



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 43 No. 1

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

January 2019

The Beginning of Months

By Brian Donovan

The present Gentile calendar, with many of the names for the months coming from the Roman gods and Caesars (Janus, Februa, Mars, Julius, Augustus, etc.), now begins the year with January. Before the months of January and February were added, the year began with March, which explains how September (“septum” - 7th month, not the 9th), October (“octo” - 8th month, not the 10th), November (“novem” - 9th month, not the 11th), and December (“decem” - 10th month, not the 12th) all got their Latin names. What is not typically known is that the Gentile calendar was originally in line with the Jewish calendar, whose beginning comes straight from the scriptures. In Exodus 12, the Lord commanded the Jews to begin their year with the first month coinciding with when they were brought out of the bondage of Egypt at the Passover. The events leading up to the Passover, show that it was in the springtime (Exodus 9:31), when the flax and barley were in the ear, not the wheat (Exodus 9:32). This put the

first month around the present month of March and explains why the naming of the Gentile months no longer match their Latin numbering.

The Passover event was to be kept as a **“memorial”** and a **“feast”**, and an **“ordinance”** (Exodus 12:14), as the Jews were to never forget the day that they were taken out of Egypt (Exodus 13:3 **“Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt...”**). Although it was a one-time event that can never be repeated, it was to be remembered and observed throughout their generations for ever (Exodus 12:17). It was a night when the firstborn had to die (Exodus 12:29) unless the blood was applied (Exodus 12:22). There was only one way to keep the **“destroyer”** from getting in, and it was the Lord himself who stopped him (Exodus 12:23), and then only when He saw the blood on the door. The type is an extremely strong one for the child of God today as he also is to remember the day that the Lord brought him out of bondage, that it was only by Blood, it is an event that cannot be repeated, and it is the Lord himself who prevents anyone or anything from getting to the soul of His child (Romans 8:33). The day of your first birth is nothing in comparison to the time of your second birth. The scriptures show what the Lord thinks of the day you were born

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Martin Luther vs. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“For when they [speaking of the false teachers in 2 Pet. 2:1] speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage” (2 Pet. 2:18–19).

This article is about someone I call “the greatest Communist in America.” I call this man that because, according to a counter-spy for the FBI, Karl Prussian, Martin Luther King Jr. belonged to *sixty* Communist-front organizations—more than any card-carrying Communist in the United States at that time. It’s a sad day in America when public schools are “let out” on April 4th or January 21 to honor the memory of a man who belonged to more Communist-front organizations than any other Communist in America. On that day, you will see flags at post offices and other government buildings at half-mast. I can’t imagine lowering the flag for a Communist.

Now I am going to compare this man to his namesake. I am not just going to be “negative”; I am going to be “positive” as well. Nothing aggravates me any more than to hear Southerners refer to this Commu-



nist as “Martin Luther” and leave off his last name. Martin Luther was NOT “Martin Luther” King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. wasn’t born with the name *Martin*; he was named after his father *Michael* Luther King Sr. Senior claimed the doctor made a mistake recording his son’s name (and apparently, it happened when he himself was born as well—likely story), so he had both of their names changed to *Martin* when his son was five years old. The name on Michael’s birth certificate, though, wasn’t changed to *Martin* until 1957, after the Communists saw an opportunity to counterfeit a Reformation. So Michael Luther King lived under an “alias” during his “ministry.” Any man who has to change his name before the public, there’s something wrong with him. Michael’s name change was a play by the Communists to create a *social revolution* instead of a *spiritual revival*.

Michael Luther King Jr. was killed April 4, 1968 during a sani-

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tation workers' strike where, previously, a so-called "peaceful protest" led by King turned into a violent riot, which characterized his "ministry." King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and was dubbed "the apostle of peace" by the news media. But the Bible says, **"by their fruits ye shall know them"** (Matt. 7:20). When you follow a man's "ministry" and all you find in its wake are broken store windows, looted businesses, apartment houses gutted with fire, litigations, civil disturbance, and dead policemen, *you're not dealing with an "apostle of peace"; you're dealing with a killer.*

All this talk about "peace." I could get a reputation really quickly for inciting riots. A lot of people think I speak very inflammatorily. Isn't it strange, though, that none of the people who get "stirred up" by me break store windows and steal color television sets? Isn't it strange that none of my followers go around dumping over police cars or making Molotov cocktails? My words can be just like swords and bullets, but they work *peace*. But when someone like Martin Luther King Jr. or Jesse Jackson or Ralph Abernathy or Al Sharpton get up, his words can be like honey and butter and syrup, and you get death, law suits, and jail time. *They're false prophets.*

The Bible says of false prophets that you can **"know them by their fruits"** (Matt. 7:15-16). If you want to know what a man really believes,

watch the fruit of his work. The fruit of a man like Martin Luther King Jr. shows him to be a bloody killer.

So here we are going to contrast the great American Communist Martin Luther King Jr. with his namesake, the great German Reformer Martin Luther. First, Martin Luther *believed the Bible*; Martin Luther King Jr. *did not*. I have read Martin Luther King's book *I Have a Dream* from cover to cover. That fellow was a Unitarian, a mystic, and a Buddhist. He was no more a Bible believer than Kagawa or Charles Manson. He may have had a facade of a Christian profession, but when you read what that man actually believed, he believed in transmigration of souls and a Unitarian doctrine where Jesus Christ was *not* the virgin-born, only-begotten Son of God. He took a *socialistic* approach to Christianity just like Karl Marx.

The German Reformer believed the Bible, and the way you know that to be so is that he followed the Apostle Paul's instructions in Romans 13:1 and obeyed **"the powers that be"** of his day. When the peasants rioted in Germany against the government, Martin Luther wrote against it. He wasn't out to start a revolution and overthrow the government.

In Memphis, where King's previous march had turned violent, a judge ordered an injunction against a second march in order to prevent another violent riot. Before King's

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lawyers had the chance to have the injunction lifted, King, in his last public speech, urged his followers to violate the judge's order. The next day he was shot to death.

If I were ever issued an order by the lawful government to stop preaching on the street on a Saturday afternoon, if I violated that order, it would be tough apples for me if anything happened to me. We are to obey **"the powers that be,"** and if we ever have **"to obey God rather than men"** (Acts 5:29), then we will just have to take what comes as a consequence of doing that. What King was doing in Memphis had nothing to do with preaching Jesus Christ and the gospel whatsoever.

Second, Martin Luther was *not* a Communist; Martin Luther King Jr. was. If there is any doubt about that, I have a photograph of the "Kingfish" sitting in classes at the Highlander Folk School, a Communist training school in Monteagle, Tennessee. He's there with *Abner Berry* who was a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party USA, Aubrey Williams who was president of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (a Communist-front organization) and who was identified as a member of the Communist Party by two of its former members, and Myles Horton who had connections with Communists inside and outside of the Highlander Folk School. Don West, the co-founder of the school, was identified by the FBI as the "District

Director" of the Communist Party in North Carolina.

Cincinnati Enquirer, Sunday, June 9, 1963: "Cincinnati Pastor Named as Head of 'Red Front,'" Dr. King's "aide" on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (the vice president) was Fred Lee Shuttlesworth. At the time he was vice president of the SCLC, he was also the president of the Southern Conference Education Fund, the Communist-front organization that was led by Aubrey Williams in that photograph of King at Highlander Folk School.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a Communist. The newspapers knew it, the FBI knew it, and JFK knew it. In contrast, Martin Luther was no Communist. *He didn't even have fellowship with people who were Communists.* You don't find old Martin approving of anyone who followed the Communist line.

For example, when the riots broke out in Washington, D.C., I had a friend up in Canton, Ohio, named Ben James. He flew into Washington and saw that place. He said he hadn't seen anything like it since Germany after World War II. There was smoke billowing up all over the city, tanks in the street, barricades, sandbags: it looked like Berlin or Hamburg in 1945. That isn't the impression people get over television. They knew it was bad, but not that bad.

In downtown Washington, D.C., 35 were killed, and hundreds were

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wounded. There were 9,000 troops on duty. In Washington, there were 250 fires. In Chicago, after Martin Luther King came through there, six city blocks were burned out. With all that chaos and destruction following that man, Billy Graham got up and called him “the outstanding Christian leader of today.” I wouldn’t call him that, and neither would anyone who knew that Bible.

When the peasants rioted in Germany, Martin Luther wouldn’t have anything to do with them. Martin Luther King Jr. walked down the street with the rioters and the looters. I have a photograph of King walking down the street in the Selma March wearing a “*ushanka*”: a winter hat like the Red Army in Russia and North Korea wear. A man is known by the company he keeps (1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20).

Another difference between these two men is that Martin Luther, the German Reformer, knew a religious phony when he saw one, and he was very open to tell folks about it. When Martin Luther knew a guy was a religious phony, he would call the fellow on it. He would write to the pope and call him “Most Hellish Father” and “Your Hellishness.” Now I wouldn’t go as far as Martin did. If I wrote the pope, I would probably say, “Dear Sir,” just like I would anyone else. But that old Kraut was plain and outspoken.

I wonder how it is that Martin Luther King Jr. didn’t know a religious faker when he saw one? Martin Lu-

ther King and his buddy Ralph Abernathy both met with Pope Paul VI in 1964. King was trying to use the pope to advance his cause, and the pope was trying to use King to advance his church. Four years later, King was shot to death. Not surprisingly, the one thing the pope and Martin Luther King had in common was the belief in the *redistribution of wealth*—Marxism, Communism—just like Obama believed.

When Martin Luther King Jr. was shot, the pope likened his death to the death of Christ. Can you imagine that? Did Jesus Christ lead a mob down the streets of Capernaum, breaking into stores? Why, Jesus Christ wasn’t assassinated by some outlaw who had escaped from prison and was on the run from the law (and who tried to become a pornographic movie director) like James Earl Ray. Jesus Christ was given a mock trial and condemned to death by the head of the occupying government in Palestine.

What did Jesus Christ leave behind when He died? He had no house, and He had no regular income. Martin Luther King Jr. had an income up in six figures when he died. Martin Luther King Jr. was staying in a hotel suite when he died. Jesus Christ was sleeping out under the stars in the Garden of Gethsemane the week of His execution. All the Lord had in this world were the clothes on His back, and the Roman soldiers shot dice for those as He died. You call those

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deaths similar?

Every time someone gets an assassin's bullet, the news media tries to make like he was Jesus Christ. They said of Kennedy when he got his brains blown out: "He died for all of us that we might live." I deeply and bitterly resent that. That is the statement of a religious fanatic and a bigot. The very idea that someone getting killed in a political campaign died so I could live. *Jesus Christ died so I could live.*

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:9–10).

Don't tell me some colored man trying to stir up trouble in Memphis, Tennessee, getting shot on the balcony of his hotel room, is doing anything for me (or for any other colored person, for that matter).

I'll tell you something else, when Jesus Christ died, you didn't see the world taking notice of it and making a big deal of it. If it weren't for the accounts of His *friends* and *followers* (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), where would you find a record of Jesus Christ's death. The very few, brief references by Roman writers were only made because of the preaching and ministries of Paul and the other apostles. If they hadn't **"turned the world upside**

down" (Acts 17:6), it would have gone on without taking any note of the Lord's death at all.

Compare that to the coverage King's death got. Mitt Romney's daddy (George Romney) went to his funeral. Kennedy was there. Richard Nixon was there. Even Spiro Agnew was there. All the TV cameras were running, and all the networks covered it. Some Christians sat there watching that ghastly, vulgar, morbid mess go on for literally hours at a time.

I know it doesn't seem like it, but when I was a boy, I was taught good manners. I learned that when you make an undue exhibition and display of death, it is morbid. Overdue emphasis on a rough thing like death is uncouth and can become vulgar. I have seen and done some rather uncouth and vulgar things in my time, but I have never sat for hours revelling in and soaking in and wallowing in the theatrical pageantry of a dead man being drawn to his burial by mules. If you have no more manners, breeding, and taste than that, you haven't got much. Just hour after hour of the weeping widow and the crying relatives and mules bearing the casket down the street. Do you really enjoy stuff like that? What kind of character are you?

Martin Luther King Jr. claimed to be a Baptist minister. His funeral was held at the Baptist church where he and his father pastored. I saw part of that service, and it was just as dead and formal as any

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Episcopalian service I attended growing up.

The German Reformer Martin Luther was associated with *God's power*. Martin Luther King Jr. will be associated forever with *black power*. All this talk about ending discrimination! Why, the NAACP is for the advancement of *one race* over all the others: it's the National Association for the Advancement of COLORED People; not Caucasians, Orientals, or American Indians. That *is* discrimination.

Martin Luther wasn't associated with that mess. He was associated with that Book and the power of God. Martin Luther King rejected every fundamental of the Christian faith: the infallibility of scripture, biblical creation, the Trinity, the deity and divine Sonship of Jesus Christ, the virgin birth, the vicarious atonement, the bodily resurrection of Christ, and His bodily return. Martin Luther King only saw the Bible as a source of "many profound truths." Those "profound truths" had to do with *black liberation theology*, the "*social gospel*" (religious Marxism), and *civil disobedience*. None of those things have to do with the power of God.

Martin Luther King Jr. claimed to be for change by non-violent means, but his non-violent means always worked violence. Like our text says, when King talked about "liberty," he was just bringing black folk into the bondage of corruption.

When Martin Luther King wanted help, he wrote to President Ken-

nedy, who fixed tickets for him and chartered jets to get him to Washington. I wonder who helped Jesus Christ to get His disciples' support. Pontius Pilate? Herod? Caiaphas?

President Lyndon Baines Johnson was on his way to Vietnam for peace talks when he received the news of King's death. He turned around and came home. He then raised taxes to pay for burned out buildings—buildings burned as a result of this "King" of the Communists.

I hope you never associate the German Reformer with this Communist. When we think of Martin Luther, we think of a man who believed God, feared God, believed the Book, and obeyed "**the powers that be.**" He was against revolution, he was against violence, and he set the example by not hanging out with violent people.

Two of his closest friends turned into violent men. Karlstadt and Müntzer advocated going into Catholic churches and breaking down the images, and going into the Catholic monasteries and nunneries and killing the monks and nuns. Martin refused to have anything to do with those things.

Listen, brethren, you don't need *black power*; you don't need *white power*. You need *God's power*.

Paul said, "**(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**" (2 Cor. 10:4).

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If you want power, there is more power in the Holy Spirit of God than there is in the whole black power movement or the whole white power movement. The Lord Jesus Christ can do something for you inside and personally that no revolutionist can do for you.

When I was coming up, my parents just automatically voted Democrat. To me, there was only one president—Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I thought the office was a lifetime job, because he was president for three terms and was running for a fourth when he died. Like one white said, “My folks all voted Democrat *until they learned how to read.*”

Back in those days, the union

boys came around to get me to join in a strike, promising me all kinds of benefits once management caved in to their demands. What they got me was a *lost job*. If you are just a weak nobody making forty dollars a week, or if you are an “oppressed minority,” such promises can have a tremendous appeal. That’s why the Marxists have made such inroads in Central and South America, where folks don’t have much *because of their rejection of the Bible.*

I am here to tell you, though, that if you want something *good* that is *real* (not empty promises), then trust Jesus Christ. He did more for me in twenty seconds than all their promises or the job or the money did for me in 27 years.

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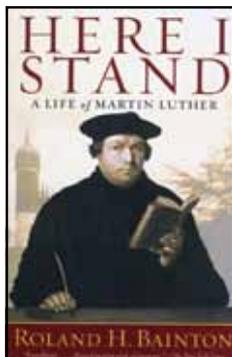
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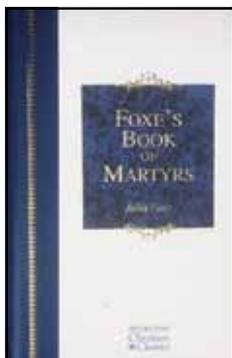
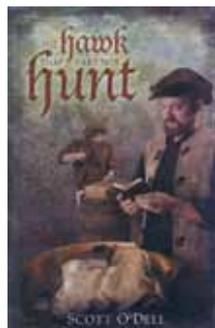
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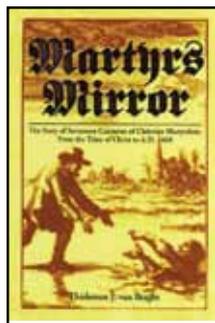
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(Plus Postage—see page 18)

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into this world, by only referring to two different birthdays in scripture, with neither being a positive or Christian reference. One was Pharaoh's and he celebrated it by hanging the chief baker (Genesis 40:20-22), and the other was Herod's, and it was celebrated with the beheading of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:6-10).

The first birth is rejected throughout the Bible as shown in numerous cases, beginning with Cain and Abel, Japheth and Shem, Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Reuben and Judah, Aaron and Moses, Eliab and David, Amnon and Solomon, right down to the present church age. Your first birth is no good, period. Paul writes about this comparison with Adam and Jesus Christ in I Corinthians 15 and Romans 5. In those two chapters, we are told that through Adam, sin and death were brought into this world (Romans 5:12), and the result is that **"in Adam all die"** (I Corinthians 15:22), but **"in Christ shall all be made alive"**. Your first birth was of Adam and therefore rejected. Since Adam was made of the dust of the ground, his creation is described in I Corinthians 15 as **"a natural body"** (verse 44), **"of the earth, earthy"** (verse 47), **"flesh and blood"** (verse 50), as well as **"corruptible"** and **"mortal"** (verse 53). Every man and woman on this earth comes from Adam and inherits that same description regardless of health, wealth, race, religion, or upbringing. Many a sinner has been comfortable with their rich and noble birth into this life, only to be shocked when the death angel comes and they find themselves rejected for all eternity in hell. The vast majority of the "great" names of the

political world (Washington, Jefferson, FDR, JFK, Trump), of the world of Hollywood (Fairbanks, Bogart, Bacall, Pitt, Clooney), of the music industry (Jagger, McCartney, Lennon, Garth, Hank Williams), of the sports world (Rockne, Brady, Ruth, Aaron, Chamberlain, Lebron, Pele, Gretzky), have already, or soon will, wake up to the futility of both their famous names and their self-righteous rags, being able to save them from hell.

It is only through the second birth by faith in the finished work of the **"last Adam"** (I Corinthians 15:45), that a sinner can be made acceptable to God. Being born a second time allows the saved sinner to be changed to the point that the description of him can now be called **"a spiritual body"** (verse 44), **"from heaven"** (verse 47), while putting on **"incorruption"** and **"immortality"** (verse 53), in a spiritual body of **"flesh and bones"** (Luke 24:39).

The date of January 1, 2019 means nothing when it comes to a new beginning. The date is set by a pagan, Gentile calendar that is not connected to any event. As a plaque I once saw so aptly read, "On this site in 1849 absolutely nothing happened". The event that gives a new beginning is the new birth. It is found in type in Exodus 12 in the Passover when Israel was brought out of Egypt and was no longer simply a family (Exodus 6:14-25), but could be referred to as **"armies"** (Exodus 12:17), a **"peculiar people"**, and a **"kingdom of priests, and a holy nation"** (Exodus 19:5-6). None of that was possible until the Passover event. January 1 means absolutely nothing unless it can be remembered as the day that you were personally born

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again.

The pagan sun and moon worshipping Gentiles who put together our present-day calendar, were more interested in their gods of Janus, Mars, "July"ius and "August"us Caesar, than any truth about eternity. The "Julian" calendar, named after Julius Caesar, introduced the adding of a day every four years, beginning in 44 B.C., after a Greek mathematician named Sosigenes had fixed the solar year at 365 1/4 days. Right after Caesar's death, a leap year was added every three years, causing his successor, Augustus, to later cancel leap years between 8 B.C. and 8 A.D. to bring it back in line. Yet even with all that, the Julian calendar was causing the calendar to drift ahead of the spring equinox by about three days every four hundred years, since the sun's motion in a year is actually ten minutes and forty-eight seconds shorter than an exact 365 1/4 days. This very small error over a long period of time translated into days so that by the 1500's, the Roman Catholic popes were concerned about their pagan observance of Ishtar (Easter), not matching the ancient pagan observances of the rite of springtime. Enter Pope Gregory XIII, who in 1582, convened a council of astronomers and mathematicians, along with his bishops and cardinals, to settle the "Easter" controversy. Of course, had they been Bible believers and not the scripture rejecting pagans they were, there would have been no controversy. To celebrate the resurrection of Christ, a Bible believer knows that it is not the spring equinox that commemorates the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, but the Jewish Passover, since

that is when Jesus Christ hung on the cross of Calvary as our passover (I Corinthians 5:7). The Pope's controversy was that some "heretics" were observing the resurrection of Christ in line with the Jewish Passover, while the pagan members of his church wanted to keep celebrating the spring equinox in March (with tulips, bunnies, and eggs), which has always been the time for the "Mother Nature" worshipping pagans to recognize, as far back as Nimrod and his mother. The Council of Trent (1582) and Greg decided that Passover was "Christian," not Jewish, and therefore it was the springtime that should determine it's observance. The result was to institute the "Gregorian" calendar that we use today. In order to bring Easter back in line with the equinox (it was ten days off by this time), Greg decided to drop ten days from the calendar in 1582, so that the world went to bed on October 4th and woke up on October 15 that year. To keep the calendar working into the future, his astronomers decided that only the century years of every four hundred years would be leap years (1600 and 2000), while the years of 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not. Knowing that this mess is our present-day calendar, how can a Christian get excited about January 1, except for the fact that, as any new day, it is a chance to serve Christ, as well as one day closer to the rapture? In being aware of all of this, it makes the Bible believer wonder what the actual date is today, at least on the calendar and mind of the only One who matters, which is, the Lord God Almighty.

In the meantime, the Jews still followed the observance of the Passover (Pesach), at the right date (14th day),

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of the right month (Abib), to begin what they call their "sacred" year. In time, however, with the rejection of the law of Moses, and especially their rejection of their Messiah, namely, the Lord Jesus Christ, the apostasy set in, and the nation of Israel replaced the scripture with their own tradition (Mark 7). The Jews have gone back to the observance of a civil calendar, beginning their year in the seventh month of Tishri, coinciding with the old calendar, which began the year in September/October. They call this festival by the name of "Rosh Hashana" (literally "head of the year"). It is possible that from the beginning of the history of mankind, that Adam and his lineage observed September/October as the start of the year, in recognition of when the Lord created him and placed him in the garden of Eden in the fall. This would explain the origination of the year beginning with Tishri, and how the seventh month (September), became the ninth month. Yet as of 1491 B.C., the Lord commanded the Jews to keep Passover as "**the beginning of months**", as "**the first month of the year to you**" (Exodus 12:2), calling it Abib (Exodus 13:4). Those Jews who do observe the Passover today, have shifted the emphasis from what the Lord did in bringing them out of Egypt and their bondage, to an emphasis on what they have gone through and their own works. Their rituals of a Passover observance today include a thorough house cleaning called "nullification", to be sure no leaven is left in the house. On the previous night a few crumbs are placed on the floor and then swept up using a feather, a wooden spoon, and a lit candle, then burned the next morning. Four cups are filled with wine

to represent what they call the four redemptions of Exodus 6:6-7 ("**I will bring you out**", "**rid you out**", "**redeem you**", and "**take you to me for a people**"). A fifth cup is also placed to represent the waiting of the coming of Elijah (Malachi 4). Three pieces of Matzo (unleavened bread) are broken and eaten with bitter herbs (to represent their hard bondage in Egypt). They place a roasted shank bone of a lamb on the table, the Passover story is read from Exodus, the wine is drunk and a reading of Psalms 113-114, (called the Hallel Psalms, named after the rabbi born in Babylon approximately 110 BC). Someone then goes to the door to see if Elijah has shown up, more wine is poured, followed by a reading of the rest of the Hallel Psalms (Psalms 115-118), more songs, and a closing of "next year in Jerusalem". All of this ritual comes from the Mishnah, and the reader should notice that the Bible observance is ignored. In Deuteronomy 16:1-7, the Jews were commanded to "**sacrifice the passover**" (verse 2), not place a shank of bone on the table, "**in the place which the Lord shall choose**" (verse 2), which is Jerusalem, and it was not to be done "**within any of thy gates**" (verse 5), but at the temple, not at home. Israel in apostasy cannot keep the observance, no matter how solemn a ritual they pretend it to be, especially since they ignore the specific instructions of scripture, along with the fact that they are no longer in control of "**the place**" (the Temple in Jerusalem), which the Lord chose out for them. All of these shortcomings point out to the Jews that they are without a sacrifice, temple, priesthood, and most importantly, without an atone-

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ment. Once, while witnessing to a lost Jew, I asked about their lack of these things before God, and the only answer was that they had hope that the Lord would understand.

For the Christian, his new beginning comes with salvation. When the Lord Jesus Christ came the first time, he observed the Seder meal with his disciples and instructed them to observe it **“in remembrance of me”** (Luke 22:19). Jesus Christ himself became our Passover, and we have no need to sacrifice any more lambs. Paul instructs that **“as often”** as the Christians observe it, it is with the Lord's return in mind (I Corinthians 11:26). We are not **“Messianic Jews”**, holding onto a past religion of works and ritual. We are not **“saved Roman Catholics”** (as Vice President Mike Pence, telling a Roman Catholic crowd at a prayer breakfast how he **“cherished”** his Catholic upbringing, and how much he **“cherished the church”**), but instead, as scripture commands us, we are told to **“come out of her”** (Revelation 18:4). Our celebration of a new beginning in Christ our Passover is not with the old leaven of any religion. The child of God has a new beginning every day, with the promise of a new start with every repentance from sins and every personal confession of them to God (I John 1:9). Thank God that we do not have to wait for a yearly **“day of atonement”** for a priest to enter into a holy place to be made **“clean from all your sins before the Lord”** (Leviticus 16:29-30), nor do we have to wait weekly for a Saturday to enter a confessional booth to confess our sins to a pagan, child molesting, drunkard, Baalite priest. We also do not have to

wait for an arbitrary date of January 1 to make resolutions to begin again. A Christian can make a resolution to the Lord as well on December 10th, as January 1st.

The lost world gets together to celebrate the bringing in of a new year, without being able to get a new beginning on anything. They find themselves clinging to their **“auld acquaintance”**, to their purposeless lives, and their same old sins, without hope and without God, and without a new beginning. The saved do not have to hesitate for a moment to get a new start. We have **“access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God”** (Romans 5:2). The child of God has opportunity for an immediate new beginning, with forgiveness of sins available at any time (John 8:11 **“go and sin no more”**), day and night, through repentance and confession of sin directly to our Father. The Christian can **“come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”** (Hebrews 4:16). Our high priest is **“holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”** (Hebrews 7:26), and is able to not only save but **“ever liveth to make intercession for us”** (Hebrews 7:25). The saved find out that whenever we sin, we have **“an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”** (I John 2:1), and that he is **“rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us”** (Ephesians 2:4). We have a promise that He will **“make all things new”** (Revelation 21:5), including a new body (Philippians 3:21), a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1), and a new city (Revelation 21:2), with none of it being connected to January 1, 2019.

The Sufficiency Of the Book

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit” (Matt. 7:17–18).

“Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit” (Matt. 12:33).

After 120 years (since 1880) of criticizing the scriptures, changing the scriptures, retranslating the scriptures, and revising the scriptures, the corrupt tree of apostate fundamentalism and conservatism in the United States has finally born the rotten fruit it has been nurturing for years—complete rejection of the scriptures as the infallible, inerrant word of God. According to one survey, 37% of “evangelicals” do not believe the Bible is inerrant. No surprise—if you tell your students and congregations long enough that the Bible has mistakes in it (“This is an unfortunate translation,” “The oldest and best manuscripts omit the verse,” “A better translation should be . . . ,” “The Bible should be viewed in the ‘light’ of modern discoveries in _____” [fill in the blank with science, psychiatry, archaeology or whatever], etc.), and pretty soon, *they will believe you*. Like Hitler said, if you tell a lie long enough and loud enough, people will come to believe it’s true. That is why you have “evangelicals” (supposedly

“born-again” Christians) rejecting Genesis 1 and observing “Darwin Sunday.” That is why they pander to queers and international socialists. That is why people like Rick Warren, Joel Osteen, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, et al., can sucker professing Christians out of millions of dollars every year. *Christians have dumped the Book.*

But the Bible is *God’s* word and His *words*. It’s not just the message or the principles or the thoughts or the fundamentals that have been given to us **“by inspiration of God”** (2 Tim. 3:16); it’s those *individual words*.

“The WORDS of the LORD are pure WORDS . . . Thou shalt keep THEM, O LORD, thou shalt preserve THEM from this generation for ever” (Psa. 12:6–7).

“. . . the WORDS that I speak unto you, THEY are spirit, and THEY are life” (John 6:63).

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my WORDS shall not pass away” (Matt. 24:35).

“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the WORDS of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him” (John 3:34).

“He that is of God heareth God’s WORDS: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God” (John 8:47).

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the WORDS of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues

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The Sufficiency Of the Book

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that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the WORDS of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Rev. 22:18–19).

Let me ask you: do you have God's WORDS? You say, “Well, I have the Word (or word) of God, Ruckman.” I didn't ask you that. I asked, “Do you have God's WORDS—plural?” “Well, I have a translation utilizing ‘dynamic equivalence,’ so I have the *intent* of the author.” So are they God's WORDS or not? “Well . . . , no” That's what I thought.

The fundamentalist will say, “We have a reliable translation that upholds every major doctrine of the Christian faith.” So is it God's WORDS? “No, but it is as close as we can get.” How close would that be, Doctor? “Oh, about 500 (New Scofield Reference Bible) to 36,000 (NASV) words different (or completely missing!) from the translation we ‘historic fundamentalists’ want to be identified with, but which we reserve the right to correct at our own discretion whenever we can't understand it or don't like what it says.” I see. By the way, wouldn't that make *you* God, since *you* decide what He did and did not say?

Now if you don't have God's words, *I do*. I have them in my own language—English. After 63 years of studying them and their critics,

I have never found one mistake in the 788,258 words of that Book (AV 1611), but I have found plenty in their critics. I have examined every problem the “scholars” have raised and have never seen one they could prove was an error beyond a reasonable shadow of a doubt. Every alleged “contradiction” or “error” the critics raised had an explanation if one believed what the Book said (1 Thess. 2:13), as it said it, in the context in which it was said, with consideration given to whom it was said (2 Tim. 2:15), and comparing scripture with scripture to let the Book define what it said (1 Cor. 2:13).

If that Book is *God's* words (and there is no doubt in my mind that it is), then there is no *authority on this earth* higher than that Book (2 Pet. 1:19–21). You say, “Jesus Christ is a higher authority.” Even if that were so, Jesus Christ is not *here on earth* right now to consult. He will be someday in His millennial kingdom, but that is *not now*. Right now, the authority for the Christian is *God's words* in God's Book. You wouldn't know who Jesus Christ was or what He did for you if it weren't for the *words of that Book* (John 5:39; Rom. 10:8–17). God Almighty has magnified the words in that Book (Psa. 138:2, 4) over even the name of His own Son (Phil. 2:9–11). A Christian who rejects the inerrancy and infallibility of the holy scriptures has no authority higher than his own sinful, worldly opinions, or the

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What's New at the Bookstore?

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November Sermons at Bible Baptist (2018)	DC-1811	\$12.95
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Music Matters (Cary Schmidt)	GN-9440	\$5.95

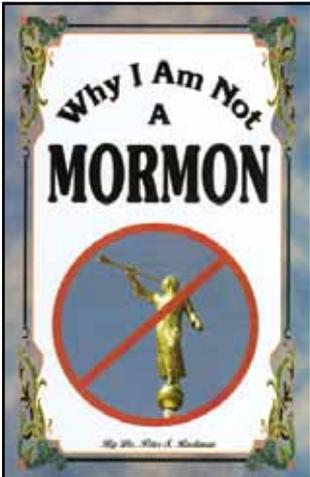
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GP Standard Bible, Teal/Brown, Imitation Leather	BL-4537	\$24.99
Mini Pocket Bible, Black, Faux Leather	BL-4535	\$14.95
LP Hardcover, Black	BL-4537	\$16.99

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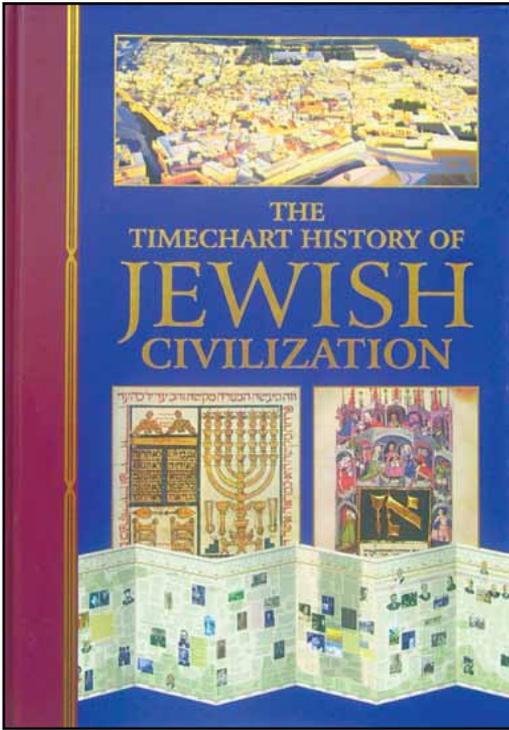
RK-120

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Of the religions today that profess to be “Christian,” the fastest-growing one is the cult of Mormonism. That is because there is no shortage of self-righteous hypocrites trying to get to heaven on their own “worthiness.” Some will even sacrifice their reason and good judgment to do so and allow themselves to be taken in by a religious con artist who claimed to receive “revelations” from God by *divination*; in his case, staring at a “peep stone” in a top hat. I am not a Mormon because its church is not Christian, its founder was not a prophet, and its books are not holy scripture.

(Plus postage — see page 18)



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The Sufficiency Of the Book

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opinions of a sinner and a worldling just like himself.

Now there is a doctrine that goes hand in hand with the absolute authority of the scripture: it is the doctrine of the *sufficiency* of scripture. If the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice (and there is no doubt in my mind that it is), then it must contain everything the believer needs to *believe* right (faith) and *act* right (practice). *That* is the sufficiency of scripture. No pope, bishop, pastor, priest, rabbi, imam, president, senator, congressman, college professor, Bible scholar, or translator has any contribution to add in those matters. The only "help" a Christian can get is from someone who first *believes* the Book and then faithfully proclaims, preaches, teaches, expounds, or *explains* the WORDS found in the text. The moment one corrects, changes, or revises the WORDS, the moment he rejects those WORDS and substitutes the opinions of men for them, you can take those comments and deposit them in "file 13." They are no more pertinent to the authority or sufficiency of scripture than a goose in a horse race.

Here, then, is a list of things from the scripture that testify to their own sufficiency. This is what the Book (the Authorized Version of the Protestant Reformation) has to say about itself in this regard. It is by no means a complete list, but it will show the Bible believer that the Book is sufficient to supply him

with whatever he needs to make it through this life to glory.

1. That Book *holds the universe together* (Heb. 11:3, 1:3). Tell that to the professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology!

2. The Book is *absolute truth* (John 17:17; Psa. 119:151; 2 Tim. 2:15). It's not just "What's true for you but may not be true for me." When a person rejects what the Book says, he opens himself up to believing a lie and *damnation* (2 Thess. 2:11–12).

3. The Book can *enlighten* you (Psa. 119:99, 105, 130). Intellectual and spiritual enlightenment doesn't come by rejecting the words of the Bible as the English deists, the French skeptics, and the German rationalists taught in the "Age of Enlightenment." Beccaria, Diderot, Hume, Kant, Descartes, Rousseau, and Voltaire were just one more collection of the blind leading the blind into a ditch (2 Cor. 4:4; Matt. 16:14).

4. The Book can *judge between motives and analyze thought patterns* (Heb. 4:12–13; Jer. 6:19; Ezek. 11:5, 33:30–33). It is the only book out of the 23 million in the Library of Congress that will *read you* before you read it.

5. It can *judge all false teachers, all false prophets, and all false religious leaders, and correct all their false doctrines and practices* (Isa. 5:20, 8:20; Jer. 8:9; Matt. 22:29; Mark 7:7–9). That goes for your priest, your bishop, your pope, your elder, your "apostle," your "women's

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The Sufficiency Of the Book

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speaker,” and any “televangelist” on
the boob tube.

6. It can *draw absolute judgment against anything that any man, nation, or group proposes* (Isa. 5:20, 8:20, 30:8–13; Jer. 36:2, 25:13; Gen. 18:25; Psa. 119:137–138; Rom. 9:4).

7. It can *correct all Greek and Hebrew scholars, all Bible translators, all Bible revisers, all commentators, and all expositors* (2 Cor. 2:17; Rom. 1:18, 25; 2 Tim. 1:13; Jer. 8:8, 23:36; Isa. 29:11–14; Matt. 22:29).

8. It is *any piece of equipment the believer needs to survive and thrive spiritually in a hostile world*. It is a *sword* (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17), a *hammer* (Jer. 23:29), *nails* (Eccl. 12:11), *fire* (Jer. 23:29, 5:14, 20:9; Luke 24:32), a *mirror* (James 1:22–25), a *lamp* (Psa. 119:105), and a *goad* (Eccl. 12:11).

9. It is *a complete diet to nourish the new man in Christ* (Job 28:12). It is *water* (Eph. 5:26), *milk* (1 Pet. 2:2), *bread* (Matt. 4:4), *honey* (Psa. 19:10, 119:103), *apples* (Prov. 25:11), and *meat* (Heb. 5:12–14).

10. The Book *contains anything and everything you need to know about “life and godliness”* (2 Pet. 1:3). It will tell you how to live life down here; how to make a living; what to do with your income and outgo; how to handle health, family, social, economic, religious, and educational problems; how to respond to both fair and foul treatment; how to get through sorrows, famine, per-

secution, sickness, bereavement, and poverty; and what you should do while here on this earth besides feeding your face, staying as comfortable as you possibly can, and raising your family. And here the “proof texts” would be too numerous to list. Two books of the Bible alone (Psalms and Proverbs) would cover over half the list; to those you could add Galatians 4–6; Ephesians 4–6; Philippians 4; Colossians 2–4; 1 Timothy 2–6; and 1 Peter 3–5. That would be a *partial* list. The Book gives *patience*; it gives *comfort*; it gives *hope* (Rom. 15:4).

The Book can *tell you how to have eternal life as a present possession* (John 5:39, 6:68; 1 John 5:13). It can *save your soul* (James 1:21). It can *impart the new birth* (1 Pet. 1:23). It can *help you grow as a believer* (1 Pet. 2:2). It can *build you up* (Acts 20:32). It can *strengthen you* (Psa. 119:28). It can *cleanse you* (Psa. 119:9; John 15:3). It can *sanctify you* (John 17:17). It can *preserve you forever* (1 Pet. 1:24–25).

You don't know another book in the world that can do all those things for you. *They all fall short* (Isa. 55:8–9). The Koran does not contain everything Allah wants you to know; that's why Moslems have to add the Hadith and the Sunna to it. The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price alongside the King James Bible are nothing but a sad, tragic joke. Mary Baker Eddy's *Key*

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The Sufficiency Of the Book

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to the Scriptures isn't a question of "mind over matter"; it's "What's the matter with your mind?" if you take it seriously. Adding the teachings of Charles Taze Russell or Ellen G. White to the holy scriptures is like filling a grand prix race car with cement in order to make it go faster.

The Catholic doctrine that the Bible alone is not sufficient is only the gaseous belchings of *blaspheming fools* (popes, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, and priests). There is nothing in the Apocrypha or the catechism or the missal or the church fathers or tradition or papal bulls or infallible decrees that add any truth or help for the sinner to what is found in the Holy Bible. All those things do is make **"the word of God of none effect"** (Mark 7:13) and accomplish nothing spiritually for Roman Catholics who believe what their church teaches.

If you want to see what happens to a nation or people that don't think the Book is sufficient, check out the condition of countries that follow the Koran: they are stuck back in seventh-century Arabia with a prophet who was an adulterer and a child molester, who called epileptic seizures "receiving revelation from 'the god,'" who recommended camel urine as medicine, who thought hell was populated mainly by women, who would have anyone who made fun of him murdered in the most horrendous ways possible, and who had *absolutely no assurance of salvation* even though he was Allah's

"prophet" and "perfect example." Look at how the nations where Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion keeps the people in a third-world status or in states of political chaos. Look at nations that follow Hinduism, Buddhism, animism, and voodoo. Those countries have the most diseased, ignorant, starving populations in the world. Look at atheistic nations like Russia, China, and North Korea where the whole populous are little more than slaves to the government.

The one thing all those nations have in common, whether they are Moslem, Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist, animist, or atheist, is *none* of them believe in the sufficiency of scripture. They might add the Koran or church tradition or the Vedas or the Noble Eightfold Path or the Analects of Confucius or Mao's "Red Book" or the writings of Marx and Engels, but every one of them, without one exception, will follow something other than the Holy Bible because they don't believe the scriptures are adequate to address all the issues of life now or in the future.

We Bible-believing Christians believe *one Book* has it all. The Book will prove itself to anyone who takes that position.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be PERFECT, THOROUGHLY FURNISHED unto ALL good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

January 18-20

Bible Believers Baptist Church
3857 Hartley Road
Jacksonville, FL 32256
Pastor David Peacock
(904) 260-8370

February 8-10

Open Door Baptist Church
7622 Market Ave. N
Canton, OH 44721
Pastor Bob Butterfield
(330) 494-9774

March 8-10

Red Lion Bible Church
105 Springvale Rd.
Red Lion, PA 17356
Pastor Steve Schmuck
(717) 244-3905

NOVEMBER'S SERMONS

Brian Donovan

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Old Man Caleb
The Good Shepherd
Being Thankful
The Great Saint Paul
The Devil's Drink

Zack Colvin

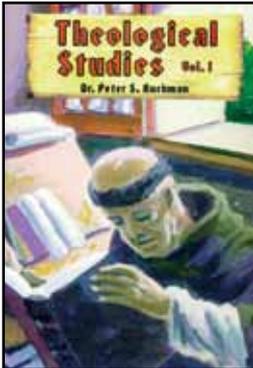
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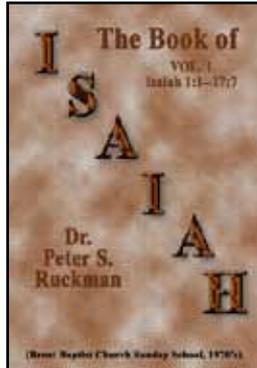
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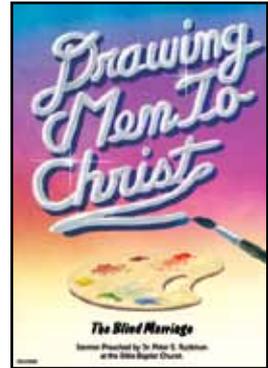
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(Plus postage — see page 18)

A Drunk About to Fall!

By Robert Militello

Some drunks stumble and stagger a good while trying to stay upright. If the alcohol consumed was too much, the partygoer has to go down. That is where the present world system is heading into 2019. It must fall because, **“the love of money is the root of all evil”** (1 Tim. 6:10). That root is now buried deeply in the hearts of unregenerate men with access to power. Corruption in high places has been spreading like a California wildfire across the globe. Greed has no borders. Covetousness is to the soul what cancer is to the body. **“And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise”** (Exod. 23:8). America today has lots of religion, but little fear of the Lord. A crash is coming; it is only a matter of time.

Economies around the world are staggering under a huge load of debt. Living beyond one's means had a stigma attached to it once, but not anymore. The desire to live the good life now and not later is what supplies oxygen to our consumer society. At some point, paper currency will fail (see Gen. 47:14–16). **“The god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4) will then have a golden opportunity to present his son as the “savior” of the nations. This man will devise a brilliant rescue plan for the international finance system. No more handling **“filthy lucre”** (1 Pet. 5:2), everything will be digitalized. At some point before this, the body of Christ will vanish—Titus 2:13. Until then, the Christian has an enormous advantage over the lost because the scriptures teach how best to plan for the future.

In Matthew 6:19–21, you are told to lay up for yourself treasure in heaven. Everything else gets left behind. No saint is going to take his 401K to heaven, if he has one. Our heavenly account is insured by the word of the Lord. Earthly accounts are subject to being confiscated by the U.S. government if a national emergency is declared. Our government will turn to private savings if it can no longer borrow from international lenders. Our Defense Department will pay our armed forces with your last dollar if it must. If you believe otherwise, go to Genesis and see how Joseph handled the catastrophe that befell Egypt.

“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD in a moment of time” (Luke 4:5).

Satan's victory over Adam and Eve not only gave him the power to kill, but also the power to run the world economy. **“And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will give it”** (Luke 4:6).

Do you think world leaders or our elected representatives in Washington, D.C. grasp the implications of the Devil's boast? Putting “In God We Trust” on our currency was a pathetic attempt to hide the fact that the Devil and not man is running the show when it comes to wealth and power.

There is a growing damper in America that has gone largely unnoticed by millions of professing, born-

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A Drunk About to Fall!

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again saints. Our adversary has skillfully played the game of mixing the cross and the flag to the hurt of many who love our nation, but are getting the Devil's sand thrown in their eyes. Catholicism's great seduction has been its ability to put the created before the Creator. Christians need to remind themselves that our calling involves putting God's word above all else—self, family, country, and possessions. What made America great once was the fear of God that permeated most of our society. That's gone, and to think it will return is wishful and vain. If America builds its assets and lowers its debt under President Trump, or any other president, hooray! But how does that help you to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Money corrupts, and God's people are just as prone to its seductive power as any unsaved soul. I think it is highly instructive that the first expression of God's judgment in His own body involves a couple "taking a cut" of what was pledged to God. Acts chapter five, has Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, being removed from this earth for pretending to be "sold out" to God. They lied about the price they received upon selling their property. "Who cares?" you might say, considering how many saints lie to the IRS about what they owe in taxes. **"When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee"** (Deut. 23:21).

If what happened to Ananias and

Sapphira were happening today in our churches, most seats would be empty—Amen? Lying to the FBI puts you in a federal prison, so why shouldn't lying to God get you killed? Where's the fear? The fear of God left our land when our Supreme Court threw the commandments out of the schools.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" (Exod. 20:16).

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds" (Col. 3:9).

"I hate and abhor lying; but thy law do I love" (Psa. 119:163).

I would dearly love to hang those scriptures on the office walls of every so-called born-again Christian politician. Our nation is staggering like a drunk, only the intoxication is **"covetousness, which is idolatry"**—see Colossians 3:5; Luke 12:15; and Proverbs 19:6.

This new year will be marked by increasing degeneration in all facets of American life. **"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come"** (2 Tim. 3:1).

Around the world, nations like Russia, China, and the democracies of the developed world are wallowing in political corruption and graft. Some governments are nothing more than criminal enterprises robbing their own citizens blind. In Europe, the Roman church has lost almost all its spiritual influence. Politically, though, it is still a major player. Sex abuse by Catholic priests and reflex cover-ups by the bishops have exposed the spiritual cancer that has thrived for centuries

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A Drunk About to Fall!

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under the vestments of artificial righteousness and religious hypocrisy. Catholicism in the United States should be on life support by now. I would bless God if I were able to pull the plug and flush the entire filthy mess down the toilet.

“Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I HATE EVERY FALSE WAY” (Psa. 119:128).

One glaring factor now pointing to the necessary judgment of God upon our rotten world system and a saltless church is the relentless effort to punish Israel for just existing. The Jewish State sitting in the UN is like a Bible resting on a coffee table in a family room. That Bible never gets opened, but for some strange reason, no one dares put it away. It serves as a silent reminder that the God of history will yet have the last word, no matter how the nations strengthen themselves to survive. Where is the United States in prophecy?

“Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I am with thee; for I will make A FULL END OF ALL THE NATIONS whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee” (Jer. 46:28). Is our nation included in the **“full end of all the nations,”** or do we get a pass? **“In God We Trust,”** we boldly stamp on our currency, so let’s trust God to keep His word and pull down the curtain on **“the land of the free and the home of the brave.”** Those who put love of country above love of God’s word (the created above the Creator—political CATHOLICISM) grind their teeth over

what I just wrote. Too bad! Jeremiah 30:11 is a complement of 46:28, so for those who find some things hard to believe, especially when it crosses what they imagine should happen, the Holy Spirit repeats the bad news (for some, not all, thank God). The first tablets of stone given to Moses were broken, so a second set was given. You cannot break the Scripture. America will not survive, because God said so.

“O that they were wise, that they understood this, THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER THEIR LATTER END!” (Deut. 32:29).

There are many men and women elected and sent to represent us in Washington, D.C., who profess to be Christians. How instructive it would be for them to have a Bible study focused on Jeremiah 30:11, 46:28, and Deuteronomy 32:29. Let the word of God stab the hearts of every positive-thinking bozo who said America’s best days are ahead of it. If you possess a Ruckman Reference Bible, read his note on Deuteronomy 32:29. It contains this observation: **“No political leader in America has stopped for five minutes to consider the latter end of America—not one of them!”**

If you were to tell the truth as to where we are headed, you would never be elected. Reading **“the handwriting on the wall”** is foolishness to the natural man. As we get closer to the end, the desire to hear good news will intensify to such a point that any church with a pastor like Noah preaching judgment will struggle to stay afloat. **“Many pastors have destroyed my vine-**

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yard, they have trodden my portion under foot" (Jer. 12:10). When sheepdogs stop barking and fall asleep, the sheep wander off. Many find churches where the preaching is smooth. God's people who prefer not to sit under preaching that stings their carnal nature, justify their leaving such churches by piously affirming this devilish morsel: "There was no love there." Christian babies, who have had lullabies sung to them for years, will grow up fast at the Judgment Seat of Christ. What a day that will be, amen?

At no time in the church age and in no other country on this earth has the Lord so blessed those who belong to Him as He has in the United States. We don't know what it is to be persecuted for our faith. If you witness regularly, you may encounter rudeness, indifference, ridicule, and, sometimes, off-color insults. So what? The Lord knows those who once witnessed and often passed out tracts, but have since "retired" because they no longer cared to deal with opposition. Sad, isn't it? While I thank God for the abundant blessings of America, I realize things can turn suddenly and drastically. Taking nothing for granted is a necessary mindset for a Christian. I rely upon His word only.

For years, I worked in lower Manhattan, just two blocks from the Twin Towers. What a lesson God gave to New York City and to America that beautiful, clear morning of September 11, 2001. A very proud city, blessed materially like no other city on earth (Gen. 12:3), was humbled and brought to its knees. Millions

who had only feared traffic tie-ups and air pollution now tasted a fear they had never known before.

God's wrath is a terrible thing, and our proud nation won't be able to endure it when it comes upon us again. We have put His word far from us, and a price will be exacted whether we want to believe it or not. The gods of comfort, prosperity, and self-indulgence will not be able to deliver us with power. Success can intoxicate a nation, and America may have had by now too much to drink. God help us when we fall.

There are many factors pointing to an inevitable judgment upon our nation, but that which is most prominent is the Supreme Court decision redefining God's idea of marriage. On June 26, 2015, five out of nine Supreme Court Justices ruled against traditional marriage. All three female justices ruled with the majority. Think about that as we see Americans voting to put more women in office. It took a miracle for the real estate developer from Queens, New York, Donald Trump, to upset the planned coronation of Queen Hillary. Not since we won independence from Great Britain has our government moved so decidedly against God's word. The consequences will be catastrophic. God's holiness demands an explosion of wrath upon the nation that received light and blessings far beyond that given to any other Gentile country. Did you know that Russia has not, and will not, legalize gay marriage? The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, told the nation's leaders that they

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had a solemn duty to protect the sanctity of marriage. This was when he was enthroned as patriarch on February 1, 2009 in a service at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow. Shame on the USA! We mention God on our currency and Russia doesn't. What hypocrisy! How can we escape the judgment of God? May it please our Lord to take us out of here this year. Will you be ready?

"Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). Three words that should have hung on the walls of the offices of the nine Supreme Court Justices. Lot's wife lingered; she obviously had grown too comfortable living in Sodom. What about America's Christians? If President Trump did make America great again, which he can't, would you be loathe to leave it? **"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly"** (Heb. 11:16). Do you? When judgment comes upon our nation, it will be sudden, unexpected, and horrific.

"But the SAME DAY that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:29).

I believe the September 11, 2001 Twin Towers tragedy was a preview of what is to come. Fire came down upon New York City, and steel girders melted. I was not surprised, as a Christian, when that day came. For years, beginning in 1979, I preached on the corner of Wall and Nassau Streets at lunchtime. The Towers were two blocks away. Across from where I preached with the man who ordained me was the New York Stock Exchange. Here on

any given weekday, between 12 and 2 p.m., you would observe the coming and going of thousands of proud peacocks with fat wallets, none of whom suspected what God would do to their proud city.

New York's financial district is where billion-dollar deals are made daily in a routine fashion. Wall Street analysts build their careers by careful planning for tomorrow and all the tomorrows to come. The futures market is like a Vegas casino for millions of investors. **"Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth"** (Prov. 27:1).

That scripture, along with Mark 8:36—**"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul"**—were like "steak knives" for me to stab at the thousands who walked by my corner. Let me tell you, New Yorkers are not fearful people. You can't live and work there and be afraid, but oh, how suddenly that all changed on September 11, 2001. Knees were knocking, and faces turned pale as at Belshazzar's feast in Daniel 5 when a spooky hand started writing on a wall. So it was for the "good citizens" of Sodom when the angels hustled Lot out of town. Fear has its own kind of paralysis when it strikes suddenly and intensely. How will America fare when the Lord gives the go-ahead **"to the king of terrors"** (Job 18:14) to strike our proud nation?

Looking at Luke 17:29, I get kind of stuck on the phrase **"But the same day . . ."** On that day, Lot escaped, and fire from heaven fol-

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lowed. When the rapture occurs (Tit. 2:13), which will be our blessed and long-awaited escape **“from this present evil world”** (Gal. 1:4), what will follow? Certainly this world will be thrown into a chaos and confusion never before experienced. In this atmosphere of fear and terror, is it not possible that a nuclear strike would result? Would Russia be so bold as to exploit the chaos in America. Their nuclear submarines patrol regularly off our coasts. How much of a warning would Americans have? Hurricanes are plotted many days before they hit land, but tornadoes are spawned in a moment. If your community has an alarm system, you may have a minute or so to seek shelter. What was the amount of time that elapsed from the moment Lot and his daughters left Sodom until the fire from heaven fell? All we know is that it was **“the same day.”**

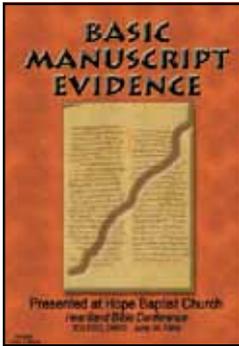
There are in our nation today some 328 million souls with about 28 million five-years-old or less. Twenty-four percent of American claim to be born-again, or evangelicals, depending upon which poll you go by. That's about 72 million in the body of Christ. Only the Lord knows for sure how many among those who profess to be saved really are. Profession is not necessarily possession, and many don't know the difference. America, more than any nation on earth, will be fractured by the sudden disappearance of such a multitude. We will be extremely vulnerable to several nations that may wish to capitalize on our terrorized society. Now this is all speculation,

that I grant. Nevertheless, when the U.S. dollar falls, the whole world system of credit, debt, and international commerce will stagger and fall like a drunk. It almost happened in September of 1968 when Wall Street crashed and the U.S. taxpayer had to bail out the big banks. We staggered then, but didn't fall. The cup of our iniquity was **“not yet full”** (see Gen. 15:16). Since then, we have more and more cities hosting gay pride parades and events, even in America's heartland. Like a banana left out too long, we have become rotten and gooey. Sodom's destruction is America in prophecy—that's what I say to those who ask where our nation is in the Bible.

“And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and LOT SAT IN THE GATE OF SODOM” (Gen. 19:1). Notice what Lot was engaged in just prior to his city's destruction. Lot had to be prominent to some degree because he held a position of respect. The town elders who sat in the gate were like present-day city councilmen or boards of aldermen. These men conducted the affairs of their communities. They were political whether they thought themselves to be or not. Lot is a picture of millions of Christians in America who get entangled in politics and become saltless in their testimony. You have to be blind not to see the Devil's strategy in these last days among God's people in America. Someone sitting at a city gate is concerned about the well-being of his community. That was Lot. He had no way of knowing that those two men who were angels showed

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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.

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up at the gate to rescue him and not the others. Abraham had prayed for his nephew. You and I were prayed for by someone. We should be about our Father's business. Lot could not have known like the 3,000 that perished on the morning of 9-11-01 that judgment was just before them. If you knew that this year was going to be your last year on this earth, would your daily routine remain unaltered?

It may be that our Lord will snatch His bride away just prior to a nuclear exchange of some sort. How much of a warning will we have? Perhaps none.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psa. 90:12).

What is the wisdom that counts for eternity?

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and HE THAT WINNETH SOULS IS WISE” (Prov. 11:30).

There's the wisdom that far exceeds the worldly wisdom required to be a town alderman or county commissioner. What I know for sure and what is not speculation is this: **“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed”** (Rom. 13:11).

Lot went to sleep, spiritually, and angels had to awaken him. You and I may not get a visit from angels. We have access daily to the words of God.

“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober” (1 Thess. 5:6).

Resolutions for the new year are more for the positive-thinking crowd. If you know the scriptures, positive thinking, as applied to this world, is spiritual insanity. I have no time for it. What resolution a Christian should make for 2019 is to question oneself daily concerning his duty to perform his Father's business.

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Will we do what pleases God or what pleases ourselves? We are presented with choices every day. In light of the coming judgment upon our nation, we ought to see the choices in a clearer light. Lot lost it all except for two daughters, both of whom Lot was willing to have gang raped by the Sodomites beating on his door. What did sitting in the gate of Sodom profit him? All those that he communed with at the gate of Sodom each day perished under fire and brimstone. Did he witness to any of them? How many of the 3,000 who left home on the morning of 9-11-01 to work in or near the Twin Towers knew death was hours away? Who among them was living for Jesus Christ when death came?

“Evil men understand not judgment: but THEY THAT SEEK THE LORD UNDERSTAND ALL THINGS” (Prov. 28:5).

What was Lot really seeking the day the angels appeared at his work place? What will you and I be found thinking of when judgment comes?

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Isa. 26:3).

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