



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 42 No. 4

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

April 2018

The Return of the Nation of Israel

By Brian Donovan

In the second book of Moses, called Exodus, the history of Israel as a nation began. When Jacob went down into Egypt about 1706 B.C., it was plain to see that the Jews were only a family up to that point. Jacob lived another seventeen years in Egypt as his son Joseph applied the wisdom given by the Lord to save both the family of Jacob, as well as all of Egypt, by interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh in order to prepare for the seven years of famine. Jacob died at 147 years old (Genesis 47:28), and his body was carried back to be buried in the land of Canaan (Genesis 50:13), but not before he pronounced the prophecy of his sons that carries out into **“the last days”** (Genesis 49:1). In the prophecy, Judah was told that the sceptre shall not depart from him **“until Shiloh come”** (49:10). Though the crown was temporar-

ily removed in punishment for their disobedience, the sceptre’s right is never lost to the tribe of Judah and will one future day be returned through Jesus Christ (the **“Shiloh”** of Genesis 49:10), ruling from the throne of David in Jerusalem. The prophecy goes on in the next verse (Genesis 49:11) to cover events of both comings of Shiloh, the bringer of peace, as Jacob was shown the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem on the ass’s colt (recorded in Matthew 21), as well as his clothes drenched in blood at the second advent (recorded in Isaiah 63). This same type of accuracy in prophetic detail was given a little later in Jacob’s prophecy (Genesis 49:24) when he foresaw the Lord Jesus Christ as both the **“shepherd”** of the first coming (John 10), and the **“stone”** of the second coming (Daniel 2:45). After finishing the prophecy, Jacob gathered his feet into the bed and yielded up the ghost (Genesis 49:33), with his body being embalmed and then carried back into Canaan for burial.

The book of Genesis closes with the family of Jacob still down in Egypt, and Joseph dead and placed in a coffin in Egypt (Genesis 50:26).

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What is Your Life?

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14).

“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21).

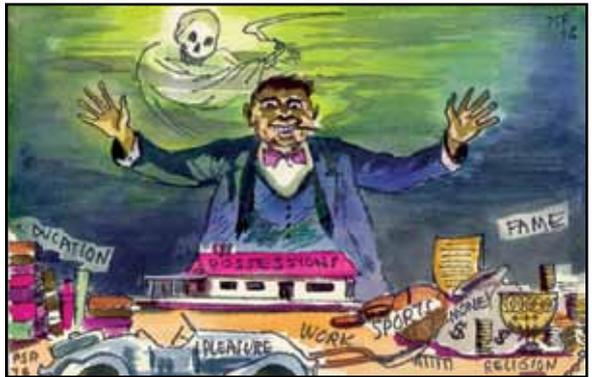
James asks the question: **“what is your life?”** He describes your *physical* life as **“a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”**

Then you come over to Paul. He talks about life too, but he describes the *spiritual* life of a *saved sinner*. A saved sinner is the only one who can say what Paul says: **“to live is Christ . . . to die is gain.”** Death isn't any kind of “gain” to an unsaved man: he's headed for hell. If you're a Roman Catholic, you can't say with any sincerity that death is a “gain” to you. You don't believe purgatory is a “gain,” do you? If you are a Hindu or a Buddhist or a Moslem or a JW or a Campbellite or a Mormon or a Seventh-day Adventist, you have no idea of what Paul is saying in Philippians 1:21, because you don't know where you're going when you die. You might hope so or think so or do your best, but you have no assurance because you don't *know* so.

Do you know why death was a gain to the apostle? Because when he departed this world, he went **“to be with Christ; which is far better”** (Phil. 1:23). He said **“to be absent from the body”** is **“to be present with the**

Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8).

Boris Becker was a famous Ger-



man tennis player. Someone asked him once if tennis were like life. Becker replied, “Tennis IS life.” Paul didn't say that life was to *do something* for Christ. He didn't say that life was being a *servant* of Jesus Christ. He said, **“For to me to live IS CHRIST.”**

Then life for the Apostle Paul was *not* himself. He said, **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; YET NOT I, but Christ liveth in me”** (Gal. 2:20). It isn't the Christian in Christ that's great; it's Christ in the Christian that's great.

Let me ask you something: is your life a *mess*, or is it a *message*? There used to be a magazine in this country entitled *Life*. That magazine probably had more *death* in it than any other magazine. One year I took the Christmas issue of *Life*, and out of 85 pages, I counted 35 full-page liquor ads. Liquor made up nearly 42% of the advertising for that magazine. If the liquor industry had shut completely down, there wouldn't have been enough money to publish *Life*.

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For some folks, life is *religion*. Somebody will say, "You've got a lot of room to talk, Ruckman; you're a religious fanatic." No, I'm not. I don't even believe in religion; I think religion *stinks*. I'm not counting on religion to save me. Religion is what a man *does to justify himself*. Salvation is what *God gives* a man who knows *he can't justify himself*.

I studied religions before I was saved. Some people are fanatics about their religion. The pope belongs to what he calls the "*Marian cult*." Don't get mad at me about that; that's what the pope calls his religion. A cult worships something or someone else besides God the Father and Jesus Christ against what's written in the Holy Bible. That describes the Catholic Church to a T. The Marian cult worships a woman, which the Bible never tells you to do.

I don't believe Mary is the "Queen of Heaven." I don't believe Mary can hear the prayers of 900 million people all praying to her at the same time. If you want to see some real religious fanatics, just go over to the Philippines and Spain and Portugal around Easter, and see what the pope's church members do to themselves. They wear burlap sacks and crawl up steps on their hands and knees. They beat themselves down the street and have themselves nailed to crosses. Why? To atone for their sins. You talk about religious fanaticism, that's it.

Imagine folks so crazy that they'd talk about the perpetual virginity of Mary and never talk about the perpetual virginity of *Joseph*. After all, if Mary were a perpetual virgin, what do

you think that made Joseph? If Mary and Joseph never had any relations before or after Christ was born, then Joseph was a perpetual virgin himself. Why give Mary all the credit?

Imagine being a Catholic in combat and saying the so-called "Lord's prayer." Why, that's a dumb, stupid prayer to say in a situation like that. There were Catholic gunners in those bombers in World War II saying the "Our Father" and cussing as they shot down the enemy. Why don't you pray for God to take care of you or for God to guide your bullets. Those kind of prayers would be "appropriate to the venue."

If you want to see how fanatical these religious nuts can be, do what I used to do. I got me a St. Christopher statue and hung it upside down from the rear-view mirror by a spring. Whenever I was pulled up at a traffic signal, I'd give that thing a flick. If looks could have killed, I would have been dead at least ten times a day. And it wasn't just Catholics giving me the "evil eye," either; some of those people were Baptists and Methodists.

I'm not telling anyone to do this, but if you took a rubber statue of Mary and dragged it down the main street of your town, the *Baptists* would be the ones to "come apart." I guess they're all idolaters: "it's sacrilege to treat a statue of a 'saint' like that." What's the problem? They're religious fanatics. For them, life is religion.

If some folks told the truth, they would have to say that for them to live is *work*. I grant you there are not a lot of those around anymore, but some of these "upwardly mobile" business-

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men (and women) are like that. Work consumes them because they are trying to “get ahead.”

Now I'm for work. After the war, a German man came over to this country, and he was offered a forty-hour-a-week job. He said, “I don't want a *part-time* job.” Paul said, “**if any would not work, neither should he eat**” (2 Thess. 3:10); he said, “**Not slothful in business**” (Rom. 12:11). But working and paying your bills isn't all there is to raising a family.

Have your children ever heard you pray? Have they ever seen you read the Bible? That's providing for your family just like working and paying the bills. That's providing the spiritual need.

I believe in work. I like work. I enjoy work. As long as I can move, I'll do something.

I was out eating once with a paint contractor named Bill Sharpe and a construction fellow named Cotton. Sharpe and Cotton were making fun of lazy preachers. After about five minutes of that, I said, “I do more work in a week than you do in a month.” That ruined the whole meal for those two. I mean, sermon prep, lesson prep for ten classes every week, writing, proofreading, visitation, correspondence, etc. The problem with those two guys was they made a god out of what they did well.

A lot of preachers are guilty of that: they make a god out of their work. The first thing you know, their ministry is their god instead of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Someone asked the famous playwright George Bernard Shaw, “What

are you living for?” He said, “How the devil do I know.” That guy had an IQ of about 160. All those brains and all that fame, and Shaw didn't know why he was here. He was a pretty stupid fellow. I know why I'm here. You don't even have to have a high school education to know why you're here.

H. L. Mencken was a famous journalist and liberal in his day. He was asked once, “Why do you go on living?” He replied, “I don't know. I guess I go on living for the same reason a hen goes on laying eggs.” That was an admission on Mencken's part that he had no purpose in being alive.

For others, to live is *pleasure*. Hedonism—“eat, drink, and be merry”; have a good time. Practice whatever thrills you and pay for it later. Bob Jones Sr. said, “Every dissipation of youth must be paid for with a draft on old age.” Young people sow their wild oats and then pay for a crop failure. Modern America is summed up in 2 Timothy 3:4—“**lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.**”

Errol Flynn, the great, debonair Hollywood movie actor, always used to wear a question mark on his lapel. When people asked him what it meant, he said, “It means, what is life all about?” He never got it figured out.

I always thought it would be a good idea for a Christian to wear one of those, and when someone asks him what it means, say, “It means, *are you saved?*” One of our employees over at the Bookstore finally made up some of those. We don't sell very many, but they are there if anyone wants to use them to open conversations to witness to people.

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A young man came to the great British statesman Lord William Gladstone once about entering law school. Gladstone asked what he was going to do after graduating. The young man said, "I'll establish a law practice." "What then?" asked Gladstone. "I'll make some money through practicing law," said the young man. Gladstone said, "What then?" The young man said, "When I get old enough, I'll retire in leisure." Once more, Gladstone asked, "What then?" "Well, I suppose I'll die," said the young man. "And what then?" said Gladstone. "I don't know," said the young man, "I haven't really thought about that." Gladstone said, "You're not ready to enter the practice of law, son; go back and think life through."

What a thing to live life and come to death without having thought of what follows. That's the place where a young person should *begin* his thinking.

Frank Sinatra was a great one for living for pleasure, living for the moment. He had a song he sang called "I Did It My Way." Well, where did "Old Blue Eyes" way take him in his old age? He'd go to parties, sit over in a corner by himself, staring into space, slowly drinking himself to death.

Sooner or later, you will have to pay for every dissipation of youth. As God is my witness, I was paying for things in my 70s which I had committed in my 20s.

For other folks, to live is *sports*. America is sports crazy. When I was growing up, football was September through November, basketball was December through February, base-

ball was March through May, and track and field was June through August. I have seen football being played now two months before the season starts. They stretch the championship games to a month or more after the regular season.

There are sports fanatics just like there are religious fanatics. Here are people paying over a hundred dollars to sit on cement bleachers in below-zero weather. Some of them will be half-dressed — literally — with *paint* all over their bodies. You don't think that isn't fanatical? For crazy nuts like that, life is football.

Some women are "football widows." When football season starts, the only place they see their husbands is in front of the TV set watching "the game." One woman was complaining about that to her husband, and he said, "Honey, I love you more than baseball, even if I don't love you as much as football or basketball."

Some church members went up to their pastor and said, "You've been playing too much golf." "Why do you say that?" he asked. They said, "You hold your Bible in an interlocking grip."

I've got a picture of a bride running across a golf green, with the preacher and bridal party behind her, to her groom getting in a golf cart to go to the next hole. The caption is the bridegroom telling her, "I told you only if it rains."

Don't get me wrong; I believe in sports. I played touch football till I was sixty, "blood ball" (water polo with no rules) till I was 65, aikido till I was 72, and hockey till I was 82. But you can get hung up on sports.

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Here's a testimony from a football "playboy"; this is Joe Namath, quarterback for the Jets and the Rams: "I've never really enjoyed anything in my life." Why, I've enjoyed plenty of things in my life. If you don't enjoy anything in life, what's the sense of prolonging your life?

For other people, to live is *education*. Here's a "Ruckmanism": "The bigger the belfry, the more room for the bats." I'm not against a basic education. Everybody ought to be able to read and write and do arithmetic. The kind of education I am against is where you get stuffed so full you become good for nothing. That Book says, "**Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth**" (1 Cor. 8:1).

The lost world uses education to destroy a student's knowledge of God: "**the world by wisdom knew not God**" (1 Cor. 1:21). Statistics show that 59% of professing Christians who attend college abandon their faith. If a high school or college education is going to rob you of your faith in the Book, that's the kind of education you can do without.

I have a saying I put in my books: "All cloned robots are programmed by the same jackass." I put that after a comment by someone who attacks the King James Bible. I say that because I know from where the guy got the attack, and I know where the guy he copied got the attack, etc. I know who the guy was that wrote the textbook everyone apes: hence, "all cloned robots are programmed by the same jackass."

Higher education is the problem. Colleges today are nothing but drug

cartels, warehouses, and Marxist indoctrination centers. Colleges are the source, today, for the censorship of free speech. Don't use "racial slurs"; don't speak out against sex perversion or crossdressers; don't witness; don't say anything "right wing" or against Marxism.

We saved people don't have to riot or kill people because of their speech. If someone said to me, "I have no use for your Bible. Your Saviour was a bastard, and His mother was a whore. What do you think of that?", my reply would be: "God takes care of fools and drunkards; you might get saved yet." I don't have to shut his mouth, arrest him, and throw him in jail. If he wants to talk like a fool, that's his business. Just allow me the same freedom as the fool.

Back in 1975, an actor pulled one of the dirtiest tricks one could ever pull on someone with a college education. He gave a lecture to over 200 people with graduate degrees, and they were to grade him on the speech he gave. I won't bore you with the whole thing, but here is a portion of it.

"Restructuring in terms of these areas by sharing values and lifestyles is supportive and verifiable in the conceptualization and vulnerability of officiality. An isolated orientation develops a sectarian mentality, a moratorium with an adhesive factor to sensitize the public. The expanded worldview has a renewed emphasis on the sense of inner well-being. A demythologizing of the cruciform ethic which shows a scientific breakthrough and a significant thrust related structures where the minority can

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identify with its programming. This is the criteria of coherence where cognition of categories in cybernetics are axiomatic."

After an hour of that *crap*, those college educators graded him: his lowest grade was a 90, and his highest was a 95. Then he told them that he was a professional actor, and the whole speech was *nonsense*. That bunch of silly, stupid, cloned, programmed jackasses sat there thinking it was a great speech. It was nonsense from start to finish.

They all were sitting there thinking, "I've got to act like I know what he's talking about. Obviously, he's using the language of a very intelligent man. If everyone finds out I don't understand what he's saying, I'll look like a fool."

That's why you've never seen me hang around with my "crowd." I'm a college graduate with an earned Ph.D. I ought to be hanging around with other "doctors" of philosophy. The truth is, *they bore me to death*. I know what higher education is: it's paying money to learn words you don't know. Just learn the words you don't know, and you're in. I give my students a break. My speech is just as plain and down to earth as I can get it. I put only as much "technical" language in as I need to.

Just because you don't understand all the technical terms doesn't mean you're dumb. I have hillbillies write me all the time telling me how much they appreciate my books. Of course they don't understand everything in them, but they get a blessing out of what they do understand. Some of those

hillbillies are a lot smarter than you give them credit for. They will trade you out of your eye teeth, and they can't speak good English. But they have a mind just as sharp as a razor.

Bob Jones Sr. used to say, "Education without salvation is damnation." The literacy rate in Germany before the concentration camps were set up was 98%. The literacy rate for the Japanese who led the Bataan Death March was 99%. Education doesn't change human nature.

I only had one college professor ever witness to me. I had a chance to talk to a class at the University of Texas in Kerrville, Texas. There was a professor who got me into his class. He introduced me and asked me if I were a minister. Then he said, "Tell us, when were you born again?" If you get a professor like that, you have really got something. He was the only one who ever asked me that question.

Finally, for some people, to live is *possessions*. Christ said, "**beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth**" (Luke 12:15).

A reporter was interviewing John D. Rockefeller's daughter once, and he asked her, "Are you happy?" She said, "No, I am not happy. You can tell all the people who envy me, definitely, I am not happy."

Poor woman. There are farm women back up in North Carolina who wouldn't have enough money between all of them to buy one of the rings John D. Rockefeller's daughter wore, but those woman are happy.

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They are *saved women*, and they are *satisfied with Jesus*.

You can't get hung up on possessions. They all wear out sooner or later. I have owned seventeen cars in my lifetime, and every one of them ended up being a rolling pile of junk.

Possessions come and go, and "you can't take it with you" when you die. A very wealthy man died once, and someone asked what he left. The reply was: "He left it *all*."

What do you enjoy in life? Sex? You'll have to give it up someday. You family? You're going to leave them. Your grandchildren? Your spouse? Paul didn't have either one of those. He said, "**For me to live is CHRIST.**"

The Christians before you counted their days and years differently than you count yours. They measured their lives on this earth by golden Sundays, by shouting in the house of God, by the good things they did for others. They heard and saw things no president, king, movie star, or the elite of this world heard or saw. They crossed seas, deserts, and mountains; they dropped into martyrs' graves; and they measured their lives by the chains they loosed, by the people they blessed, and by the souls they saved. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

There in Luke 12, right after Christ warns of coveting possessions, He gives a parable about a rich man. He said, "**the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully; And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do**" (Luke 12:16-17). I'll tell you what to do—*give it away*. But

that guy's solution was to build bigger barns to stash everything away for himself "for a rainy day." Then he gets talking to himself and says, "**Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry**" (Luke 12:19).

You know what God calls that fellow? He says, "**Thou FOOL**" (Luke 12:20). That rich man probably turned around and said, "Whom are you talking to?" God said, "I'm talking to you, fool." That guy didn't recognize his own name: it was *fool*. And who was that famous movie actress who won three academy awards? Fool; she just didn't know her name. And who was that quarterback who took his team all the way to the Super Bowl two years in a row? Fool.

Why was that rich man a fool? He thought he had years; he only had hours. He thought the soul was only for self-gratification; it had an appointment with God Almighty.

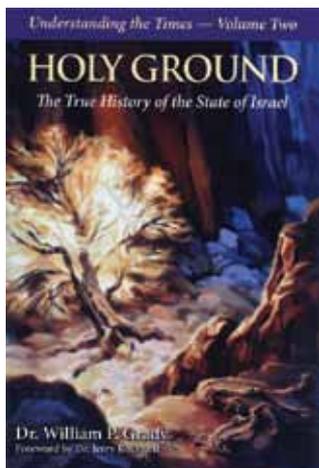
When death shows up, he's a rough sheriff. You won't leave him waiting at the door. He'll barge right in, touch you once in the heart and once in the lungs, and say, "You're all through. Time to go lie down in the graveyard for a while and sleep in the dirt." And then, "that's all she wrote." All the plans you had, they're over. Everything you wanted to do, you don't have to worry about it anymore.

That rich man was a fool because his riches were all down here. As Christians, if we live for Christ, we can have our treasures *up there* (Matt. 6:20).

"**What is your life?**" "Life is short; death is sure. Sin the cause; Christ the cure."

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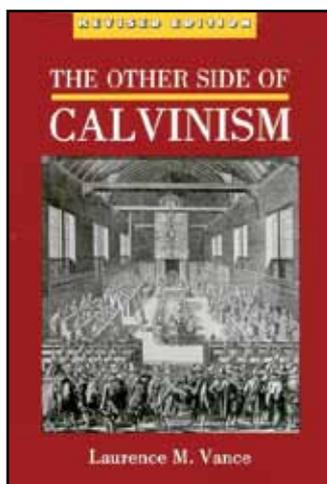
THE OTHER SIDE OF CALVINISM

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The Return of the Nation of Israel

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But with Joseph being the greatest type of Christ in the Bible, he cannot remain dead and in Egypt (which is a type of the world), so he was carried **“up”** and out in the exodus (Exodus 13:19). It is in the book of Exodus that Jacob's family finally became a **“nation”** and a **“kingdom”** (Exodus 19:6) after they were called out of Egypt and across the Red Sea (Exodus 12-14), which is a type of the rapture.

The book of Exodus opens with the children of Israel greatly multiplying and being afflicted by a new pharaoh. The Bible reader is treated to historical facts that secular readers are denied, as we are told that the Egyptian pharaoh was not Yul Brynner, but **“the Assyrian”** (Isaiah 52:4). The first mention of a Gentile kingdom was founded by Nimrod in Genesis 10, and Isaiah 10:5-10 identified the Assyrian as the founder of the **“kingdoms of the idols”**. Nimrod founded both Babel and Asshur (also called Assyria) in Genesis 10:10. In Exodus 1:8, Moses wrote that this new king over Egypt **“knew not Joseph”**. That is an amazing statement since he was only one generation removed from the saviour of both the Egyptian people and the Assyrian dynasty of pharaohs at the time (called the Hyksos in history). How could a man rise to power over the country of Egypt and not know Joseph? Once again, only through believing the Bible can the student gain insight into the workings of gov-

ernment rulers. They are politicians who love themselves and in their rise to power, become ignorant fools. For an Egyptian to not know Joseph in 1580 B.C., would be kin to an American president being ignorant of George Whitefield, John Wesley, John Clarke, and Shubal Stearns. The whole crowd of D.C. politicians today is completely ignorant of the Bible (and therefore history). If you put the “Trumpster”, Pence, Newt, and the rest of the right-wing, conservative, Republican “champions” together in a room, you couldn't find one of them who knows anything about the Lord God of American history and the Bible. The Assyrian pharaoh was ignorant of the very man who made it possible for him to rise to power and even have a kingdom of Egypt to rule over. If it were not for Joseph and the true God, the seven-year famine would have wiped out the nation.

This new Pharaoh had a hatred for the family of Jacob without even knowing why. Behind the scenes, Satan worked his plan to destroy the **“seed”** (Genesis 3:15) that he knew would come from this chosen people and eventually bruise his head. The ignorant pharaoh gave a command to bring heavy burdens on the Jews, as well as to kill every Hebrew baby boy as soon as he was born (Exodus 1:22). It was into this atmosphere of affliction and persecution that Moses was born. Thanks to the hand of the Lord God, Moses was protected at

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birth and eventually raised in the palace of Pharaoh, to become **“learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians”** (Acts 7:22). When Moses was a full forty years old, he chose to be afflicted with his own people, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (Hebrews 11:25). But as a type of Christ, when he came to his own, his own received him not, and he was rejected the first time. As Christ, Moses was cast out into the world to become a shepherd (Exodus 3:1-John 10), took a Gentile bride (Exodus 2:21, Ephesians 5), and then returned to his people to be received the second time (Exodus 4:31, Romans 11). Moses was promised that the Lord would one day raise up a prophet like unto him (Deuteronomy 18:18), which explains why the types of Christ in the life and ministry of Moses are so numerous. The calling of Moses began with his vision of a burning bush that would not be consumed (Exodus 3:2), which becomes a figure of the nation of people that he would one day lead. The Jewish people can never be consumed, no matter how much hatred and genocide is sent their way from the world of the Gentiles. This is due to the immutable promises of the Lord in writing (Malachi 3:6), and all of the United Nations have no say in the outcome. To carry out his calling, Moses had to be a dreamer, capable of looking past impossible odds and ignoring what everyone else “knew” could not be done. Moses was called

to go before Pharaoh and demand the release of the Jews without an army, without a weapon, and without a plan. When he went to his people to convince them it was of the Lord, he had some miraculous signs (his rod turning into a serpent, his leprous hand being healed, and turning water to blood), and when they saw those signs, were convinced that he was called of God, but as soon as he began to try to fulfill that calling, the Jews quickly became naysayers (Exodus 5:21). Moses had to forge ahead with only the vision and the word of the Lord to lead the Jews out of Egypt toward the promised land of their fathers. So it was through the work of this great dreamer that the family of Jews became the nation of Israel in approximately 1492 B.C. From there, after a forty year wilderness journey that killed off the unbelieving and disobedient older generation, Joshua brought the Lord’s people into the land God promised them.

Some thirty-four hundred years after Moses led the nation of Israel out of Egypt, another dreamer would enter the picture of bringing the Jews into the promised land of Israel. His name was Theodor Herzl, and he was born in Budapest in 1860. When he was 32 years old while working in Paris as a correspondent for a Vienna newspaper, Herzl was asked to help in the cause of anti-Semitism. He was so unimpressed with it even being a problem, his so-called solution was

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to call for a mass conversion of Jews to the pagan Roman Catholic faith, so as to erase the shame of what it meant to be a Jew in Europe in his day. Herzl saw a number of his own family members get baptized as Roman Catholics and fit into the secular business world of making money, without the stigma of claiming to be Jewish. But over the next five years, Herzl's eyes were opened to the folly of his "solution", especially when he witnessed firsthand the public spectacle of the Dreyfus affair in Paris. A Jewish army officer named Alfred Dreyfus was falsely accused of treason and sentenced to life in prison, and while being publicly stripped of his military rank, was treated to the French crowd's cries of "Death to the Jews". Herzl stood among that crowd and became obsessed with the idea of finding a solution to the problem of anti-Semitism. In 1895, Herzl wrote a pamphlet called "The Jewish State" and in 1897, held the First Zionist Congress in Switzerland, for the purpose of establishing a Jewish national homeland. His diary entry following that meeting reads "... In Basel, I founded the Jewish state. If I said this aloud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. Perhaps in five years, certainly in fifty, everyone will realize it." It turned out to be quite a prophetic statement when fifty years later in 1947, the British were getting themselves out of the mandated land of Palestine, opening the way for the formation of

Israeli statehood in 1948. Herzl wrote that "Prosperity weakens our Judaism... it is only pressure that forces us back...we are one people...our enemies have made us one without our consent". This dreamer saw exactly what Moses had to write over three thousand years earlier, namely, that Israel is to be a peculiar treasure to the Lord above all people, a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation (Exodus 19:5-6). While Herzl dreamed of a peaceful transfer of millions of Jews to a homeland, hoping that their enemies would accept the proposal, he temporarily considered places such as Argentina and Uganda. It soon became apparent that only Palestine would suffice. As Moses, Herzl died before his dream of entering the homeland could be realized. At the young age of 44 in 1904, Herzl died, but not before giving instructions that his body be placed in a metal coffin, as he envisioned that one day it could be transferred from Vienna to the Jewish state that he was sure would eventually be realized. In 1949, the year following the founding of the nation of Israel, the remains of Theodore Herzl were transferred to Jerusalem, coming to rest on a renamed hill called Mount Herzl.

Before all that could take place, the USA President FDR met with the Saudi king on a yacht as he was returning from his conference at Yalta in 1945, and promised that the USA would never allow a Jewish nation to be set up without Arab consent.

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The Return of the Nation of Israel

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Later, FDR would meet with Jewish leaders, telling them that a Jewish State was an impossibility. A letter confirming his anti-Semitic stance would be the last he sent off on the issue before he dropped dead at his Georgia retreat two weeks later. This opened the door for the next USA President Harry Truman to support Israeli statehood, in spite of his "Intelligence" community telling him it was a grave mistake. Truman's Roman Catholic Secretary of Defense James Forrestal was livid as he claimed that "forty million Arabs are going to push four hundred thousand Jews into the sea...OIL is the side that we should be on!" Within a few months in March of 1949, Forrestal was asked to resign and was committed to psychiatric treatments, eventually jumping to his death out of the sixteenth floor of the naval hospital in Bethesda,

Seventy years ago, on May 14, 1948, the nation's first prime minister, David Ben Gurion, formally declared the fledgling state of Israel to the world, after the Jews had spent almost nineteen hundred years of being dispersed without a home. The Arab world immediately attacked and planned to drive every single Jew out of their reclaimed state and into the Mediterranean Sea. Israel's defensive war of independence, which began in 1948, ended with the surrounding Muslim countries licking their wounds, retreating back to their tents, and looking to the United Nations for help. Over the next eigh-

teen years, the Arabs regrouped and rearmed as they planned another assault on the nation of Israel in 1967. The Syrians bombarding Israeli villages in the Golan Heights and Lebanese and Jordanian guerrilla groups killing Jewish civilians in the north, while Nasser amassed his Egyptian troops to attack from the south through the Sinai Peninsula. Nasser would later make a claim to LBJ that he was only putting forces into a defensive position, similar to the claims of Laban to Jacob (Genesis 31:25-27), that he only wanted to send him off with a going away party. Israeli prime minister Levi Eshkol had a tough decision of survival as he had to order a preemptive attack and the Israelis again foiled the Arab plans of destruction. Within hours, the Egyptian Air Force was wiped out before they could get their planes off the ground and the war of 1967 was over in six days, resulting in a complete Jewish victory. Only six years later in 1973, the murderous sons of Ishmael again made war against Israel, this time on the Jewish Holy day of Yom Kippur (Leviticus 23:27). The attack completely took the Jews by surprise and within days, the Israeli Defense Minister, Moshe Dayan, was talking about the possibility of surrender with his prime minister, Golda Meir. But within the month, the tide was turned, and the Arabs were once again looking to the crooked UN to help them out of their "victimized" condition as they were driven away

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The Return of the Nation of Israel

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and foiled in their attempts to destroy the nation of Israel.

Since that time, the Muslims have concluded that they are unable to defeat Israel in conventional warfare and have relied on killing civilians, using suicide bombings and rocket attacks on Jewish villages from their positions of safety, all the while being backed by a media that has a complete hatred for Israel. The United Nations has spouted out almost as many resolutions against the one tiny nation of Israel as against all of the other nations combined, including their latest that denounced President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The ten worst human rights violations in the world, according to Amnesty International, has Israel on top, ahead of North Korea, Syria, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia. But the problem for Israel is not the killer Muslims, or the anti-Semitic Roman Catholic popes, or the UN resolutions, or the waffling policies of the USA presidents (Eisenhower, Carter, Clinton, Bushes, Obama, Trump, etc.) with visions of grandeur dancing in their heads. The sole problem for Israel is that she has refused to return to her Maker and Redeemer, and that is the only reason for the fruitlessness of the last seventy years of negotiations for peace.

Over three thousand years ago, the Lord pulled a man out of the mountains of Aram and gave him the prophecy regarding Israel's

chances for dwelling in peace among her Gentile neighbors, saying, "...**lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations**" (Numbers 23:9). Any attempt to bring peace to the area without the man of peace (Shiloh of Genesis 49), is doomed to failure, with or without Mr. "Art of the Deal". Anyone who thinks that the Muslims are going to stand idly by as the attempt is made to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem does not know Ishmael. Israel's elusive peace is unattainable through diplomacy, excepting the temporary covenant that will shortly be set up by the wrong Christ (Daniel 9; Matthew 24). "**Israel hath forgotten his Maker**" (Hosea 8:14), and the answer will not be to multiply "**fenced cities**" (Hosea 8:14) for protection. Until Israel bows in repentance to receive her rejected Messiah (Zechariah 12:10), her peace will be as substantive as a bunch of preachers holding hands on the steps of Capitol Hill with the "**basest of men**", singing about national revival and bringing America "back to her Christian roots".

The return of the Jews to their homeland seventy years ago in May 1948, is a great marker for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The sad part is that before He comes to save what is left of them, they will again choose to be subjects to the Assyrian. "**Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria**" (Hosea 9:3).

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The Return of the Nation of Israel

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The idol worship of the image of the beast will be in place as **"It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present"** (Hosea 10:6). Because Israel has **"refused to return"** to the Lord, **"the Assyrian shall be his king"** (Hosea 11:5), and in that great day of tribulation, the Lord will be unto them as a **"lion", "leopard", "bear" and "wild beast"** (Hosea 13:7-8). By the end of three and one-half years, a remnant of Israel will be crying that **"Asshur shall not save us"** (Hosea 14:3), and Ephraim will finally say, **"what have I to do anymore with idols?"** (Hosea 14:8). It is then that the Lord Jesus **"will heal their backsliding"**, and **"love them freely"** (Hosea 14:4), as He returns for them to **"look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him"** (Zechariah 12:10). It will be then that the Lord shall **"go forth, and fight against**

those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zechariah 14:3), **"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east"** (Zechariah 14:4), **"and the LORD shalt be king over all the earth"** (Zechariah 14:9), **"and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts"** (Zechariah 14:21).

Over these last seventy years, the Arabs of Ishmael continue to try to wipe out the nation of Israel, and were it not for the word of the Lord, they would and should have by now. The reason Israel is standing today is not due to their superior intelligence found in Mossad, nor the nuclear power set up in Dimona, nor their personal resolve and resilience, but simply because, **"I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed"** (Malachi 3:6).

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

April 6-8

Bible Baptist Church
619 Albemarle Road
Asheboro, NC 27203
Pastor Tom Cochran
(336) 625-3095

May 4-6

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

June 1-3

Bible Believers Bapt. Church
1055 N.E. 25th St.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
Pastor John Robinson
(503) 706-7147

July 13-15

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

"Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures"

By Zack Colvin

The title is taken from Matthew 22:29, where the Lord Jesus Christ answers the hypocritical question by the Sadducees involving marriage and the resurrection.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."

The Lord Jesus was, and is, a master at pointing out the real issue of a man's heart, no matter what his speech or his behavior portrays. He told the Sadducees in that one sentence that their main error was not the issue of whose wife this hypothetical woman would be in the resurrection. Their destructive error was that they were ignorant of the scriptures. What that means for the majority of religious Americans is that their lives are lived in great error.

It is a very dangerous matter to be ignorant of what the scriptures have to say about anything, not just what people call "religious matters." Ignorance of the scriptures can cause very damaging circumstances in the life of any man, costing him even his soul if he never learns of the free gift of salvation offered through the scriptures. Any common sinner can be deceived, without knowledge of the scripture, into thinking he can get away with a "little" sin as long as it's not as bad as someone else's sin that is worse (in his own eyes) than his. It's not until it's too late that he realizes the destructiveness of even a "little" sin. Christians often can, and have, slowly ruined their lives by making a

life-changing decision that takes them down a completely different road than what the Lord intended, all because they failed to consult the scriptures about their decision. Roman Catholics by the millions are deceived into thinking that an unbiblical, unholy Eucharist will save them from Hell, all because they don't know the truth of the scriptures. Millions of Muslims are going to suffer eternally in the lake of fire because of their ignorance, or possibly disbelief, of the scripture. Some have the idea that what they don't know won't hurt them, and they choose not to search the truth for fear that if they have knowledge of it, they will be responsible for it. Others know the truth and choose not to believe it, hoping that if they ignore it long enough, it will go away and be forgotten.

Every Christian should read the account of the Johnstown flood that occurred on May 31, 1889. Some of the people of Johnstown, Pennsylvania made a grave mistake in ignoring the South Fork Dam and its questionable construction. Others heard of the dam and its possible dangers but never took the time to check into it for themselves. Neither of these positions changed the outcome of the floodwaters which destroyed their town and claimed at least 2,208 lives. Ignorance of the scripture is as good as signing your own spiritual death warrant.

Notice, the verse doesn't say, "Ye do err, not keeping up with the times." The only interest a Christian should

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have in keeping up with the times is in the sense of having a knowledge of the times so he can **“walk circum-spectly”** (Eph. 5:15) and be able to deal with the current generation concerning the truth. You should have knowledge of the current things so you can understand **“the times and the seasons”** (cf. 1 Thess. 5:1), spiritually speaking. With the excuse of keeping up with the times ringing in their ears, there is an entire generation of young people growing up with almost a complete ignorance of the scriptures. They are growing up in homes where the Bible is not consulted about anything. When there is an important family matter that comes up, the scripture is not mentioned as a solution for the matter.

It used to be that when a child would come to mom or dad with a question, if a Bible verse could be given as an answer, it would be. But there is so much ignorance of the Bible now that if a biblical answer could be given, they wouldn't know it. Parents are spending more time teaching their children how to use an iPhone than they are teaching them the scripture and how to live by it, all because they have to keep up with the times. Some parents propagate the technology in the name of “safety.” They say, “In the day and age we live, we've got to know where our kids are all the time, and they need to be able to get ahold of us at any time.” That's a good reason, I'll admit. But sending a child out into the world with an iPhone and knowledge of the latest technol-

ogy, yet without the scripture in his heart, is as good as tossing him out of an airplane at 10,000 feet without a parachute.

In the early part of the twentieth century, there was an association known as the “Bible Memory Association.” It has now developed into the “Scripture Memory Fellowship,” but it's no longer a King James association. They use other corruptions. But when the “Bible Memory Association” first began, it was designed to train people to memorize one verse of scripture every day of the year so they would know 365 verses of scripture by the end of the year. You say, “Man, that's a lot of scripture! That would be a lot of work!” No doubt that would take a lot of work, but if Psalm 119:130 is true—and I believe it is—that sure is a lot of light! Psalm 119:130 says, **“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”** I think there would be a lot less people walking around in darkness if they weren't so ignorant of the scripture.

Of course, the problem nowadays is that it's hard to get people to see that they're walking in darkness even when the fruit of their bad decisions lands them flat on their face and hopeless. They still jump up and say, “Well, I'll get up and try again,” without an admission that they've been wrong and want to change the way they've been going.

It's like what Sam Jones said one time when he got in the pulpit to

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preach for DeWitt Talmage in New York. He said, “Well, it doesn’t look like we’ll have too much of a meeting here.” After the congregation shifted in their seats a little bit and made comments like, “Who does he think he is?” He continued by saying, “Too much pride: there’s just too much pride.” That’s the problem with the majority of saved Americans: they’re too proud. For what reason they are proud I don’t know, because everything they have is a result of what somebody else has done for them. Their entire life they’ve been reaping fruit from fields they never had to work in (see Josh. 24:13, the whole book of Ruth, and John 4:38). Any brief study in church history should reveal this idea pretty plainly. But they think their life is going along just fine the way it is without God and without scripture knowledge, and they don’t see any reason to change. But Jesus Christ said, **“Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures....”**

One reason for the lack of scripture knowledge is simply because the scriptures aren’t read anymore. When the scriptures were more rare, they were read a lot more, but with the heavy concentration of education, rationalism, philosophy, evolution, communism, and **“science falsely so called”** (1 Tim. 6:20), during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, anyone who was even remotely considered a Bible reader was talked out of his faith in the scripture. Education became more important than knowledge of the scripture, and before long,

everybody had an opinion about what they thought was right or wrong. Their authority was taken away. So here we are, after a couple hundred years of “progress.” Now someone’s opinion holds more value than what the scripture says, and nobody reads the Bible to find out anything. People consult someone’s opinion instead.

We’re living in a generation of *watchers* instead of *readers*. There are more people sitting in “internet cafes” staring at a screen than there are in bookstores and libraries. Pretty soon, you probably won’t be able to get a printed book very easily, and the bookstores and libraries will close down. Sure, you can read things on a screen, but you probably don’t read the scriptures on a screen. You read and watch everything else on the screen. There’s something about the holy scriptures being on a screen that doesn’t fit together, and you know it doesn’t. That’s why you don’t read them on a screen and possibly don’t read them at all because of how much time you spend on a screen. The fact is, to know the scriptures, you must read the scriptures, and many **“do err, not knowing the scriptures”** because they aren’t even reading them. **“...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live”** (Deut. 8:3).

Another reason for ignorance of the scripture is due to the lack of meditation on the scripture. I’m not referring to Buddhism or yoga or some other

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 form of eastern spiritism. I'm talking about the biblical instruction to **“meditate therein”** in the scriptures (Josh. 1:8). Of course, meditation requires thinking and quiet, so it's obvious why there isn't much meditation of the scripture. In order to think clearly, you've got to have quietness, but the only quiet time most Americans have is the few hours they're unconscious lying in a bed at night. No Christian is required to take part in a monastic life style of withdrawing himself from everybody permanently and living in a cave or on a pedestal like Simon Stylites, but every saved individual should be spending time meditating on the scripture if he plans to make his life prosperous and successful for the Lord.

You say, “You sound like some kind of a fanatical mystic from the Dark Ages. No normal person does that!” That's because you haven't been reading the scripture. The words **“meditate”** and **“meditation”** appear twenty times in the entire Bible, enough times to say that it wasn't just something that was a passing thought. David uses the words seven

times just in Psalm 119 alone, which is interesting considering that the entire chapter has to do with the words of God. What's also interesting is that in the same chapter, he says **“Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments”** (Psa. 119:164). It could be just a coincidence, but it's probably because he has meditated on the Lord's words at least seven times throughout the day and that's when he came to the conclusion to praise the Lord **“because of thy righteous judgments.”** The Lord tells Joshua that if he wants his way to prosper and **“have good success,”** he's going to have to meditate upon God's words.

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Josh. 1:8).

So the reason many Christians' lives are not prosperous spiritually is because they aren't meditating in

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God's words. The reason many of them have success, but not **“good success”** is because they aren't meditating in God's words. Not all success is **“good success.”** Many a businessman is successful, but he isn't successful in that which is good. There's a difference, but you only get the difference from the scriptures.

The modern push into technology and social media is a great hindrance to knowledge of the scripture. Millions of saved Americans are addicted to their technology and social media as if it's the latest and greatest drug to hit the streets. The worst part is they don't even realize they are addicted. They are like a drug addict or a gambling addict that's in denial, convincing himself that he can quit any time he truly feels like it, yet he never does. His addiction just gets worse and worse. Many Christians don't believe it's an addiction because the whole world is involved in the same technology, and if they did not participate in the technology or in the social media, they wouldn't be able to function normally in society. That's the talk of an addict.

Addiction is defined in Webster's 1828 dictionary as “the act of devoting or giving up in practice; the state of being devoted.” As you can tell by the definition, addiction can be a good thing. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 16:15, **“...[ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of**

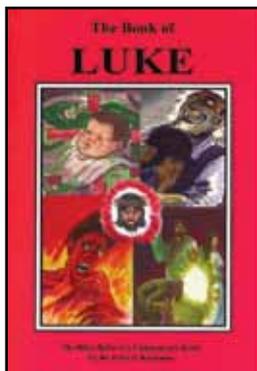
the saints,]” So addicting or devoting your life to scriptural, spiritual practices is a good thing, but addiction to technology and social media is neither scriptural or spiritual. It is a damaging, destructive, unfruitful waste of time, and it is robbing the Christian of valuable light and causing him to **“err, not knowing the scriptures.”**

Christian proponents of the modern push into technology and social media argue that a man who speaks of these things in this way is stubborn and unwilling to keep up with the times. He doesn't want Christians to enjoy their lives and wants to browbeat them into submission to the “old paths.” He simply likes being against people and uses the Bible as an instrument to divide. But those who talk that way are completely ignorant of the scriptures primarily, and are also ignorant of the purpose and design behind the technology. Behind the design of computers, iPads, iPhones, and all of the social media and apps to go along with it is a very thorough study of what scientists call “behavioral psychology.” It is a study in those things that appeal to lusts of the flesh and how to develop a way to make it easy to get at them.

In 1997, some methods were developed by an Englishman named Fogg. He explained in a conference that there must be a way to exploit the makeup of the human brain in order to advance technology. These methods can be summed up as: 1. You can't make people do what they don't want

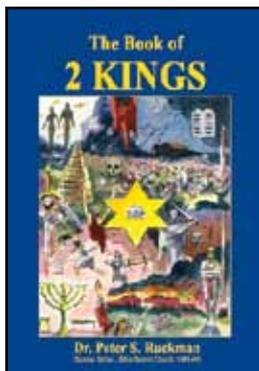
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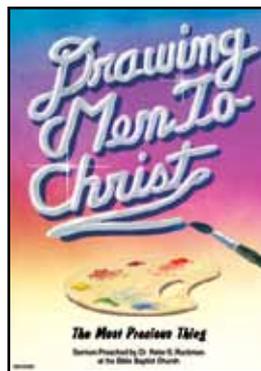
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to do, so give them what they want and somehow make them feel successful when they get it. 2. Make the difficulty level to access those things absolutely zero. 3. Prompt them on the screen with "nudges" to get more of the same things. Time these things just right so that at the time they feel they want it the most, they will "accept," and this will keep them involved indefinitely. In other words, they will become addicted to pleasure.

These methods have been used to teach students in technological schools across America where students are being trained to design software for what is now known as "apps." They are trained to effectively build the software for the app purposely to make it addicting. They even study the same ideas used in designing gambling casinos that keep a gambler who is losing everything he owns coming back to the same slot machine or "craps" table to spend more money. The casinos are filled with computerized games and gambling machines that process the operator's gambling behavior every second. That information is then entered into an algorithm that prompts the computer to offer better techniques for gambling in order to train him to be a better gambler. All of these appeals to the flesh and the senses are just luring him into an addiction purposely. Sometimes the computer will prompt an employee to visit the gambler who, based on the computer's processing of data, has been struggling to "beat the odds."

The employee offers the gambler a free steak dinner to help him clear his mind and a free round of gambling to follow, just at the right time. Of course he "accepts" every time without realizing what's behind it.

You see, in behavioral psychology, psychologists simply study what a man who is spending time in the Bible already knows—that men and women do what they want to do to please themselves, and if they can do it easily and without immediate repercussion, they will do it every time.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 - "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

A way has been developed to give men what their flesh wants, make it easy to get through "apps," and even prompt them on the screen to get more of it at a time when they want it most. Boy, has it ever been effective. This is the entire Internet industry in a nutshell.

It reminds me of how Jezebel brought her pagan Phoenician temple right into Samaria when she married Ahab and allowed the people to worship the false gods that used to be outside the land. What was once a struggle to please the flesh because they had to sin in secret outside the land, was now made easy and even was promoted by the queen. What could be wrong with that?! You're being lured in for the kill, and you don't even realize it.

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Worse than that, many Christians are addicted to the junk; they don't seem to have any time as a result. They “**err, not knowing the scriptures**” because they're too busy with their addiction. All of this information is well documented and can be found easily if you use your time wisely. None of the technology designers even try to hide these things because they claim it is for the “bettering and furthering of mankind” (bringing in the kingdom), although some of the designers are concerned that the only reason for these methods is to increase profit. Their concerns are accurate. They would know this if they weren't so ignorant of the scripture: “**For the love of money is the root of all evil...**” (1 Tim. 6:10). These things were “**not done in a corner**” (cf. Acts 26:26). They just caught Christian Americans blindsided because they aren't spending time in the scripture.

We are in the last days of Laodicean apostasy, no doubt. The night has fallen long ago on the truth, and we are in the last days before the sun comes up - the second advent of Jesus Christ. Of course, the mystery rapture of the church will take place before that, and it is to this event that the disciplined Christian looks. Most Christians realize that the church is in apostasy, but for some reason don't see the need to separate themselves from those falling into apostasy. It's almost as if they think that every Christian must go the way of all flesh and fall into apostasy.

Again, those spending time in the scripture know that it says, “**SOME shall depart from the faith**” (1 Tim. 4:1), not *all* and, as a result, some choose to stick with the Book and let the apostates go with the world. There's no reason to hope against hope and think that Christians on a large scale are going to forsake their toys and spend time in the scripture instead. Would to God there would be one or two that would have enough spiritual manhood to fight against the pressure to conform to the modern technology and social media, and choose rather to read and meditate in the pure words of God and see the prosperity and good success that comes with it. Ignorance of the scripture is ignorance of God. So if a man wants to know God, he must acquaint himself with the scripture.

Job 22:21 says, “**Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.**”

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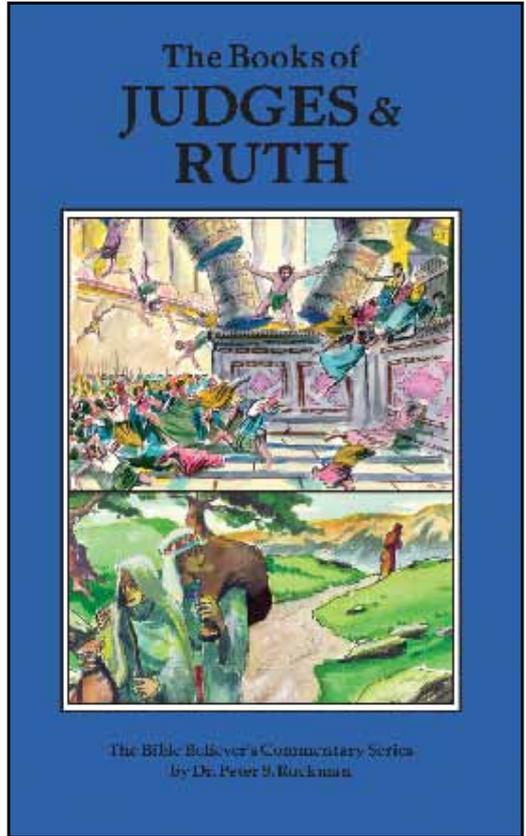
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JUDGES & RUTH

In this installment of the Bible Believer's Commentary Series, Dr. Ruckman covers the Old Testament historical books of Judges and Ruth.

In Judges, he shows how the Old Testament judges are pictures of Christ at His Second Advent, the historical roots of Roman Catholicism are examined, and practical application is made to the Christian in his war against sin.

In Ruth, Dr. Ruckman discusses the great doctrinal typology of the book in regards to New Testament redemption. He also makes evangelistic and practical applications in regards to the sinner's responsibility to accept and follow Christ as his Saviour and Lord.



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STUDENT'S CORNER

The Judgments of God

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

(Part 1 of 2)

The average Christian in the Laodicean church age would be amazed how much of the Bible is totally "judgmental." If you want to see what I mean, read the following passages: Jeremiah 18:7–11, 19:7–15, 25:13–33; Psalm 9:4–8, 110:5–6. That's just a small sampling. The God of the Bible is a God of *judgment*. The Book says:

"The LORD is known by the JUDGMENT which he executeth" (Psa. 9:16).

"The JUDGMENTS of the LORD are true and righteous altogether" (Psa. 19:9).

"My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy JUDGMENTS" (Psa. 119:120).

"Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy JUDGMENTS" (Jer. 12:1).

When the wisest man who ever lived (Solomon) summed up life on earth, do you know what **"conclusion"** he reached? In Ecclesiastes 12:13–14, he wrote:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. FOR GOD SHALL BRING EVERY WORK INTO JUDGMENT, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Eccl. 12:13–14).

God is **"the Judge of all the earth"** (Gen. 18:25). **"Behold, the JUDGE standeth before the door"** (James 5:9). He's about ready to

make His entrance.

God Almighty is going to judge the world by *one man*, and the proof that that fellow would be the God-chosen judge is the fact that *He didn't stay dead*.

"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 13:31).

Jesus took the founders of the world's other religions and just wiped them out. At His resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ erased Mohammed, Buddha, Joseph Smith, Ellen G. White, Mary Baker Eddy, et al., and erased them completely. When **"the judgment [is] set, and the books [are] opened"** (Dan. 7:10), *He'll* do the judging (Rom. 2:16), because *He* lived a sinless life and *He* conquered death.

Now there are seven judgments in the Bible. They are:

1. The judgment of sin at Calvary.
2. The daily self-judgment of the believer.
3. The Judgment Seat of Christ.
4. The judgment of Israel during the Tribulation.
5. The Judgment of the Nations at Christ's Second Advent.
6. The White Throne Judgment.
7. The judgment of angels.

The first judgment is *God judging sin in Christ* and *judging Christ in your place* on the cross.

"For he hath made him to be sin

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for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Pet. 3:18).

On Calvary, Jesus Christ took your place under the judgment of God. He took your sins on Himself (1 Pet. 2:24) and became sin in your place.

The reason you will be safe if you come to Calvary is that Someone has already fulfilled your sentence for violating God's Law. If you accept Jesus Christ's payment for your sin, you are out from under the wrath of God (John 3:36). God's not going to judge you for your sin because He won't be guilty of *double jeopardy*. The Rock (1 Cor. 10:4) has already been smitten (Exod. 17:6); it's not to be smitten again (Num. 20:8).

The second judgment is the believer daily judging himself to stay in fellowship with his heavenly Father. When the believer gets saved, he becomes a child of God, and as a child, he has a good Father who loves him and *chastens him* when he needs it (Heb. 12:5–6). You stay in fellowship with God the Father by daily confessing your sin (1 John 1:9) and staying clean.

Now this judgment has nothing to do with your salvation. You don't get saved by confessing your sins; you get saved by *confessing Jesus Christ as your Saviour* (Rom. 10:9–10). Once you become a son of God by the New Birth (John 1:12, 3:3–7), you don't ever have to worry about going

to Hell again (Rom. 8:38–39). An unsaved person goes to Hell because he is *not* a child of God; there is no such thing as “the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.” But as a child, if you don't want your “Daddy” to “take the belt” to you when you do wrong, then the individual, daily judgment has to start.

“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (1 Cor. 11:31–32).

The third judgment is the Judgment Seat of Christ, and it is a judgment of *servants*. The apostate modern versions like the NASV, NIV, and ESV change **“The judgment seat of Christ”** in Romans 14:10 to *“the judgment seat of God”* so you will equate this judgment with the White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11–15. That's known as “Amillennialism” where there is no Rapture of the Church, no Tribulation, and no Millennial reign of Christ; everyone—saved and lost—comes up at the “Last Day.” The only way you can get such a system is if you spiritualize and privately interpret everything you read in the book of Revelation because it is “figurative and highly apocalyptic.” That is, the Amillennialist refuses to believe what God said, as He said it.

The Judgment Seat of Christ takes place a thousand years before the White Throne Judgment (Rev. 19:7). It is a judgment of *believers* (2 Cor. 5:5–10); no one goes to Hell in this judgment as you read in Revelation 20 (see 1 Cor. 3:15). It is a judgment

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where a Christian receives rewards for the works he did for Jesus Christ while he was in the body (1 Cor. 3:13–14 cf. 2 Cor. 5:10).

Now you don't do good works to *get* saved (Eph. 2:8–9; Tit. 3:5). You don't do good works to *stay* saved (Eph. 4:30; Phil. 1:6). But as a born-again child of God, you are **“created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”** (Eph. 2:10). At the Judgment Seat of Christ, you are rewarded for the good works you did, with the right motive, to serve Jesus Christ.

Now listen, do you want to go to Heaven? Then get to Calvary: *that's* where your sins were judged. Do you want to stay in fellowship with God? Then judge yourself and confess your sins daily. Do you want rewards in Heaven? Then get to work so that you have some gold, silver, and precious stones that will survive the fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Calvary doesn't guarantee fellowship with God. You don't get to Heaven by confessing your sins or doing good works. Brethren, you have to get those judgments in their right places if you don't want to get yourself in one flat-footed mess.

The fourth judgment is the national judgment of Israel during the Tribulation (Hos. 2:6–15; Ezek. 20:38). It's **“the time of Jacob's trouble”** (Jer. 30:7), *not* the Church's; so it takes place after the Body of Christ has been raptured off this earth. The nation is judged when the Law and the prophets come back into play under Moses and Elijah (Rev. 11:1–6; Mal. 4:4–6).

The next judgment is the Judgment of the Nations that takes place at Christ's return in power (Joel 2:9–16). It is described in Matthew 25:31–46, which the Amillennialists also like to make the White Throne Judgment. But look at verse 31.

“When the Son of man shall come in glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the THRONE OF HIS GLORY.”

That's *not* His throne *in* Glory, nor is it the **“great white throne”** of Revelation 20:11. It's the throne of David on earth at Jerusalem when Christ returns at the Second Advent (Jer. 14:21 cf. Jer. 3:17; 1 Chron. 29:23; Luke 1:32; Psa. 102:16; Matt. 19:28).

The criteria for the Judgment of the Nations is strictly *works*. There is no “by grace through faith” or “Book of Life” in it at all. The Gentiles who survive the Tribulation are divided into **“sheep”** and **“goats”** based on how they treated that Jew during the Tribulation.

The next judgment is the judgment of the unsaved dead that takes place at the White Throne Judgment. This is the judgment of Revelation 20:11–15. This is the famous “Last Judgment” and “Last Day” of Mohammed and the Amillennialists. The misconception about this judgment is that that is the time when you will find out if you are saved or not. All the Mohammedan, all the Buddhists, all the Roman Catholics, all the Greek Orthodox, and most of the Protestants all teach that you can't know whether you are saved or not until *that judgment*; they keep you unsure of your salvation until then.

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Every one of those groups is stupid enough, and *wicked* enough, to think that at that judgment, God will weigh your good deeds against your bad deeds, and if the good works outweigh the bad works, you go to Heaven. The Catholics think they are not bad enough to go to Hell, but not good enough to go to Heaven, so they made up *Purgatory*. Purgatory no more exists than Obama's legitimate Hawaiian birth certificate.

No Christian has to wait until that judgment to find out whether he is saved. A Christian can know the minute he trusts Jesus Christ that he has eternal life (1 John 5:13). When a Christian dies, he doesn't go to any "intermediate state"; it is **"absent from the body . . . present with the Lord"** (2 Cor. 5:8). Moreover, every believer is predestinated **"to be conformed to the image"** of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29). By the time of the White Throne Judgment, the believer has been just like His Saviour (Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2) for at least 1,000 years. No Christian will be judged at the White Throne Judgment.

Now the final and seventh judgment also takes place at the White Throne Judgment, but it is completely different from the judgment of the unsaved dead. This is the judgment of the *angels*. Jude 6 says:

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

Those are **"the sons of God"** that sinned in Noah's day (Gen. 6:2-4). They are judged by **"the sons of God"** who replaced them (John 1:12).

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" (1 Cor. 6:2-3).

Those are the seven judgments of God as found in the New Testament. Next month we will examine the common characteristics of these judgments.

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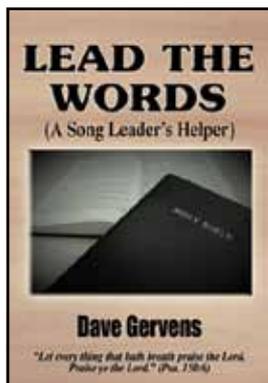
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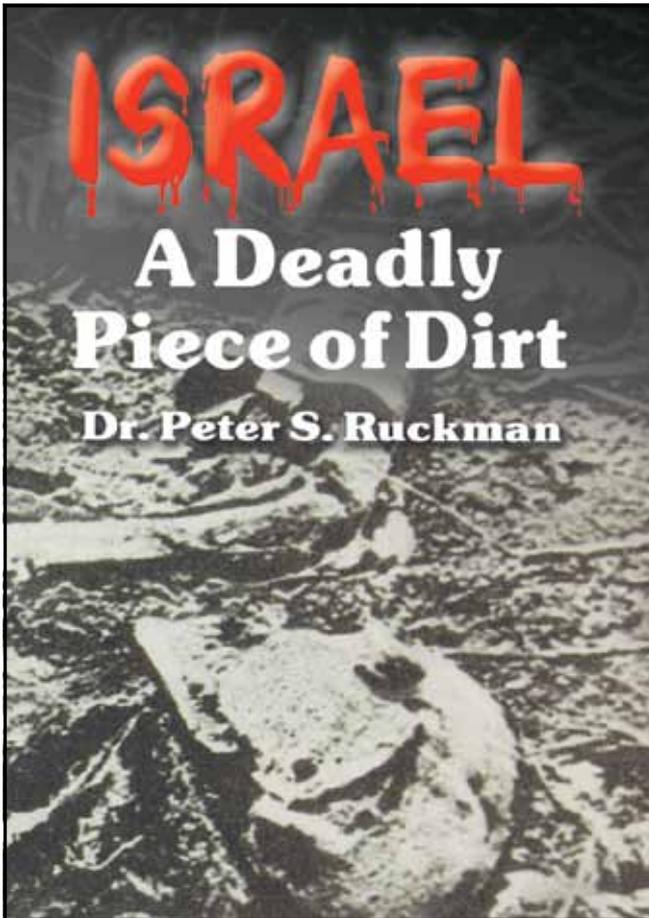
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Eternal Scars

By Robert Militello

“And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends” (Zech. 13:6).

When our Lord left His seat in glory to become a man and visit His creation, He knew that a noticeably scarred body would be the result of His incarnation. Not one member of His church would inherit a glorified, eternal body bearing scars at the rapture (Tit. 2:13), but His scars had to remain. Everyone had to see those scars whether at the rapture, the second coming to earth, or the White Throne Judgment. Every soul that had ever lived was made to see those scars: “. . . **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced . . .**” (Zech. 12:10).

We are convinced by evidence, which is how a jury reaches a verdict. Going by feelings, or even your own understanding, can be problematic. When the disciples hid for fear on the first Resurrection Sunday, Jesus went through the shut doors and appeared to them. He said, **“Peace be unto you”** (John 20:19), but they needed more than that.

“And when he had said so, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. THEN were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord” (John 20:20).

Folks say, “Seeing is believing.” A born-again Christian, though, believes by faith; then the evidence appears.

Our Lord’s appearance to the apostles, with Thomas not among them, was deliberate. Thomas’ re-

fusal to believe the testimony of the disciples and his demand for evidence is characteristic of Jews. The Jew looks for signs. He needs to see a burning bush that somehow doesn’t burn up. Thomas prefigures the Jewish remnant at the second coming. God’s chosen people had rejected the Lord’s claim as the true Messiah. Thomas had to wait only eight days after missing the Lord’s appearance (John 20:26), but Israel has been waiting almost 2,000 years for solid evidence to show up. When it shows up, the shock will be so great that what is left of the Jews after the great tribulation will go into a national mourning so profound that the thirty-day mourning for Moses (Deut. 34:8) will seem pathetic in comparison.

“The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my fingers into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I WILL NOT BELIEVE” (John 20:25).

When a soul rejects Christ, that rejection is not for lack of evidence that the Bible is true. The truth of God’s word is all around us; you can’t escape its testimony. All men are sinners according to God’s word (Rom. 3:23), and **“the wages of sin is death”** (Rom. 6:23).. Every funeral is evidence enough that the Bible should be believed. You look upon a corpse in a casket, and you see evidence of **“the wages of sin”** right before your eyes. A jury cannot convict where there is reasonable doubt concerning the charge. God’s charge

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that we are sinful and must die as a consequence of sin allows no room for doubt whatsoever.

Thomas had a reasonable doubt. Perhaps he thought a ghost appeared. Perhaps it was the Lord, but where was the proof? No doubt, Thomas witnessed miracles attesting to the Lord's supernatural power. Nevertheless, raising yourself from the dead and not someone else, as the Lord did on three occasions, was too much for Thomas to grasp. Don't be quick to condemn Thomas for unbelief. We have the same fallen nature.

Resurrection Sunday is a reminder to all that have trusted in Jesus Christ alone—not a religion, a church, or so-called common sense—that faith gets rewarded. It tells a Christian, "You won!" Job knew that some 3,800 years ago.

"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:26–27).

Who convinced Job that his worm-eaten corpse would somehow come to life again?

When Jesus asked that the stone in front of Lazarus' tomb be moved, Martha protested, ". . . **Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days**" (John 11:39). Is anything too hard for our God? After prayer, Jesus cried with a loud voice, one that could be heard thousands of miles away in the heart of the earth where Lazarus' soul had gone.

"And he that was dead came

forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him and let him go" (John 11:44).

Imagine yourself witnessing this. You see a four-day-old corpse that just moments ago was in a state of rigor mortis floating out of a cave. Yes, floating! Scripture says he came out bound and had to be untied, so obviously, Lazarus floated out. Would you have believed such a thing could happen? Well, it did!

My God will reconstitute ashes and small bits of bone from saints that have been cremated. Souls that died in Christ will return at the rapture and enter into glorified bodies. Those of us alive at Christ's coming will receive a complete body makeover—supernatural cosmetic surgery will transform every living saint into a 33½-year-old "Adonis."

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (1 Cor. 15:49).

How and in what way a terrestrial body becomes a celestial body is beyond my understanding and yours, but God says it will happen. There is absolutely no doubt about it—we win! Now, as you advance in years and notice the terrestrial body performing less and less reliably, you look forward to **"that blessed hope"** of Titus 2:13. It's something to get excited about, amen?

I remember a March day in 1969 in Brooklyn when I went to Alpine Pontiac to pick up a new, fully equipped 350 Firebird. What a beauty. I was 22, nine months married, and mak-

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ing enough to buy my own car. When I sat down in that plush bucket seat and examined the interior, I was, in a way, transformed. What a feeling; the exhilaration made my heart pound. I know that's all vanity, but I didn't know it then or care. Thank God, I'm going to pick up, one day, something both new and glorious. That Firebird showed wear and tear after some months on the streets of Brooklyn, but what the Lord is soon to give us will remain perfect forever. That makes me feel like a kid again—what about you?

Our anticipation for what the Lord has for us should be intensifying with each month that passes. What we have now is a **"vile body"**—see Philippians 3:21. That's how the word of God characterizes what our soul is housed in. We should wake up each morning anxious to leave this wicked world: **". . . even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body"** (Rom. 8:23).

Man's collective history on this planet climaxes at the second coming. Our individual history as Christians reaches its climax when we are finally loosed from this sinful flesh. The voice that Lazarus heard, we will shortly hear ourselves; only we will be lifted up and not brought out bound from a cave.

Resurrection Sunday is a very bad day for the devil and death. Now we **"walk through the valley of the shadow of death"** (Psa, 23:4), but Jesus made sure that we would not walk alone. Only a Christian enjoying fellowship with the Lord is unafraid in this valley. Everyone else is afraid,

though they may deny it.

Among the Jews, in the Lord's time, was a powerful sect of religious fanatics known as Sadducees. These so-called Torah scholars denied there was a physical resurrection of the dead. What was written in Job 19:26–27 was not in the Torah, so it was put aside. Jesus destroyed the Sadducees in Mark 12:18–27. In verse 24, Jesus mocks their ignorance.

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?"

Didn't Thomas see the power of God time and time again? Still, he needed more. The Jews saw the Red Sea opened, yet soon after doubted the power of God to feed them in the wilderness. If you have been saved any length of time, you have seen the power of God operating in your life many, many times. We have knowledge of God's power without seeing the wounds, and we are especially blessed because of this.

"Jesus saith to him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). That's us!

Can the dead come alive? This question has haunted man since Adam and Eve saw Abel's lifeless body on the ground not moving. "When you are dead, you're dead!" I've heard that come out of the mouths of intelligent people who were, nonetheless, biblical idiots.

Harry Houdini sought to communicate with his dead mother and spent a fortune on mediums. After many

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fruitless seances, he determined that spiritualism was a fraud. Still, he told his wife that if it were possible to communicate beyond the grave, he would contact her. So he gave her a word that only he and she knew the significance of. Houdini's wife died without Harry contacting her—no surprise!

Catholics pray to Mary and saints, and believe they are contacting these dead people. That's necromancy; look it up. Catholicism and the occult have a lot in common.

Fascination with zombies is big in Hollywood today. Seeing life come to the dead has been big since Universal Studio made Frankenstein in 1931. Many Pentecostals and charismatics believe the dead are being raised today by the Holy Spirit. Books that deal with near death experiences are popular.

God's word teaches that you can know now where you are going at death. You would think because of the interest in that subject, more folks would search the Bible for answers, but they don't. How sad is that?

“And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not” (Mark 16:11).

Poor Mary Magdalene, eleven men, whom she thought would have rejoiced upon hearing that news, looked at her like she had “lost” it.

Before 2018 is over, multiple millions will go to hell because of unbelief, and millions who believe in the Lord's physical resurrection will go to hell because they were not born again. The church I grew up in taught me that Jesus Christ rose from the

dead. Jesuit priests took me on retreats and told me that Christ's burial shroud, the famous Shroud of Turin, was left to the Catholic Church because it was the true church of Christ. I believed it.

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

You ought to know that the devil loves using a lying cloth showing the wounds and scars of a man the Catholic Church claims to be Jesus Christ. Lying signs and wonders get certified as truth by the Church of Rome. Officially, the Vatican does not say that the Shroud of Turin is the Lord's burial garment, but Rome does nothing to dissuade its subjects from believing the cloth is authentic.

In October 1961 and October 1962, I was taken to a Jesuit retreat house in Monroe, New York. At 15 and 16, I was quite impressionable, and Jesuit priests knew how to “sandpaper” the young minds of their students. These “retreats” were mandatory for prep school juniors and seniors. My religion grades were always very high, so I suppose I fit the profile for the nurturing of a prospective priest. On Saturday night, the priests would hear confessions, so we could all take communion at Mass the next morning. After dinner on Saturday night, we were required to attend a 45-minute documentary film presentation on the Shroud of Turin. That's what I remember most vividly about those retreats. The film which I watched intently frightened me. It had an eerie sound track, and the narrator's voice was less than warm and comforting.

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After getting saved sixteen years later, I began to see how those retreats were designed to wed me permanently to Catholicism through fear. How could I ever want to leave the church that possessed the Lord's shroud? My visits to Monroe, New York were satanic attempts to give my heart and soul to Rome. Only God's grace kept me from taking the religious road to hell.

"Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself" (John 20:6-7).

When I read those verses after trusting Jesus Christ to save my soul, I knew positively that the Shroud of Turin was a fraud. Jesus was not covered in a long cloth from His head to His feet and up His back to His head again. Rome, knowing that almost all its congregants will not study the scriptures, has packaged this lying sign for centuries with success. Only a handful of scientists that have examined the cloth expressed skepticism. When this happened some years back, the Vatican trotted out a bunch of "house-approved scientists" to give the shroud the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval." What a farce!

Verses 6 and 7 in the 20th chapter of John's Gospel show that there were clothes, *plural*, in the tomb. Verse 7 tells of a napkin about the Lord's head, and it was not lying with the other clothes. John saw these clothes; he did not see one long shroud. The Turin shroud is a paint-

ing, according to some, or a burial garment of a man who was tortured.

On July 9th of last year, the Christian Broadcast Network lined up with Rome's scientists and said that new technology shows the shroud has dried blood particles on it and is NOT a painting. So maybe a bleeding man was covered in that cloth, but God's word shows that it wasn't our Saviour. Now, what can I say about Pat Robertson and his willingness to "carry water" for Rome? When you promote perverted, modern "Bible" versions, the Lord allows the devil to mess with your mind. Tares and wheat look the same to Bro. Pat, and the lying signs and wonders of Rome begin to look authentic to someone jabbering in an unknown tongue and using the "word of knowledge" to tell a sick person that healing is on the way. Spiritual quackery is alive and well today, so study God's word.

Our Lord was literally butchered and bled to death for our sins. ". . . **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**" (1 John 1:7). **"What are these wounds in thine hands?"** (Zech. 13:6). That question could be answered now for any Jew willing to turn to Psalm 22 or Isaiah 53 with an honest heart. Thomas knew where those wounds came from. Every sinner who ever lived helped drive the nails into the Lord's body. My glorified body has been bought and paid for by the Lord's blood. We'll see the proof of purchase when we see the Lord's wounds.

No Jesuit told me that my salvation was complete because of Calvary. Bro. Robertson does not believe

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the blood "**cleanseth us from all**" because you can lose your salvation according to the doctrine of Pentecostalism. Imagine downgrading the bleeding and suffering the Lord endured for you by telling Him that beside the price He paid, you had to work to keep from losing your salvation. When you see those scars of love, you'll know instantly how stupid and wrong you were for believing

you had a part in "earning" your salvation. He paid it all; you didn't even have to leave a tip.

"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him . . ." (Isa. 53:10). How can we fathom a loving Father pleased to see His son destroyed? We can't. It's beyond us, and there is love there at work that we know little of. Obviously, it pleased our Father to leave scars on His Son's glorified

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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.

Eternal Scars

Continued from 37
body. He could have taken the scars away, but He left them there for us to see.

Some things we might see in our lifetimes are horrible. At the end of the war, American and British officers had ordinary German citizens line up and walk through some of the death camps that had recently been liberated. The Germans were made to view stacks of emaciated corpses. I saw films showing Germans walking quickly, some holding their noses, some heaving up what was in their stomach. Was it right for American and British officers to do that? Judge for yourself, but remember, God wants surviving Jews to see what their ancient leaders did to His Son.

The wounds must remain. They teach what is in man's heart. Jerusalem's religious leadership decided that it was much too dangerous to leave a man alive who could raise the dead. They knew about Lazarus. Bethany was right down the road from Jerusalem. Jesus could not be allowed to roam about freely; He had to be killed for the good of the na-

tion. Hitler told his countrymen that the Jews had to be destroyed for the well-being of the Reich and all of Europe.

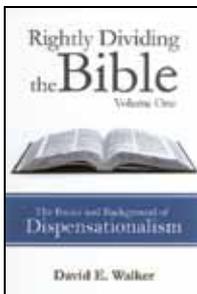
My King James Bible is designed by God to cut through every lie of man. It makes you bleed when you hold onto your traditions, idols, and pride. I thank God for the scars that Book put on my soul. Every time that Book wounds me, I know it was not written by man. God's word cuts and makes you bleed.

Folks don't like that, so preachers become politicians and say things that are safe. Thank God for the preacher who is not squeamish at the sight of blood. As for the others: ". . . **cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood**" (Jer. 48:10).

Let it please our Lord to take His church home before another Resurrection Sunday rolls around (Tit. 2:13).

P.S. I don't like the word *Easter*, and unless you are a Babylonian, you ought not to prefer it also, OK?

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