represents FIRE (Matt. 13:42). It doesn’t stand for anything else than what it is—*fire*. *Hell is a place of eternal fire and torment* (Rev. 14:10–11).

If you want refreshment from the flames of hell, you need the living water of the gospel. But if you are going to get that water of life, you have to get it this side of death. Once you are in hell, it will be too late. That fellow in hell in Luke 16 never did get his drop of water. After all, the two times in the Bible where Christ asked for water (John 4, 19), He never got it. Well, if sinful man wouldn’t give God’s Son a drink, why should God give a sinner who rejects the free gift of the water of life a drink.

The next thing about water is that it is *taken for granted*. You don’t think of water until you are desperate to have some. It’s colorless, odorless, and tasteless; but there is nothing more satisfying than water when you are really thirsty. It is a universal solvent, so even when you do drink something else like soda or “kool aid,” water still has to be in it.

You take it for granted, but did you know you need water before you need food? A fellow can go forty or more days without food—Moses did (Exod. 34:28); Elijah did (1 Kings 19:8); Jesus did (Matt. 4:2). But under normal circumstances (and Moses and Elijah certainly weren’t normal circumstances), the human body can’t survive more than a week without water (most estimates are

around only four days).

People take the gospel for granted, especially Americans. In America, you have so many Bibles, so many churches, so much gospel being presented through tracts and radio stations that people think nothing of it. They pass it by because they are too familiar with it. Not overseas, boy. If you are out in the desert with no water, you don’t take it for granted then. There are Christians in China who would sell their house (literally) in order to get a Bible.

When the Soviet Union opened up, one missionary was approached by a soldier who requested a Bible. That missionary had been distributing Bibles, but he had run out. The only Bible he had left was his own personal one, and he was willing to give that to the soldier. So he made arrangements to meet him at that same spot the next day to give him that Bible. Well, the next day, when it was time for the missionary to meet that soldier, it was raining, and the missionary was sure that soldier wouldn’t come out in the rain, but the missionary went anyway. Not only was that soldier there, but twenty of his buddies were with him. They had heard a missionary was giving away Bibles, and they all came hoping to get one. The gospel wasn’t taken for granted there because it was a rare commodity.

Out in the desert, the light on the desert floor plays tricks with your eyes, and you think you see water when there’s none there. That’s called a “mirage.” Over in the Middle East or Saharan Africa somewhere, an Arabian was guiding a party of

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Europeans across some desert. After the water ran out, those Europeans got to seeing a mirage. They were half out of their mind with thirst and were determined to get to what they thought was water. But that Arab guide knew what was going on and tried to stop them. The people killed that guide, thinking they could get to water, and of course, they didn't.

There are all kinds of mirages out there promising to quench the thirst of your soul. The Campbellites say it's water baptism, but all water baptism can do is wash off "**the filth of the flesh**" (1 Pet. 3:21). It can't do anything for your soul; it's a mirage. The Catholics say it's the Mass; they call it the "sacrifice of the Mass." Paul called it a "**sacrifice to devils**" (1 Cor. 10:20–21). The Catholics will tell you you're eating Christ's literal flesh and drinking His literal blood, and that's what gives you eternal life. Jesus said, "**the FLESH PROFITETH NOTHING: the WORDS that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life**" (John 6:63). The Mass is nothing but a mirage.

The gospel is the "real deal." Have you found the "oasis"? Have you drunk "from the fountain that never shall run dry" (from the hymn "Beulah Land")? If you have, have you told anyone else where to go to drink?

What would you think of someone, scouting for water in the desert for his fellow travelers, who found a stream of clean, fresh water and slaked his own thirst but never told the others about it? Wouldn't someone like that be one of the worst, most selfish, people you ever met?

Well, that's the way a lot of Christians are. They satisfy their thirst at the fountain of living waters and never tell another soul about it.

The gospel is "**good news from a far country.**" You know what that "**far country**" is: it's *heaven*. In the parables of the vineyard (Mark 12:1) and the pounds (Luke 19:12), the Goodman of the house goes away to "**a far country**" and leaves some things with his servants. That's a picture of the Lord going back to heaven and entrusting us with things down here; in this case, the gospel. We are to "lead a horse to water" (more like a wild jackass—Job 11:12) whether he drinks or not.

There in Luke 19, in that parable of the pounds, that nobleman goes "**into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, AND TO RETURN**" (Luke 19:12). Later on, it says, "**when he was returned, HAVING RECEIVED THE KINGDOM**" (Luke 19:15). Do you know what the good news is, basically? It's in your hymn book: "We shall see the King someday": that "**far country**" will be the "home of the soul" for those of us who have trusted Jesus Christ for salvation.

"Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off" (Isa. 33:17).

The gospel is "**good news from a far country,**" and folks like to get news like that. When a momma and daddy send their boy (or girl, nowadays) off to war somewhere like Germany, France, the South Pacific, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Africa, etc., don't you know they are glad

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to get a letter from him. Don't you know they are glad they didn't get one from the government or the kid's CO saying: "Sorry, but your son was killed in action"?

There's a tragic scene recounted in Judges 5:28–30. It's Sisera's mother, looking out her window for her "boy" to come home (you will always be mamma's "baby" or "little boy" no matter how old you get). She's waiting to hear the good news that he won the battle. She didn't know he was lying on the floor of some woman's tent with a tent peg driven through his skull and his head severed from his body. Something like that happened to David when his generals had defeated Absalom, his son (2 Sam. 18). That was *bad news* "**from a far country.**" It was like bitter gall, not cold water.

Back before "email" came along, the most anticipated, popular thing for a G.I. overseas was mail call. He was looking for "**good news from a far country**" in the form of a letter from home. Of course, those soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines didn't always get good news. Sometimes they got a "Dear John" letter: they got dumped by their girlfriend (or fiancé or *wife*). But most of the time those letters from home were like cool waters to a thirsty soul.

Back during the Civil War, a young soldier was dying in a field hospital. He called for someone to write a letter back to his mother for him before he died. He wrote, "Mother, the doctor says I'm going to die. I'm wounded pretty badly, so I guess I'm not going to make it home. But I want you to know as I

lie here with just a step between me and death, *there is not one cloud between my soul and Jesus Christ.*" A mamma would like to get a letter like that if she were a good mamma. That's good news to know your boy is right with God and is headed for the arms of his Saviour. But that kid didn't have it right. He *did* make it "home," just not back to mamma. He passed the chilly waters of death and landed safe on that heavenly shore, at the home of the soul.

Notice in our text that the water is *cold*: "**as COLD waters to a thirsty soul.**" The Lord doesn't like that tepid, lukewarm stuff; He'd rather have you hot or cold than lukewarm (Rev. 3:16). It's cold water that quenches a thirst.

The Sons of the Pioneers used to sing a song about a cowboy lost in the desert. That fellow struggles on day after day in the blistering sun until he's half crazy with thirst. You know what he's looking for? "Cool, clear water."

I had a funny incident happen one time. Years ago, I had a radio program here in town. Back in those days, you had to broadcast live, so I was at the radio station making the broadcast as it went out. Well, after awhile, a Campbellite bought time right after me. Campbellites like to do that in order to steal your audience because they don't have one of their own.

Finally I had enough of it. I asked the technician on the console, "Will you do me a favor? I am tired of this fellow stealing my audience and contradicting everything I just taught. I am going to end my program two

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minutes early. Don't worry; I'll pay you for the full thirty minutes. I want you to play some music and fill for me. That way he won't get my audience."

I don't know who that guy was or what his religious background was. I don't even know if he was a Christian. But he had a sense of humor. After I signed off, and before that Campbellite came on, that radio technician put on "Cool Water" by the Sons of the Pioneers. Campbellites teach you get saved by water baptism, just like a good Catholic believes. That song "Cool Water" says, "Don't you listen to him, Dan; he's *the devil*, not a man, and he spreads the burning sand with *water*." That fellow had that Water Dog's number.

When you are really thirsty, only water will satisfy; not "kool aid" or "soda pop." I learned that lesson the hard way at Officer's Candidate School. One of the things those D.I.s do is give you a canteen of water in the morning, and that water has to last you the entire day. That's your water for brushing your teeth, your drinking water, and your water for washing your mess kit—one canteen. And of course, you would be out all day on hikes and maneuvers. If you didn't nurse that canteen, you'd be bone dry before you knew it. After a day out there in the summer heat, the water in that canteen was hot enough to boil an egg. I drank many a mouthful of water from my canteen like that.

I have seen guys marching out there in the hot sun curse a dog drinking from a puddle along the side of the road. They had sweat all they could, and they were beet red

like a stop light. They saw that dog lapping up that water, and they just cursed the beast. He had something to drink, and they didn't.

One time, we stopped at a blackberry patch. The whole group was picking those blackberries just to get that juice from them. I left my gear behind a tree and went and got me some blackberries. I had some water left in my canteen before I went to get those blackberries. But when I got back to my gear, the guy with whom I bunked in the barracks, named Ritchie (a colonel's son), was lying there with a smug smile on his face. I didn't think anything of it until I went to get a swallow of water out of my canteen and found it was empty. I had been nursing that water for five miles because I knew what was coming. I said, "Ritchie, did you mess with my water?"

"Nah, I didn't mess with your water, Ruckman. I don't know nothing about your water," he said.

"Well, I had a quarter of a canteen before I went over to get blackberries, and I don't have any now. There was no one else around here but you."

"Don't get mad at me, Ruckman; I didn't touch your water."

And of course, I couldn't prove he did, but I know he did. I was so mad at him for taking that water, that that night, when I was on guard duty, I crawled over to him while he was asleep and put my trench knife against his throat. Thank God He was watching out for me when I was nothing but a lost heathen with no sense. But I was ready to slit that guy's throat for stealing my water.

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Some of you don't understand that, but that's because you've never been bone-dry, burning-up thirsty.

You always see in those cowboy movies where someone comes up to the bar at the saloon and says, "I've got a powerful thirst, give me a beer (or whiskey)." When you are sure enough thirsty, you don't want a beer or a whiskey. They do *not* quench your thirst. *Water* quenches a thirst.

I was up in the stands at Ft. Benning, one time, watching some attack demonstrated on the field, and I found a note a mother had written to her boy who was down on the field. He had read it and pitched it before going into the exercise. It said: "Be very careful and don't drink too much water, because it's very hot out there." Well, I knew who that guy was, and after that whole thing was over, he went to the PX and must have drunk two quarts of water, ice, root beer, and ice cream within fifteen minutes of leaving formation.

In the Bataan Death March in World War II, those Japanese would march our boys 65 miles to the prison camps, and they wouldn't give them any water. Those G.I.s would be going along the trail and see a carabao hole over on the side (a mud wallow for a Filipino water buffalo). The water in that hole would be all green from algae growing in it, but that didn't stop those boys from trying to run over to that hole to get them a drink. Sometimes the Japs would kill them, but sometimes, they would let them drink that mess and mock and ridicule them.

Man needs air and he needs water to stay alive. The Lord gave

you the breath of life when you were born to give you physical life, and if you are ever going to get spiritual life, you are going to have to drink of the water of life.

I am not talking about *religion*; religion is bad news. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is good news, and it is like "**cool waters to a thirsty soul.**"

Finally, water is no good unless it is *received*. I sent one of my boys to bed one time, and he hadn't been in bed five minutes before he was asking for a drink of water. I said, "No, it's too late to drink water; go to sleep."

"But daddy, I'm thirsty."

"It's ten o'clock at night; if you drink water right now, you'll be up all night going to the bathroom."

"Please can I have a drink of water?"

"One more crack out of you about a drink of water, and I'm gonna come in there and whip you."

Silence. Then several minutes later: "Daddy, when you come in here to whip me, would you bring me some water?"

There was no getting around it then. The kid got his water.

It's a natural thing if you want something, to ask for it. That Bible says, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**" (Rom. 10:13), and that calling is explained up in verses 9 and 10 of Romans 10. You have to *believe* Christ died for you and rose again to save you. Over in John 1:12, it says,

"But as many as RECEIVED him, to them gave he power to

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become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE on his name."

So that believing is more than just intellectual consent to the facts of the gospel; it is personally appropriating what Jesus Christ did for you on Calvary. God doesn't receive it for you, like the Calvinists teach (Irresistible Grace). The Holy Spirit may draw you to Christ (John 6:44), but you have to receive Him as an act of your own free will in order to take advantage of the free salvation offered to you. If you don't **"take the water of life freely,"** it won't do you one bit of good.

When I illustrate this text, I always draw it with two fountains of water. The first is the Old Testament: it is the good news foretold. The Holy Spirit doesn't go three chapters until He tells you about the promised Redeemer (Gen. 3:15). That Old Testament is cool water to a thirsty soul. David wrote, **"he leadeth me**

beside still waters" (Psa. 23:2), and the righteous man of Psalm 1 is said to **"be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters"** (Psa. 1:3).

The other fountain is the New Testament: the good news realized. The Redeemer comes and makes the payment for man's sin. The Holy Ghost comes to convict the sinner so he can receive the good news. The Lord sends witnesses to tell sinners the good news. And the last invitation in that Book is to come and drink of that **"water of life freely."** When you do, you are made clean **"with the washing of water by the word"** (Eph. 5:26).

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3).

Sinner friend, you don't need to crawl through the barren wasteland of self-righteousness or religion anymore. You can come to the fountain and have life; you can come and be clean.

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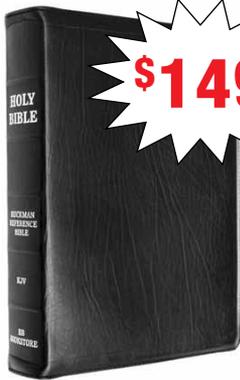
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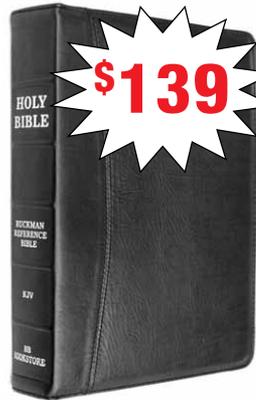


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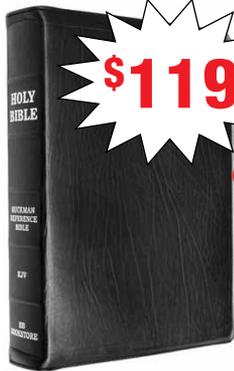
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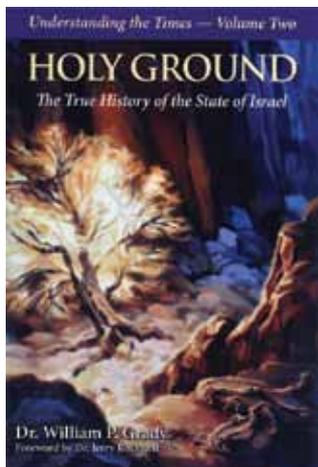
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kickback for the doc to recommend. Thanks to the work and influence of the pervert Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), the field of psychiatry is planted firmly on a sexual foundation. Today's psychiatrist is trained to diagnose every problem sexually, simply because Freud grew up in a twisted home life with imaginations that he never did find a way to control since he had no Bible (II Corinthians 10:1-4). As an adult, Freud coped with his neurosis by smoking twenty cigars a day, causing oral cancer requiring thirty surgeries (while he continued smoking), in the meantime, telling patients that they had an "oral fixation" caused by sexual problems in their childhood. The self-made guru of the psychiatric field eventually committed an assisted suicide, asking a doctor friend to administer a lethal dose of morphine to end his pain in 1939. Quoting Dr. Carlat again, "My psychodynamic supervisors wanted me to pay plenty of attention to the unconscious motivations of patients, which often were thought to have sexual undertones". The end result is that in the field of psychiatry, there is absolutely no room for any patient to have a spiritual problem caused by sin. The possibility of spiritual attack or possession by devils is not even an option for the experts working in these fields. Instead, thousands of patients are heavily sedated so that the symptoms of possession by devils are effectively masked. Cutting themselves, nakedness, preoccupation with the dead, excessive

strength and crying are some of the marks of possession by unclean spirits, as given in Mark chapter 5. Led by Hollywood, a whole recent generation of young people have become obsessed with vampires, walking dead, wizards, witches, and aliens, of course all done in "harmless" entertainment. By refusing to acknowledge the existence of spirits at work in this world, the modern education in every field of knowledge today has come no further than a first century blind Sadducee, who refused to say there was a resurrection, an angel or a spirit (Acts 23:8).

The Bible believer has access to the truth about the existence of the spirit world, even though it is denied by modern education. Satan is considered by most educated Americans as either nonexistent or simply a figure of the evil in the world. Many churchgoers believe Satan and his angels are bound in hell and are taught that from II Peter 2:4, where some angels are said to be **"cast... down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness"**. But the context of the verse is from Noah's days (see verse 5), and refers only to those angels that left their first estate to take wives back before the flood (Genesis 6; Jude 6-7). It is only those spirits that have been chained till the day of judgment while Satan and his angels are obviously freely roaming the earth. Not only that, the passage does not even mention Satan. Far from being bound, Satan and his angels are active and the saved are warned to **"Be**

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sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). The devil uses devices against the saved and when persecution will not work, he will use conformity to this world. The Laodicean Christian has been deceived by Satan into thinking that he has a work to do in bringing in a better world through politics and the improvement of society. This foolishness can be seen and heard from modern Baptist church pulpits to the degree that street preaching and personal soul winning are secondary to saving the nation. A Christian is considered spiritual if he is patriotic and votes, but only in America, since it is obvious that a saved Russian, Saudi Arabian, Libyan, etc., could not love their "evil" countries. In other words, Americans think the King James English Bible is an American book. Preachers have become dumb dogs (Isaiah 56:10) that have duped their sheep to believe that America is an exception to the Lord's view of nations (read Isaiah 40:15,17; Isaiah 43:9; Isaiah 17:12-13; Isaiah 14:26; Isaiah 34:1-2) and even pray as if God is on our side against all these really bad folks out there. The devil has effectively seduced American Christians to be **"conformed to this world"**, instead of **"being transformed"** (Romans 12:1-3). He does not care how you are knocked out of the spiritual warfare, only that you are.

In His wisdom and mercy, the Lord forbids His children to worship or even

contact these spirits. In Deuteronomy 18:10-11, He warns not to "observe times", as in astrological signs of the zodiac, connected to birth dates, nor contact an "enchanter", used to drum up unclean spirits through various chants, nor calling out to "familiar spirits", in the cases where devils imitate the departed spirit of a friend or family member, most often through a seance. Unclean spirits can imitate the departed dead but they are not the actual spirit of the familiar person. They do not have the power to produce the departed spirit. That power rests only with the Lord Himself (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Whenever familiar spirits are called up, they always give messages that are positive and soothing, proving their source is satanic. The one time in the Bible where the Lord allows Samuel to rise up from his rest in Abraham's bosom, it was the real thing, not an imitation that was controlled by the witch. (The woman with the familiar spirit was actually shocked when Samuel came up). The proof is in the message of Samuel to Saul which was a rebuke and negative (1 Samuel 28:7-19) and even came to pass as prophesied. The Lord also puts a prohibition on the complete Harry Potter series of goblins, witches and **"wizards that peep, and that mutter"** in Isaiah 8:19. There are no "good" witches, wizards, necromancers, or charmers in the Bible, they are all an abomination to the Lord according to Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

The origin and uncovering of the unseen spirit world are revealed only

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in the King James Bible. Through the use of the corrupt English translations, the **“god of this world”** (II Corinthians 4:4) has effectively masked his work from behind the scenes, so that all of the English Bible translations coming out of Egypt, have lost the answer to the origin of Satan’s present condition, as well the origin of his hordes of unclean spirits. Simply by changing a few simple and understandable words of the perfect and pure AV1611, the corrupt NIV, ASV, NASV, NKJV, etc., have misled most Christians today to believe that there was not a completed creation of heaven and earth in Genesis 1:1, that nothing was destroyed in verse 2, and that nothing was recreated into its present condition from verses 3 through 31. Changing the word **“replenish”** in Genesis 1:28 to **“fill”**, allows for the deception that there was not a population on the earth before Adam. There was a population of spiritual beings called the sons of God on the earth before Adam and that is why Adam was told to **“replenish”** it, just as Noah was later told to **“replenish”** the earth after the flood drowned out a disobedient population in Genesis 9. The Bible corrupters then destroy the cross references to the **“anointed cherub”** (Ezekiel 28:14) who was covering the original earth, with all the sons of God shouting for joy (Job 38:7), when the Lord God created the original earth. Almost all of the Bible teachers today cry **“Gap Theory”** and if they are professing Bible believers, they do

not retranslate but merely claim that the word **“replenish”** does not mean replenish. The **“Gap”** between the first two verses of the Bible is not a **“theory”**, but a literal event that is proven by both Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, as well as an explanation for Satan’s fall.

From Genesis 1:1, the Bible student should know that chronologically, the scriptures move to Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, before returning to Genesis 1:2. In those passages, the reader is shown the reason and timing for the destruction in making the earth **“without form and void”** and darkness covering **“the face of the deep”** (Genesis 1:2). The Lord most certainly does not create anything **“without form and void”**, as that is a term to indicate judgment (see Jeremiah 4:23-27). The judgment and destruction were caused by the rebellion of Lucifer, attempting to rise above the throne of God and steal the glory that belonged only to Him. The Lord says that **“my glory will I not give to another”** (Isaiah 42:8), so He stepped in and thwarted Lucifer’s attempted coup and cast him out of his exalted position.

When we turn to Ezekiel 28:1-19, we find two men being addressed. If taken literally (which the Bible believer does), it cannot fit any human being who ever lived on earth. The first one addressed is **“the prince of Tyrus”** (verses 2-10). The kingdom of Tyrus was founded about 2750 B.C. and was finally conquered and destroyed by Alexander of Greece approximately 335 B.C. The prince being

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addressed was a man, who thought he was a God (verse 2). But as we continue reading, we see that this man is **“wiser than Daniel”** and **“there is no secret that they can hide from thee”** (verse 3). Daniel was able to prophesy the progression of the world Gentile kingdoms from where he lived during the Babylonian kingdom in 550 B.C., clear down to the ten kingdoms of the last days of the tribulation period, sometime after 2017 A.D. Can the reader attribute this kind of wisdom to a “prince of Tyrus” in world history? It is proven to be a prophecy about the coming Antichrist, who is known as the **“profane wicked prince”** whose crown will be forcibly removed by the King of kings at the second coming of Christ Jesus, **“whose right it is”** (Ezekiel 21:25-27). The prince being addressed in verses 1-10, is none other than Satan’s **“son of perdition”** (Satan manifest in the flesh) who one day soon will convince himself that he is God, sitting in the temple of God, which will be set up in the tribulation period to come (II Thessalonians 2:4). In other words, it is the spirit of antichrist (I John 4:3) being addressed in the human prince of Tyrus.

The knowledge and wisdom of the Antichrist will be the kind that does not come from above, but what the Bible calls **“earthly, sensual, devilish”** (James 3:15). This is the wisdom that even now, educated American Christians are intermeddling with (Proverbs 18:1). In the Bible, man’s **“inventions”** are connected to the line of Cain (Genesis 4), and each

time the word shows up, it is never on a positive note. Mankind’s “progress” will soon culminate in the son of perdition marking men to their damnation during his rule in the tribulation period (Revelation 13:16; Revelation 14:9-11), and it sure looks like he will be using man’s great inventions against him.

The next portion of Ezekiel 28 (verses 11-19) is addressed to the **“king of Tyrus”**, who turns out to be the father of the previous **“prince”**, and if the reader takes the Bible to literally mean what it says, then these verses can only be describing Satan, and not some human king who once ruled in Tyre. Similar to the spirit of antichrist being addressed in the prince of Tyrus in the previous verses, the Lord addresses Satan in this King of Tyre, just as the Lord Jesus addressed Satan in Peter in Matthew 16. For instance, the passage in Ezekiel addresses a being who was in Eden, the garden of God, who was created with musical instruments of pipes and tabrets **“in”** him, and was an **“anointed cherub that covereth”**. This description does not only not fit a human being, it does not fit the account of the serpent who appeared in the garden to Eve in Genesis 3. This shows that Lucifer was created as a different creature than the subtle serpent that shows up in Genesis 3, or the dragon he is described as in Revelation 12, or the behemoth of Job 40:15, or his leviathan description in Job 41. His present condition is also described in Isaiah 27:1, where he is referred to as **“leviathan the piercing serpent...that crooked serpent...”**

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and...the dragon". Lucifer was **"the anointed cherub"** and he fell from his original position and condition described in our passage in Ezekiel 28, as well as in Isaiah 14. Since the devil had already degenerated into a serpent who questioned and denied what God said in Genesis 3, the student of the Bible needs to consider when this fall took place. The corrupt English translations are aware of this problem and led by the serpent himself, change the pure words found in the KJV in verses 13-14 of Isaiah 14. Look it up in the NIV, RSV, etc., and you will find that this **"king of Tyrus"** had no pipes and tabrets **"in"** him (they were only created **"for"** him), nor was he a **"covering"** for anything. This leads the Bible correcting fundamentalists to apply Ezekiel 28 completely to the mere human King of Tyrus.

By believing the pure words of the King James Bible literally, and without changing a word, the believer finds that God created an original heaven (singular) and earth in Genesis 1:1 that was covered by Lucifer, bringing praises in music and shouts of joy from the sons of God (Job 38), while dwelling in the original Eden, the garden of God. We are not told how long this set up lasted, but it could have been ages and ages with the Lord receiving this glory. At some point, Lucifer decided in his pride that he would usurp the Lord's throne, kingdom, and glory for himself. The Lord then brought judgment as He destroyed his original work till it was **"without form and void"** (Genesis 1:2). Lucifer lost his beauty, his posi-

tion as anointed cherub, and his fellowship with his Creator. He was then cast out (Isaiah 14), along with many of the sons of God who followed him. This destruction is also given in II Peter 3:4-7, where Peter writes that the earth was once **"standing out of the water and in the water"**, causing that earth to perish, yet both **"the heavens and earth, which are now"** (obviously, a different earth since Noah's flood did not cause the earth to perish or produce different **"heavens"**) have a reservation that will one day meet a destruction by fire. We are living on the same earth as Noah was, so the reference in II Peter 3 is NOT Noah's flood, but the destruction of Genesis 1:2. In Genesis 1:3-28, another earth, as well as a different universe consisting of more than one heaven (Genesis 2:1), along with another Eden, and finally, another **"king"** were all created. This king was named Adam and he was given **"dominion"** (Genesis 1:28) and told to **"replenish"** the earth, only this time with physical, human beings of flesh, not spiritual sons of God. The population on the first created earth did not consist of dinosaurs or another race of men. Adam was the first man (I Corinthians 15:45-47), and the dinosaurs were no more than huge lizards that lived long lives (as men also did) before the flood of Genesis 6-9, right alongside mankind. Adam was created as a matured finished product with innate intelligence along with the gift of speech. This thirty-year-old man came on the scene in the innocence of a

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perfect harmony between body, soul, and spirit. His body of flesh was created to keep in touch with a finished, matured, physical world, his living soul was given to magnify God, and a spirit that could rejoice and give worship in union with God's Spirit (Luke 1:46). By this time, the anointed cherub Lucifer had already fallen to become the serpent, leviathan, behemoth, and dragon (Revelation 12) called Satan, and his followers had already become fallen unclean spirits or the devils that roam this present universe. Satan had to watch as Adam was delegated the lofty position of fellowship with the Lord God with dominion over the physical earth. Satan, in his all-consuming pride, attacked the new king through his weaker vessel, the woman. He appeared "as an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14) to the woman and in subtlety, deceived her into disobedience. Adam willingly reached for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, fully aware of what he was doing (I Timothy 2:14) causing him to lose his crown and giving Satan a temporary victory. This began a six-thousand-year battle within the spirit realm that still rages today. It also resulted in Adam's lineage of fallen mankind consistently reaching for the wrong knowledge, attempting to "**be as gods**" (Genesis 3).

Satan was later forced to watch as the Jewish high priest took his exalted place. Just as Satan was once "**anointed**" (Ezekiel 28:14), so the Jews anointed their high priest (Exodus 29:6-7). Just as Satan once ruled

from his position over three sanctuaries in the garden, the holy mountain, and a throne that he covered (Ezekiel 28:13-14), so the Jewish high priest worked within three sanctuaries of an outer court, a holy place and the most holy place (Exodus 26). Just as Satan was originally covered in precious stones (Ezekiel 28:13), so the Jewish high priest was adorned with precious stones on his breastplate (Exodus 28:15-20). Just as Satan once covered a created heaven with a hole in the top, which led to the true Head, the Lord God Almighty (Isaiah 14:13), so the Jewish high priest wore a one-piece robe all of blue with a hole in the top (Exodus 28:31-32). The book of Hebrews teaches us that the earthly Jewish tabernacle and its furniture were "**figures of the true**" (Hebrews 9:9,24), so Moses was instructed to make sure he followed the "**pattern**" given to him by the Lord on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 25:9,40). The fallen cherub and his angels do not sit idly by while the Lord gets glory.

The King James Bible calls these spiritual beings "devils", never "demons" as the corrupt NKJV, NIV, ASV, etc., because the men responsible for the AV1611 were not only superior scholars, but led of the Holy Spirit of God. Since they were much more informed and well-read than their modern critics, the KJV translators were aware that the pagan Greeks used the word "daemon" to refer to both good and bad spirits. Homer referred to demon gods who were supermen

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who performed great and noble deeds, while Plato and the Greek philosophers claimed that the "Deity has no contact with men, it is all done through demons". Hence, the pagans believe in both good and bad demons (just as hundreds of millions of Harry Potter readers think there are good and bad witches and wizards). The Christian scholars who love to use the Greek to correct the KJV, teach that there is only one who is "the" Devil, which they say is "Diabolos" in the Greek New Testament, and many demons, which they insist show up in the New Testament Greek as "daimon". Once again, the superiority of the KJV is manifested when the student finds that Judas was referred to as "a" devil, not "the" Devil, and the word translated is "Diabolos", which the KJV translators, as usual, correctly translated.

The Bible teaches that the unseen spirit world has an organization under the "**god of this world**" (II Corinthians 4:4 - Satan), in the form of "**principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places**" (Ephesians 6:12). This army of spiritual beings is constantly interfering in the lives of men in an attempt to destroy lives, as well as steal worship from the true God. When comparing the faces of the cherubim in Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10, the reader finds that the face of an ox is substituted for the face of the cherub. Since we know that Satan was once the "**anointed cherub**", we know that his face appeared as an

ox. This explains the foolishness of millions of Hindus in India worshipping cows, and Israel's willingness to build a golden calf to worship after coming out of Egypt (Exodus 32). The millions of gods worshipped by the Hindus are none other than the devils roaming the earth in its atmosphere. One of the ways an educated man today shows off his darkened foolish heart is to worship nature and the creatures of this earth (Romans 1:21-25). Back in the 1970's, brilliant college American minds began an event called "Earth Day" which has grown into an annual, worldwide event every April, with superstitious pagans worshipping as they show their concern for trees, oceans, air, dolphins, seals, wolves, spotted owls, eagles, beach mice and any creature imaginable except the innocent Lamb. The American college educated green person on Earth Day looks no less foolish and pagan than the Israelites dancing around a golden calf as if it were a god some thirty-four hundred years ago. The "greeners" religiously worship the earth and its creatures while claiming to despise religion as the opiate of ignorant Bible believers. They give a ball of dirt the respected title of "Mother Earth" while scoffing at the possibility of God being anyone's Father. He completely rejects the idea of the spirit world, while he bows to their unseen influence, no less pagan and ignorant than the millions of Hindus worshipping their cows. Through all of this, Satan steals his desired wor-

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ship away from God, whether it is from poor Hindus, pagan Africans, or rich, educated Americans and Europeans.

As long as a man rejects the Bible, he will continue to be blinded by a host of devils, whether he believes they exist or not. The typical American thinks he creates his own circumstances and thinks the spirit world is a joke. He scoffs at the idea since he has never encountered a **“great red dragon”** with a pitchfork and horns, completely ignorant of Satan’s **“devices”** and ability to be **“transformed into an angel of light”** (II Corinthians 11). The devil is far more likely to appear as a religious preacher in a robe, than the goat of Mendes, or some dark, menacing figure. Adam’s fallen race is deceived and seduced by the unseen world until one day, far too late, he wakes up in it. Once the body of flesh is put down, the spirit and soul of man are released into a previously unseen world of spirits. Sadly, death will be the first eye opener for most to see what had been going on all around them.

The Christian is to stay aware of this battle for souls as Satan will try to **“sift”** even those who love the Lord Jesus (Luke 22:1-3). If allowed an entrance, Satan will influence the thoughts of your heart (Acts 5:3), and that is where the Bible believer faces a great and constant battle. We are warned to take part in this fight by **“casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every**

thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Corinthians 10:5). The believer is to be strengthened in his spiritual walk of faith as he realizes that he is not to walk in the flesh, as his war is not after the flesh, but he takes on a spiritual warfare using spiritual weapons (II Corinthians 10:3-4). His spiritual weapons are listed in Ephesians 6 as the believer is to arm himself with the **“truth”** around his loins, **“righteousness”** as his breastplate, **“the gospel of peace”** on his feet, **“the shield of faith”** out in front of him to **“quench all the fiery darts of the wicked”**, **“the helmet of salvation”** on his head, and his offensive weapon in this battle is **“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”**.

Contrary to fundamentalist teaching, if given an entrance, Satan can enter the body of the believer, as he did with Ananias in Acts 5. One of the cute sayings in the Baptist world says, “The devil can oppress a Christian, but he cannot possess one”, but it would seem from the Bible that if Satan filled Ananias’ heart, he had pretty good possession. Man has been given a free will by his Creator and if given permission by the Lord, Satan will attack the believer’s body (I Timothy 1:20), mind (II Corinthians 11:3), heart (Acts 5:3) and family (I Timothy 5:14-15). If he could have his way, Satan would kill and destroy you right now (Job 2:4-7; John 10:10). It is only the restraint of the Lord in the spiritual realm that prevents him. Though listed as a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:20), by dabbling

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and playing with witchcraft, a man can be overtaken and controlled by an unclean spirit (Acts 8:9-11) and taken much further down than he planned on going. Manasseh, as king of Judah, decided to set up altars and play with the spirits that Jezebel and Ahab once brought into Israel. He fell into a downward spiral that eventually found him burning his own children in a sacrifice of fire to appease and worship the unclean spirits (II Kings 21:6), as well as leading the whole nation of Judah to follow his idolatry (verse 9), and filled Jerusalem with innocent blood from one end to the other (verse 16). The Lord allowed this wicked king to reign longer than any other king in the history of Israel, a full fifty-five years. These devils are loosed (Revelation 9:1-3) and take over such control during the tribulation period, that despite being tormented by these spiritual beasts for five months at a time (Revelation 9:10), despite being scorched by the sun (Revelation 16:8), despite being given blood to drink in their thirst (Revelation 16:4-6), men will refuse to repent and instead continue in their sins (Revelation 9:20-21). The Bible reveals the power of the spirit world over mankind with his only hope being the protection of staying in fellowship with the Lord by having the word of God abiding in him in order to **“overcome the wicked one”** (I John 2:14). It is a dangerous thing for any believer to get out of fellowship with the Lord and play with these spirits who are among those that are much higher and

more powerful than the mere human kings upon the earth (Isaiah 24:21).

The spiritual attack begun by Satan six thousand years ago started with what God SAID. The spirit world is fearful and intimidated by **“thus saith the Lord”** and their attacks are centered right there. It matters not what some Pope, President, King, or some preacher said, but what God said. All that is necessary to gain victory and steal the worship from the Lord God, is to add to, subtract from, change, question or doubt what God said. The spirit world is consumed with trying to destroy God's words. The battle being fought today is over God's words, the scripture. The most powerful of all of Satan's **“devices”** (II Corinthians 2:11) is to destroy the final authority in the life of the Christian. The spirit world relentlessly attacks on this level, whether they are recognized or not. They know how to hide behind the smiling, nice face of a preacher or “recognized scholar”, as the scripture is questioned, changed and doubted. The attention placed on the scripture by the Devil and his army of unclean spirits comes as no surprise to the Bible believer as the reader notices continual attacks on only one Book... the AV1611. The first attack will be to try to prevent the hearer from understanding the scripture (Mark 4:3-4,15). He will try to blind the lost to the glorious gospel of Christ found in the scripture, lest they be saved (II Corinthians 4:4). In his pride, he even thinks he can prevent the fulfill-

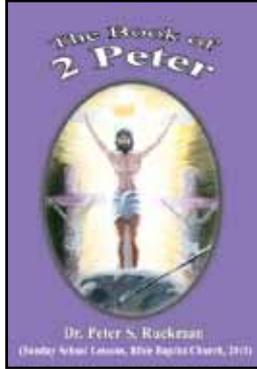
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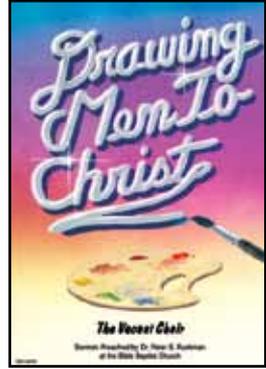
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ment of scripture (Matthew 16:21-23), though he knows this cannot be done (Acts 1:16). He will attempt to get the believer to use the scripture at the wrong time (Matthew 4:1-3), and in repeated, stubborn, relentless attacks, he will work to corrupt the scripture through "good, godly men" (II Corinthians 2:17). All Satan has to do is get a man to recognize more than one authority and the battle is his. As an old Chinese philosopher once said, "A man with one watch always knows what time it is, while a man with two watches is never sure". The fundamentalist with his "inspired original manuscripts" can never be sure of what God said. None of the extant Greek manuscripts agree with each other and none of the original manuscripts can be found. The independent, fundamental Baptist can go to seminary, study Greek for fifty years, become a Greek expert and know the

difference between every Alexandrian, Caesarian, Western, and Antiochian Greek manuscript, but he can never be sure of what God said. A lost Muslim scholar had more sense than thousands of Baptist preachers when he noted, "Muslims have only one book, the Q'uran, while Christians have many Bibles". He was right and as a result, was able to shut the mouths of the Bible correctors in a debate, and that is another reason why we are not fundamental Baptists, but Bible believing Baptists. We believe only one Book, we trust only one Book, we preach only one Book, we have only one final authority... The King James 1611 English Bible. It is the standard by which everything is judged. As Jesus said, "**He that rejecteth, me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day**" (John 12:48).

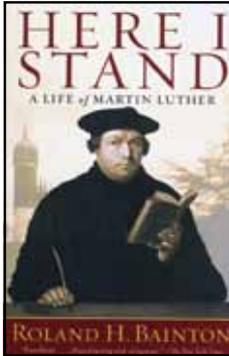
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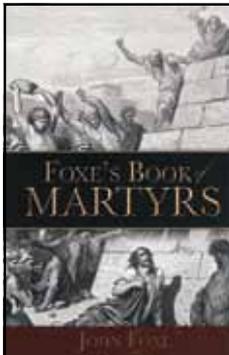
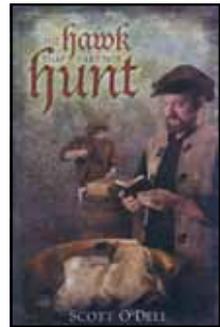
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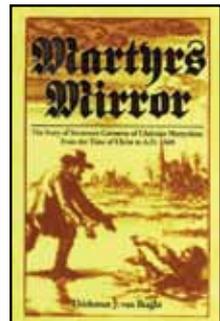
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The Internet:

The Christian Drug of Choice

By Brian Donovan

The Laodicean church is warned in Revelation 3:14-19 that she is neither hot nor cold, and because of this lukewarm, couldn't care less attitude, the Lord gives her some counsel. That counsel is to look ahead to the Judgment Seat and buy some gold tried in the fire, which is defined in I Peter 1:7 as a passing through the fire in **"the trial of your faith"**. Nothing will help get rid of a nonchalant, lukewarm attitude like some fiery trials of troubles, poor health, inability to pay bills, things not going right, and a few good enemies.

The average American Christian knows little of enduring **"hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"**, as he ministers and fellowships in respectable circles, thinking mainly of "himselfie". He looks into his all-knowing Internet and daily worships for an hour or two as he completely disconnects with the reality of the spiritual warfare. The spirit is one of **"witchcrafts"** (II Kings 9:22), called **"whoredoms"** in II Chronicles 21:13. The whoredoms of Mystery Babylon (Revelation 17) are spiritual deceptions that cause the kings of the earth and the "great men" to commit spiritual fornication with the Mother of Abominations of the Earth coming out of Rome. Revelation 18:23 shows this work as deceiving all the nations through **"sorcery"**. Even when the Lord pours out His wrath during the coming great tribulation period, men refuse to repent of their "sorceries" (Revelation 9:20-21), though they will be tormented with plagues that will

cause them to gnaw their tongues as they get **"scorched with great heat"** (Revelation 16:9-10). These sorceries are used to drug mankind into a passive, lukewarm state to where they cannot see their condition. That is why the Lord tells them to **"anoint thine eyes with eyesalve that thou mayest see"** (Revelation 3:18).

The drug of choice among Christians today is "me, myselfe, and I". The drug is so intoxicating and brings about such a euphoria, it causes a self-worship that can last for hours per day. The **"god of this world"** (II Corinthians 4:4) sits within the iPhones, the tablets, and Facebook, as he uses sorceries to seduce the Lord's people into his personal house of worship. Just as Ephraim refused to return to the Lord when the **"pride of Israel testified to his face"** (Hosea 7:10), so today, the Christians continue on. How does anyone explain the reason for the extreme amounts of time spent with the Internet, apart from spiritual deception? This increase of knowledge is prophesied in Daniel 12:4, but the Bible believer knows this is the wrong kind of knowledge that began way back in the garden, connected to a forbidden tree (Genesis 2:9). It is the **"knowledge of witty inventions"** you were warned about in Proverbs 8:12.

When Daniel prophesied of this increase in knowledge, he used the same phrase that Amos used in his prophecy of the famine for the **"hearing of the words of the Lord"** that would come in the last days (Amos 8:11-12), and that phrase is **"to and**

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The Internet:

The Christian Drug of Choice

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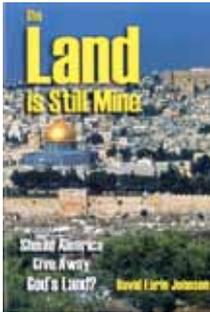
fro". Mankind is depicted as running **"to and fro"** in these days, and the reference obviously is not good. They run around in a panic, unsatisfied in their quest, always looking for the next newest thing, as the Lord sends a famine for His words. This going **"to and fro"** is exactly how Satan moves around this earth (Job 1:7; Job 2:2). Notice how he gets in a panic, unsatisfied that he could not get worship from Job.

The Christian today willingly enters Satan's house of worship, not weekly, not for two or three hours on a Sunday, but daily, and with many, the worship time is so enjoyable, it lasts for two and three hours each service. The sorcery is so fascinating it repeatedly pulls the worshipper back into the satanic "web" every single day, often more than once a day, while the Book sits on the sidelines. The professing Bible believers of these last days will time themselves for the few minutes when they do read the Bible, but no clock is necessary when it comes to their consultations with the Internet. In spite of the warnings of **"doting about questions and strifes of words"** (I Timothy 6:4), the increased knowledge of their technology keeps them bound. When a preacher tries to fulfill his calling and **"put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord, that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers"** (II Timothy 2:14), they brush off the preacher as an out of touch fool. The word "subverting" means to overthrow from

the foundation up—complete ruin. The Christian's foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ and he is to build upon that with **"gold, silver and precious stones"** (I Corinthians 3:10-11), **"but if the foundations be destroyed"** (Psalm 11:3)?

Instead of daily seeking out the book of the Lord (Isaiah 34:16), the Lord sees what His people **"do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery"** (Ezekiel 8:12). The chamber is set up for worship and the child of God acts much like Nebuchadnezzar as he consults with images (Ezekiel 21:21) to see what he should do next. His imaginations are fueled instead of being cast down (II Corinthians 10:5), and it is through the touch of a button with his **"increase of knowledge"**.

"To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear?" (Jeremiah 6:10). **"For we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves"** (Isaiah 28:15). **"They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy"** (Jonah 2:8). **"This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receives correction: truth is perished"** (Jeremiah 7:28). **"But they are not valiant for the truth"** (Jeremiah 9:3). **"For truth is fallen in the street"** (Isaiah 59:14). **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"** (Hosea 4:6). **"For the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land"** (Hosea 4:1).

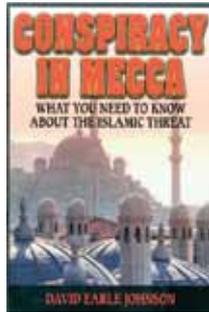


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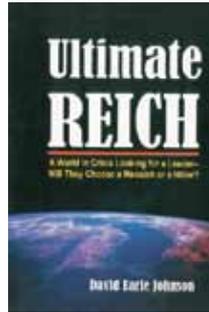


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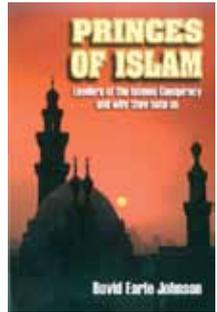


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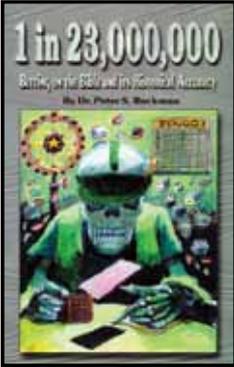
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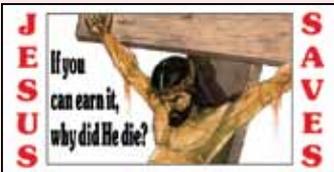
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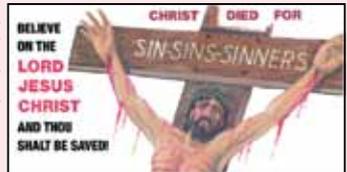
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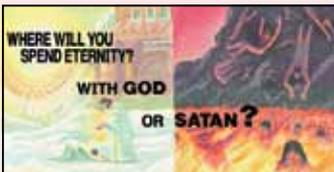
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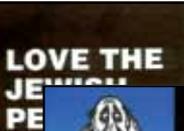
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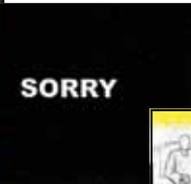
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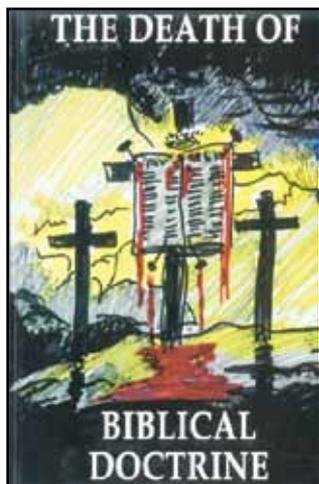
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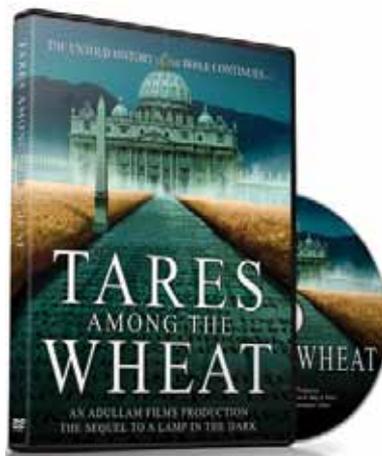


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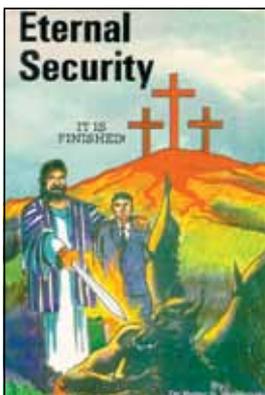
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A Blessed Memory

By Robert Militello

“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” (1 Cor. 11:24).

It was necessary that our Lord establish a memorial service before His death. No people on this earth are as connected with their past as the Jews. There are things to remember and things to forget, and our behavior is greatly conditioned by the memories we carry in our hearts. Jesus wanted this service, which some call “communion,” to bring to mind among His disciples one thing only—His death.

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, YE DO SHEW THE LORD’S DEATH TILL HE COME” (1 Cor. 11:26).

His death, more than all His miracles, His preaching, His baptism, His transfiguration, and His confrontations with the religious elite, was to be elevated above all other facets of His life. Until He returns to take His bride to His Father’s house, we are to look to Calvary. Only there, on that darkest day of human history, can we begin to fathom the infinite love of God. Real love cannot be comprehended by any of us apart from the cross. Solomon wrote, **“no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them”** (Eccl. 9:1). We need a divine revelation to begin to understand love. All who search for love (and that’s just about everybody) grope along in darkness unless they are led to Calvary. Sadly, very few discover the love of God because they look for love in all the wrong places.

When our Lord broke the bread that night, little did the apostles know their own hearts would be broken hours later. Often, the Lord uses great sadness to get us to see things we ought not to ignore.

“It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to heart” (Eccl. 7:2).

Some things need to be put on our heart continually. His cruel death saves us from a hell we have earned by our sins. This needs to be thought about continually, or your progress in the Christian life will amount to nothing more than a few baby steps, no matter how long you have been saved. Our salvation was given us freely, but the cost of it is what the Lord asks us to remember.

One cannot read the Old Testament without being struck by the account of grief and sadness that befell the Jews. Orthodox Jews weep their way through so many pages of scripture, yet cling to the hope that Messiah will bring laughter and joy back to the streets of Jerusalem. Every Jew carries within him this inexplicable sadness; it is in the DNA of their souls. Isaiah described our Lord as **“a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: (Isa. 53:3).**

This August, Jews will fast and pray and mark what they call Tisha B’av. In all of Jewish history, there is no such day as this. Tisha means ninth and B’av means “of the month of Av,” which is the fifth month on the Jewish religious calendar. No doubt Jesus, as an observant Jew, marked this day. He was ac-

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A Blessed Memory

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quainted with all the fasts and days of mourning on that calendar. There are four fasts and periods, or days, of national mourning referred to in Zechariah 8:19.

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; the fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace.”

Tears will turn to joy when Messiah brings peace to Jerusalem; not until then.

“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not: So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not” (Zech. 8:14–15).

Finally, after 4,000-plus years of Jewish history, beginning with the calling out of Abram in Genesis 12, tears stored in bottles for centuries will be put away for good. **“Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle”** (Psa. 56:8). Looking to Calvary has brought many a sinner to tears. Showing the Lord's death until He comes ought to bring sadness; it is meant to soften your heart, break you down, and turn you to genuine repentance of a godly sort.

Some years ago, I knew a black preacher who witnessed to one and all on the New York City subways. The man was fearless, and if you told him you were saved, he would ask you to join him. In church in Brooklyn, I asked how and when he got saved. He told me that as a boy of eight, his mother read to him the crucifixion account. He asked why was Jesus treated so cruelly, and his mom explained. My brother told me that he broke down then and wept, and his life was forever fixed. For years, he has been a faithful soldier, not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You will hear of many like him at the Judgment Seat of Christ, men despised by the world and yet so precious to our God. Keep the Lord's death before your mind's eye; it acts as an antibiotic to neutralize the tendency to complain. *We need that often.*

Zechariah tells us about a day when Jerusalem will be **“a cup of trembling”** and **“a burdensome stone”** (Zech. 12:2–3). That day is bearing down upon us. Most Jews do not want to hear about any kind of judgment yet to come upon them. They have had enough, as I have often heard. Nevertheless, the labor pains will intensify, and the pain will become excruciating just prior to the Lord's visible return to save the remnant of Israel. It is comforting to believe that in the end all will turn out well. New Testament believers have that promise; the Jews do not believe that about themselves, except for the few who believe the prophets. They don't know their own scriptures and can't believe them when put before their eyes.

“Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness” (Psa. 30:11).

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A Blessed Memory

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There will be no sackcloth found anywhere in the land promised to Abraham. One great mourning remains, the one described in Zechariah 12:10–14. That will be the greatest of all mournings, and it will bring to an end the fear the Jews have felt all these centuries. Until then, the Jew must revisit all the tragedies and judgments their refusal to believe their own prophets has brought upon them.

On Tisha B'av, which falls on July 31 at sundown, the pious Jews will gather at synagogues all over the world and open the book of Lamentations. Tisha B'av is the culmination of a three-week period of increasing sadness and mourning. It begins with the fast of the 17th of Tammuz, which commemorates the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem. In Zechariah 8:19, this is the fast of the fourth month. The fast of the fifth month is Tisha B'av, the day the temple was burned down. See Jeremiah 52:12–13 and 2 Kings 25:8–9 and notice the numbers involved.

Jeremiah tells us the temple was burned on the tenth day of the fifth month. According to most historians, this happened in 586 B.C. Amazingly, on that very same day on the Jewish calendar, the temple that Jesus visited was burned down by the Romans in A.D. 70.

Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard to Nebuchadrezzar, and General Titus, serving under the Roman emperor Vespasian, were instruments of judgment, bringing death to the Jews in the fifth month. Death and the number five are unmistakably linked in our King James Bible. It is no accident that the book of Lamentations has five chapters, and the Jews on Tisha B'av who go to the synagogue keep handkerchiefs and tissues ready for the tears that will come with the reading that day.

Our Lord's death was a judgment upon sin; He became sin for us. Now the temple of God which was destroyed by Titus is in our very spirit. It cannot be burned down; there is no Tisha B'av for the Christian, but there is the death of our Saviour. In His body was the fulness of God, and His body was broken and pierced. For almost two thousand years, Calvary is the one place where the Jew must go to meet God. The temple is gone; there is a mosque there now. Only a pitiful few Jews go to Calvary today, so a disaster must come that will dwarf Tisha B'av and Hitler's Holocaust. Try telling that to a Jew on the way to prayer on Tisha B'av.

In Zechariah 8:19, the fast in the seventh month is the fast of Gedaliah—see Jeremiah 41 for the reason for this fast. As I noted previously, Jews are connected to their history like no other people on earth. They alone can trace their origin back to their fathers. Jews are unique in this regard, and that is why they are the only people who classify the whole of humanity in just two categories—Jew or Gentile. We Christians employ the same practice by designating souls as either saved or lost. As the Jews are but a tiny portion of humankind, so are the saved a small number among the seven-and-one-half billion souls on planet earth today. Thank God, I'm in that blessed minority.

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A Blessed Memory

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Now the fast of the tenth month referred to in Zechariah 8:19 refers to the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem. So three fasts, the fourth, fifth, and tenth months, have to do with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. This might not mean very much to a Christian today, but the Lord, as a Jew, understood the significance of these events. Remember, He cried over Jerusalem. He saw what was coming again upon that city.

There are events of such national significance to a people that remembering these things brings tears. Our nation's civil war was such an event, but after an 150 years, memories dim and tears stop flowing. Jews are still crying over what happened 2,430 years ago.

There aren't many Holocaust survivors left. I remember Jews in Brooklyn who had the numbers from the concentration camps on their arms. My friend's dad never wore a short-sleeved shirt even on the hottest days in August because of those numbers. As the survivors and their children and grandchildren die off, who will remember? That's why Jews have built Holocaust museums wherever they could. Certain memories cannot be left to wither; the lessons they teach are too important. Jews are keenly aware of this, so our Lord instituted the memorial for His death at His last supper.

“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you” (John 6:53).

This saying caused many of His own disciples to turn away from Jesus (John 6:66), and the utterance was calculated to do that very thing. Our Lord is never taken by surprise. He knew that putting out such a hard teaching would thin the ranks.

God has wanted to restore fellowship with man since Adam and Eve sinned. In John 6:66, Jesus lays down the condition for discipleship. Coming to Jesus at Calvary, seeking forgiveness with a spirit of repentance, brings reconciliation with God, but discipleship is another matter. The cross is a death instrument which must be embraced personally. That involves self-denial, and in the Laodicean church period, the cross looks a lot more ugly than it did to Christian martyrs who yielded to it. “Your Best Life Now” is what sells now, and it will only get worse. Pray for revival all you want and then take a nap for twenty years like Rip Van Winkle—you might wake up refreshed with some God-given discernment, AMEN?

Christ without the cross is less demanding and is characteristic of Laodicean Christianity. Paul had to remind carnal Christians in Corinth that they were not their own and they had been **“bought with a price”** (1 Cor. 6:19–20). Innocent blood, God's own blood, was the only sacrifice that would wash away all sins. Believers plead the blood of Jesus to escape the power of sin. We drink His blood symbolically to stay in fellowship and eat His flesh symbolically to nourish our souls. We are not vampires or cannibals; **“the words”** of our Lord are life to us (John 6:69). We know that the Catholic teaching claiming that a com-

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A Blessed Memory

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munion wafer is the body of Christ is medieval alchemy. Alchemists believed that lead, or other metals, could be changed into gold.

As a Catholic altar boy, I was just a few feet away when I heard the priest say in Latin, "*Hoc est corpus meum.*" This was said that at that moment, called the "Consecration," the wafer became Christ's body. *Hoc est corpus meum* means "this body my"—this is how Latin is spoken. Rome has turned the Lord's memorial supper into a magic act. Many thousands of believers went to their deaths because they rejected Rome's teaching. They sealed their testimony with blood. Who remembers them today?

"Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old" (Lam. 5:21).

Jews are very good at remembering. They keep accurate accounts. Al Capone had a Jewish accountant for his organization, Jake Guzik. Mafia boss Lucky Luciano relied on Meyer Lansky, and the Cosa Nostra bosses made Meyer the Chief Financial Officer of the five New York families—notice five again. Record keeping and book entries are part of what it means to be a Jew.

We have a Jewish book written by Jews, and it is essentially a history book. This book, written by Jews, does not hesitate to excoriate the whole Jewish nation. Condemnation by the prophets is standard fare; so much so, that the rabbis were reluctant to include Ezekiel in the canon of scripture. No thoughtful Jew denies that the judgments that came upon the nation were divine chastisements. Zionist Jews in Israel want to be in God's favor. They want to be turned as the verse says in Lamentations 5:21. For that turning to take place, they must come to a bloody cross, and this they will not do. So the Lord has reserved yet another judgment for Israel. This one will dwarf all others. In Jeremiah 30:7, it is called "**the time of Jacob's trouble.**" Did the apostles know for what kind of horror Israel was in store when they asked the Lord, after His resurrection, "**wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**" (Acts 1:6).

Today, pious Jews yearn for a rebuilt temple. The wailing wall at the foot of the Temple Mount is all that remains of the temple where Jesus drove out the money changers. Jews to whom I have spoken about the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70 are afraid to talk about that with a Gentile. Most Jews readily acknowledge that Solomon's temple was destroyed because Israel and Judah had become grossly idolatrous. Yet there is confusion concerning the disaster that befell Herod's temple.

Once, in New York, I had a conversation with a pious Jew named Yokov Stern about this very thing. Yakov was a city employee like myself, and he was friendly toward me. I told him I was a student of Jewish history, and that opened a door. He asked why this was so, as so few Gentiles have any real interest in such things. My answer sort of startled him. I told him that I had come to love the Jewish rabbi Jesus and I now was passionately interested in all things Jewish. Prior to my attachment to Jesus, I told Yakov that I couldn't have cared less

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A Blessed Memory

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about Jewish history and customs. It was an honest confession, and I believe he appreciated my frankness. "So what about Herod's temple? Why did it fall?" I said. A lively discussion ensued, and we found ourselves taking a long lunch.

Yakov sensed where I wanted this conversation to go, but he wasn't annoyed. This is a sensitive issue for Jews who are diligent in their study of their nation's history. Remember, there is a day of fasting and a period of mourning (Tisha B'av) commemorating the fall of Solomon's temple, but the destruction of Herod's temple is somewhat of a postscript. Realistically, I don't know of a lost Jew who connects the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 with the nation's rejection of Jesus as their Messiah. My friend Yakov was vague about what could

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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.

A Blessed Memory

Continued from 37

have caused the God of Israel to wreak such havoc upon His people.

Religious formalism was widespread among the leaders, the Sanhedrin. Also, many Jews scattered throughout the Roman empire preferred to remain where they had settled rather than return to their biblical homeland. Jewish life in Israel had been influenced by Greek culture, and ignorance of the scriptures, especially the prophets, was demonstrable. Nevertheless, a judgment of such severity has to make a thinking Jew wonder if getting the Romans to execute the Rabbi from Nazareth could have caused heaven to retaliate. Yakov did get flustered somewhat, but would not dare look further into the thought that the Jewish leadership was blinded. It was much too painful for him.

So the tragedy of the Jews continues. Tisha B'av will remain the saddest day for believing Jews until they see the One whom they pierced. The outpouring of grief on that day will completely overshadow the sadness of Tisha B'av. For me, I have the cross to remember what love had to do to redeem me. I have a hymnal with numerous songs putting my mind on Calvary. Modern, so-called Christian music has little to say about the cross. I wonder why. I rejoice in my salvation. One day, the Jews that are left alive will recognize the One who would have given them the kingdom, but they did not know the time of their visitation (Luke 19:44).

“And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and THEY SHALL MOURN FOR HIM” (Zech. 12:10), not for the temples that were destroyed centuries ago. **“In that day shall there be a GREAT MOURNING in Jerusalem”** (vs. 11). Praise God, He will finally get the praise from his people due Him these past 2,000 years. Mourning will turn to praise and singing. There is no such thing in the synagogues today. They cannot sing the song of redemption, but we can.

Jews will gather on the morning of Tisha B'av; orthodox men will wear their prayer shawls. Their heads will be covered with yarmulkes. They will sit on low benches and rock back and forth (davoning), while reading Lamentations. Some will strike their breasts. Gone is the practice of wearing sackcloth and throwing ashes over the head. Yet this is a pitiful sight. A people prepared by God for their Redeemer cried instead for Barabbas. What tragedy!

Calvary is where the Lord paid the price of our admission into heaven. When I think of the cross, I do not strike my chest in sorrow, but give thanks to God for putting my sins upon Himself. Isaac Watts, in 1707, wrote, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” and when that hymn is sung, my spirit soars in praise. If your spirit doesn't, there is a problem in your walk with the Lord.

“Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.”

Do you? Luke 6:46.

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