



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 43 No. 8

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

August 2019

The Two Brides

By Brian Donovan

The Lord repeatedly uses similitudes in the scriptures to prophesy future events, as well as to teach us some details about those events. The Lord said that he has **“spoken by the prophets, and...multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets”** (Hosea 12:10). The Bible believer searches the scriptures for these types and finds that they yield hidden truths that are not found in any other manner. When the Lord uses the words “like” or “as”, the Bible student should pay close attention and study the picture or similitude that is given. For instance, the Lord says that the sun is **“as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber”**, in which He has **“set a tabernacle”** (Psalm 19:4-5). So if the student begins to study the Sun, he will find truths about the coming of the Bridegroom. The sun comes up in the morning (Malachi 4, II Samuel 23:4), in a time when **“darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people”** (Isaiah 60:1-2), and the sun moves out of his **“tabernacle”**

(showing the second coming connected to the Feast of Tabernacles in September-October). In that day, the **“glory of Lebanon”** shall come to Jerusalem (Isaiah 60:13), and we are told that any of the **“sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee”** (verse 14). Some years ago, the leader of Hamas in Lebanon by the name of Nasrallah, made a bold claim that “The Lebanese are capable of defeating Israel and making it disappear...therefore, Hezbollah will not recognize Israel, not today, not tomorrow, NOT IN 1000 YEARS” (emphasis mine). All Mr. Nasrallah has to do to wipe out Israel is to stop the Sun and the moon in their courses and prevent the day and night in their season (Jeremiah 33:19-20). Then, and only then, will he be able to break the covenant that the Lord made with David and stop his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ from sitting on the throne in Jerusalem to be worshipped by all of the Gentile world. The Lord uses many other similitudes to teach and prophesy events, and the historical books of Ruth and Esther are two great examples.

In the only two books of the Bible that are named after women (Ruth and Esther), we are given two exceptional, prophetic similitudes of two future brides. The book of Ruth is the story of a lost Gentile woman, without hope

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The Game of Life

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psa. 90:9–10, 12).

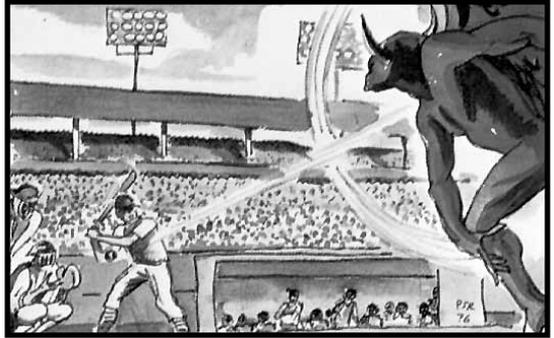
The life of a man is likened to many things in the word of God. In the text before us, it is like **“a tale that is told”**: it is a story that is told and then it ends. In Psalm 39:5, it is likened to a **“handbreadth.”** James 4:14 likens it to **“a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”** In Job 9:25, it is likened to a horse taking off from a post in a race, and in the next verse (Job 9:26), it is likened to an eagle diving to seize its prey.

It occurred to me in studying these similitudes that life is like a *game*. I have never been much on sports. I like to play certain games, but just watching has never appealed to me. One of the few games that I like to play and watch is hockey, but I don't really care who wins if I am just watching the game (as long as it isn't Pittsburgh).

Now *the game* for Americans is supposed to be *baseball* (although you would never know it around football season): it is called “the great American pastime.” You know, “Take me out to the ball game, Take me out with the crowd; Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack, I don't care if I

never get back.”

I've played baseball, but I never did really enjoy it. To me, there is too much “hot-dogging” (showing off) and talk. The biggest “thrill” I ever got out of the game was twice as a kid when



I was playing catcher: I got hit by the batter as he swung.

One of my boys sat through a game once that went 23 innings. I can't imagine sitting nearly *seven hours* watching a baseball game. The longest game ever played was at Pawtucket, Rhode Island on April 18–19, 1981, between the Pawtucket Red Sox and the Rochester Red Wings. It started at 8:25 Saturday evening on April 18 and went for 33 *innings*, ending at 4:07 Sunday morning (on Easter Sunday) on April 19. It started out with 1,740 fans in the stadium, and by the time it was over, there were only *nineteen* spectators left. People talk about us Bible believers being fanatics; to sit for eight-and-a-half hours through the night and into the wee hours of the morning watching a ball game: *that's fanaticism!*

When I was coming up, the big thing was baseball cards. These were cards with pictures of all the

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"big names" in the game: Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, Lou Gehrig, Joe Dimaggio, Willie Mays, et al. When Major League Baseball started out in 1874, the highest-paid player received \$2,800 for a season. When Ty Cobb played between 1914 and 1921, he started out at \$15,000 and went up to \$25,000. When "the Babe" was at the height of his career, he was getting \$80,000. Nolan Ryan was the first to make a million dollars in 1980, and ever since 1997, the top players are earning ten million, twenty million, and thirty million just to hit, catch, and throw a baseball. Isn't that something? Over thirty million dollars just for waving a stick around. Personally, I think players' salaries in any sport should be capped at two million a year. Brother, if you can't live on two million a year, you need to be locked up where you can't hurt yourself or anybody else. (Some whit said once, "A million dollars doesn't go as far as it used to.")

Now I want to talk to you about the game of life. I am going to liken life to a sports game; specifically, baseball. The first thing I want to say is: *all games have rules*. You might find some minor game like "bloodball," made up by a bunch of guys who just get together to prove how tough they are, that has no rules (although I had to make the rule that a player couldn't lose his temper, and if he did, he was out of the game), but all professional games like baseball have set rules.

Why would anyone think there were no rules for life? Well, if there are rules to life, what are they? Your evolutionists, socialists, and libertines say, "Well, everything is *relative*."

What's right for one may not be right for another." What would you think of a game where every player was his own umpire or his own referee? Why, it would be chaos, man. No game on this earth is played without some set of rules that are *objective* and not subject to the whims of the players.

"The rules" are what is known as "absolute truth," and that's what this bunch of socialistic, drunk, dope-headed, sex-obsessed, neurotic college professors can't stand. The capital of Florida is not Dallas, Texas. It doesn't matter what you think about it—*it's not*. Certain things are *so*, and certain things are *not so*, and nobody's opinions or feelings mean anything about them one way or another.

Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:5 that if a man doesn't "**strive lawfully**" in life he won't receive the crown for winning. So life has set rules, and they are NOT relative. In the locker room of the Washington Capitals hockey team, there is a sign above the door as the players go out to the game: "If you don't win *fair*, you *don't win* at all." In other words, if you cheat and break the rules, you haven't really won the game, no matter if you did get the highest score.

Second, in any game, *the rules are defined in a book*. There is an expression that says, "according to Hoyle"; it means that in a dispute, the two parties consult the standard authority to settle the matter. Edmond Hoyle was an English lawyer who lived from 1672–1769. He wrote a book on the rules for card games that is still considered the final authority on them to this day. I have a book called *Rules of the Game* that gives the rules to every

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major sports game known to man; anything you want to know about playing football, soccer, baseball, hockey, cricket, lacrosse, water polo, tennis, boxing, wrestling, ping pong, croquet, golf, jai'alai, judo, karate, skiing, swimming, diving, horse racing, dog racing, stock car racing, etc., etc., etc., is found in that book. At every major-league baseball game, the umpire is to carry the rule book and consult it for rulings in disputes.

Now if man has enough sense to put the rules in a book for all of his games so that there is no dispute over what they are, what makes you think God wouldn't put the rules for life down in a book? God Almighty gave ten basic rules for life, and He wrote them down Himself so there would be no doubt about them (the Ten Commandments). Then he had them put in a Book that defined them, illustrated them, gave the penalties for breaking them, and provided justification and forgiveness for those who did break them. God's rule Book is *settled* (Psa. 119:89), it is *pure* (Psa. 12:6; Prov. 30:5), it is *absolutely true* (Psa. 119:151; John 17:17), and it is the *final authority* in anything you care to name, investigate, study, teach, research, or do (2 Pet. 1:19).

Moreover, God's rule Book isn't subject to the whims or opinions of any player in life's game (2 Pet. 1:20). From 1880–2008, 323 different, conflicting versions of the rule Book were put on the market: that's a new version on the average of one every six months. Someone is trying to tell you that God's rule Book has to change every six months. But do you know what I noticed? Not one of those ver-

sions compared itself to the one that came before it, even if that was the intent. The ASV didn't claim to improve the RV. The RSV didn't profess to be updating the ASV. The NASV didn't advertise itself as a revision of the ASV or RSV, even though it was called the "New" ASV. Every one of those new versions claimed to be updating or improving or revising ONE Book put out in 1611. Do you know what that tells me? It tells me that all the modern translators and revisers *know what the standard is*. The standard, official rule Book for the English language is a King James Authorized Version, first published in 1611.

Do you know why there is such a market for these new "Bibles"? It's the same reason people pay enough for tickets, for clothing, for posters, and for TV coverage of professional sports to make those who play the game multimillionaires. There wouldn't be players making twenty to a hundred million dollars a year if the money wasn't coming in from the fans. Why is that? Because Americans want to *escape reality*. That's why the modern trend in sports gambling isn't on which team actually wins; it's now on what's called a "fantasy team." You pick which players you like and put them on a team in your own imagination. Then depending on the stats of how each of your players does in real games, your "team" is judged to have won or lost games that never took place except on paper. It's insane, man; someone is "looney tunes." I would always rather *play* touch football than watch tackle football because playing is the *real thing*. The reason Christians are such suckers for whatever warmed-

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over piece of Alexandrian garbage is currently on the market as a "Bible" is because they want to escape the reality of what God actually said in His Book. They don't like it; it grates them the wrong way.

Next, *there is a penalty for breaking the rules*. In hockey, there is an enclosed area off the ice called a "penalty box." If the ref catches a player breaking a rule, the player has to sit out a certain amount of time in the penalty box while the game goes on: two minutes, four minutes, five minutes, or ten minutes. In many games, if the infraction of the rules is severe enough, the player is thrown out of the game. One of those hockey players got thrown out for a whole season because he called a black guy a "monkey." He had to go through "behavior modification" to be more "racially sensitive": it was some stupid woman trying to tell him how to talk to colored folk. The guy told that woman, "Lady, if you think you're going to tell us hockey players how to talk, you're crazy. Where I come from, *monkey* is a *compliment*."

All right, in any game *you cannot defy the umpire or the referee*. I once read the rules for being an umpire in a baseball game. The most important thing for an umpire is *to know the rules of the game*; the second requirement is *to be a man of integrity*. The third requirement is *he must be a man of courage*. Knowledge of the game and then moral character and strength: the umpire has to know what he is doing and then be honest in his calls and stick by them and not be intimidated by anyone who disagrees with them.

In the game of life, if you end up

in the "penalty box" (hell), it won't do you any good to say, "I was really safe, but the Umpire called it wrong." You wouldn't be there if you had been safe. It's the Umpire who decides whether you are safe or not, and there is no arguing with His call.

In one ball game, there was a really close play at second base. It was so close that the umpire didn't say anything right away; he was considering the right call to make before he said anything. That "perturbed" the second baseman, and he began to yell, "Well, what is he?! Is he safe or is he out?! What is he?!" The umpire replied with a sneer in his voice, "He ain't nuthin' till I say what he is."

That's the way it is with us in the game of life: we are *nothing* until the *Lord* says what we are. Are you saved or lost? *He'll* tell you, not you or your parents or your buddies or your minister or your pope or your politicians.

There was a really rambunctious player once back in the '30s named Pepper Martin who played for the St. Louis Cardinals. He was always arguing with umpires, spitting at them, and getting in their faces. One time, he was having a big argument with an umpire when a lady fainted up in the stands and had to be carried out on a stretcher. The umpire asked, "What's wrong with her?" Pepper said, "She passed out because you finally made a right call."

One umpire would draw a line in the sand. As long as the player or coach didn't cross that line, he could yell and scream and rant and rave all he wanted until he got it out of his system. The moment he crossed that line, he was thrown out of the game.

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It worked: the players would get their toes right on the edge of the line and give that umpire "Hail Columbia," but they wouldn't cross the line.

In the game of life, you can get mad at the Ump all you want, and it won't change His calls at all. You might as well play by His rules and enjoy the game.

Next, *you cannot blame others for your errors*. If you mess up, it's *your fault*. Some athletes are famous for "passing the buck." If a field goal goes awry, the kicker says the holder didn't hold the ball right. The holder blames the center for not snapping the ball to him right. It's human nature to blame someone else for your own faults (Gen. 3:12–13). Golfers are bad at that. If they miss a shot, they blame it on the wind or how the fairway cuts, etc. They are supposed to take all that into account when making the shot. The only thing they should blame is *themselves*.

There is a famous poem boys used to be required to memorize in grade school: "Casey at the Bat." It's about a small-town baseball team that is down two runs at the bottom of the ninth. The first two batters strike out, and it's up to the hometown favorite to save the game for their team. His name is Casey, and he's one of those "hot-doggers" about whom I told you at the beginning. He lets the first two pitches go by, and the umpire calls them strikes. The crowd in the stands is going crazy and shouting "Kill the umpire!" As the game comes down to the last pitch to Casey, the poem goes like this:

"The sneer is gone from Casey's

lips, his teeth are clenched in hate,

He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate;

And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,

And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.

"Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,

The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light;

And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout,

But there is no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey has struck out."

That's a fellow who thought he was "it," and he failed. When he failed, he had no one to blame but himself. You might as well learn it sooner rather than later: *there is no such thing as a perfect player*. No matter how good a player is, he will mess up sooner or later. Larry Czonka can fumble the football. Jimmy Connors can "double fault." During a World Cup Soccer Tournament, one player scored into his own goal which caused the other team to win. Babe Ruth not only led the League in home runs (714), he led it in *strike outs* as well (1,330). That's because he swung at every pitch.

In the game of life, there has only been *one* perfect player. Adam struck out—he ate the forbidden fruit. Noah struck out—he got drunk. Abraham struck out—he lied about his wife. Moses struck out—he got angry and struck the rock when he should have spoken to it. Joshua struck out—he didn't pray over Ai or the Gibeonites. David struck out—he committed adultery and murder. Peter struck out—he

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The Game of Life

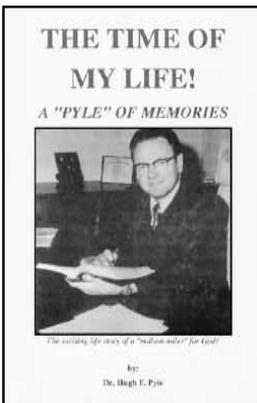
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denied Christ and cursed. Paul struck out—he went to Jerusalem after being warned three times by the Holy Ghost not to go. Jesus Christ was the only player in life's game who **“was in all points tempted like as we are, YET WITHOUT SIN”** (Heb. 4:15). That is why God accepted Him as the perfect sacrifice for our sins (1 Pet. 1:18–19).

And that brings me to my last point: *a dead man can win a game.* According to *Sporting Life*, September 21, 1907, two small ball teams from Willmar and Benson, Minnesota were faced off in the 1903 Wisconsin State League. It was the last inning of the game, and Benson was ahead by one run. A Willmar player named Thielman was on first base when his teammate, a fellow named O'Toole, batted a homer. As Thielman rounded third base, he collapsed from heat exhaustion (he had pitched a double-header against Benson that whole day, and it was hot) and died. Well, according to the rules, a runner can't overrun the player ahead of him to score. So

O'Toole picked up Thielman's body and ran with it to home plate where he had it touch base first before him. With those two runs, Willmar won the game. A doctor came on the field and pronounced Thielman dead, but the umpire allowed the run because there was nothing in the rule book against it.

That's a wild story, man, and some writers have called it an “urban myth.” I can give you one wilder than that, though, and there is no doubt about its veracity. Christ's death on the cross got me “home.” If you want to win the game of life, you'll join that Man's team and follow His rule Book.

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1–2).



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The Two Brides

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and without God, dying in the sins of her idolatry. This is the perfect picture of the lost sinner in the Church age today. She has nothing to offer for her redemption and must submit to what the Lord has done for her. Hence, the book of Ruth begins with a funeral, which is a picture of the Lord Jesus on Calvary, dying to bring forth His bride (Ephesians 2:16- Revelation 21:9), and ends with a wedding, which is a picture of the church being brought home to heaven to be married to Him (Ephesians 5:30-32). The rest of the story completes the type of the Church as she is led to serve the Lord Jesus on her way to her wedding day. Ruth gleaning in the field is a picture of the sojourn of the Christian in this world following his salvation, being given **“handfuls of purpose”** (Ruth 2:16) along the way, after just **“happening”** to end up in the right field (Ruth 2:3). The book of Ruth begins with a funeral and ends with a wedding.

In the other book named after a woman, the Jewish Esther, begins with her wedding to the King (Esther 2:16), and ends with a bunch of funerals, as her enemies are destroyed in the tribulation (Esther 9:16- Revelation 19:15), followed by an eternal remembrance of the Jews being restored in safety (Esther 9:27-28), with Mordecai (type of the Holy Spirit), sitting with the King (type of the Lord God), seeking the welfare of Israel in peace (Esther 10:3). Even the timing of Esther the Jewish queen becoming the King's wife is given as it takes three-and-one-half years (from the third year of the reign of Ahasuerus (Esther 1:3), to the seventh year (Esther 2:16). The Bible reader recognizes the picture of

Israel being married to God the Father, and her history begins with the Father taking her as His own bride. She is referred to as God's wife in Isaiah 54:5 (**“For thy Maker is thine husband”**), and the whole Gentile world will soon no more refer to Israel as **“Forsaken”** or **“Desolate”**, for her **“land shall be married”** and called **“Beulah”** (Isaiah 62:4), and she will live happily ever after with her Husband. So the book of Esther pictures Israel marrying God the Father, and the book of Ruth pictures the Church marrying God the Son.

Authorship of the book of Ruth has been attributed to Samuel over the course of Jewish history, and it records events that take place during the times of the Judges, about 100 years before King David. The Jews place it out of chronological order in the Tanakh, among the **“writings”**, most likely due to its apparent favor shown to one of the despised gentiles of Moab. The King James Bible places the book after Judges and before I Samuel, leaving it in its chronological, historical order. The book of Ruth gives the Bible reader a picture of the individual home life of the Old Testament characters and is a much more personal touch than the national history found in Judges, Kings, and Chronicles.

The book of Judges closes with **“every man did that which was right in his own eyes”** (Judges 21:25), while the book of Ruth opens with the home of Elimelech and Naomi with their sons Mahlon and Chilion. Yet within the first three verses, there is a famine, which Elimelech believes to be a sufficient reason to move his

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family to live among the enemies of the Lord in Moab (Ruth 1:1). Of course, he originally just intended it to be for a while, only a **“sojourn”**, till he could get back on his feet, but the end of verse 2 gives the ominous warning of what is to come, where it says, **“and continued there”**.

The Lord put adversity in Elimelech's life, and he ran from it at the peril of his own life, as well as the life of his family. Whether it is the punishment for sin or the refining fire of a trial, the child of God should never run from the hand of the Lord. God's people in Israel were having a famine while the heathen were in prosperity, but when it came to Moab, the Lord had already commanded His people, for their own good, to seek neither **“their peace nor their prosperity”** (Deuteronomy 23:6), and that is exactly what Elimelech did. He was better off living in a famine within the will of God than in prosperity outside of it. He left the land of the living in Israel for the land of the dead, with the false gods of Moab. Those gods (called Chemosh and Molech) demanded the burnt sacrifices of the Moabite children, even as this present evil world tries to demand the lives of our children today. The pressures of a famine were traded for three funerals. Wandering from the hand of God will always bring regret. Whether you ever return or not, the time wandering and running from what the Lord is trying to do in your life, will not result in anything but regret. It was not long before Elimelech was buried in Moab (Ruth 1:3), his two sons married Moabite women, and within the next ten years, both of Naomi's boys would be put into the sod next to their

father (verse 4-5).

Naomi would also have ended up dying in Moab and history would have never known her name...unless she got up and returned to where she belonged. That is what Naomi finally did, and she arose to go home (verse 6). The rod of God has a voice to it and blessed is the child of God who allows his soul to hear that voice. When the affliction of God can lead His child from Moab back to Canaan, from darkness to light, from sin to fellowship, and from the pagan world back to “the house of bread” (Bethlehem), it has accomplished its purpose. God, who is always faithful, will bring a famine to make your life worth something to give Him glory. He will bring warnings if you run, and He will give light in a dark place. But why wait for trouble to be your only way to start back? The goodness of God can also lead to repentance if you will allow it (Romans 2:4).

Naomi heard **“that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread”** (Ruth 1:6). She must have had her ear toward the Lord and his people to have even heard this news from back home. The trials of her faith were very hard (idolatrous blasphemous neighbors, a dead husband, and two dead sons), yet she refused to allow her relationship with the Lord to be broken. It makes you wonder if your own faith would remain if the Lord ever put something in your life, similar to what Naomi was put through. Back in the days of the pioneer missionary works of church history in the 1800s, some of the missionary recruits, heading to the Far East or the South Pacific, never made it past the Cape of Good

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Hope of South Africa, succumbing to temptations of the world and the flesh. William Carey complained that their faith was not even rooted deep enough to weather one sea voyage. Naomi weathered some hard trials that went about ten times deeper than most will ever have to experience and she heard God's voice once again.

Naomi started out with her two daughters-in-law alongside of her, and both made the same promise in the heat of a passionate moment, saying, **"Surely we will return with thee unto thy people"** (Ruth 1:10). But in her discernment, Naomi gives them both good reasons why they should not go back with her to Israel (verses 11-13). Orpah represents the majority who would not hesitate to make a promise of words, only to have the everyday circumstances of life pull her back. Up to this point, the difference between Orpah and Ruth is indiscernible. It is not until the promises must be kept by actions that the disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ is distinguished from the average saved soul today. It is not until a choice must be made between your love for the Saviour and your love of personal comforts that the life of the soldier of Jesus Christ begins to show. It is very easy to justify Orpah's decision to return to her family, her own people, and the life she knew, and it is just as easy today to choose your education, your family, your salary, and your comfort zone over the will of God and its trials. After all, you are expected to provide for your family, and a man must make a living, right?

Ruth is presented with the same offer to leave and even then some, now that her sister-in-law had gone back.

As a great type of the body of Christ, which is the Church, Ruth completely submitted and turned from her people and her gods, to follow the faith of the true Lord, even unto death (Ruth 1:16-17). The return is to "the house of bread", called Bethlehem, and to a life of complete uncertainty regarding where and how she is going to live. This Moabitess (Ruth 1:22) must go to work in the field (Ruth 2:2) as a servant of no reputation or fame. This life of faith is immediately proven to be under the complete direction of the Lord, in spite of the fact that sometimes things appear to just "happen" (Ruth 2:3). Even though she came out from a past life of idolatry and uncleanness, Ruth is noticed by a man named Boaz, who wishes to take her as his own wife, but she must first be freed from one whose claim on her is closer. The closest kinfolk have first dibs, but they are not willing to be "marred" by this unclean Gentile (Ruth 4:6). As a type of the Lord Jesus, Boaz, steps in and is not only willing to pay the price of redemption but is not ashamed to be connected to one who is not wanted by anyone else (Ruth 4:7-8). Boaz takes her as his own wife (Ruth 4:13), and the story that began with a funeral for Ruth, now ends with a wedding. The saved sinner of this present Church Age can easily identify with the position of the unwanted Ruth, until Boaz showed up and paid the price.

Due to these two strong similitudes of the Church (in the life of Ruth), and Israel (in the life of Esther), the Bible student would do well to pay close attention to the details of the events found in those two books, as there is still hidden information regarding both

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the rapture of the body of Christ, as well as the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth in power to once again bring glory back to His City (Jerusalem), His nation (Israel), and His people (the Jews). Detractors say that we should not be looking for any signs of the rapture (simply because they can't find any), but that would be like telling a bride that she should not be looking forward to her wedding day with any anticipation. Of course, these are the same folks who are anxious about voting returns, and Congressional races, and Fox News, and making America great again, and the really important stuff like the Mueller report, or whatever the media happens to tell them is critical at the time.

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

August 9–11

Freedom Baptist Church
215 Rue St.
Laurent, Suite 106-08
St. Eustache, QC
J7P4R1
Pastor Gabriel Cochran
(514) 927-9153

August 23–25

Calvary Baptist Church
285 N. Magnolia St.
Monticello, FL 32344
Pastor David Walker
(850) 997-2165

September 13–15

For His Glory Bible Baptist Church
92 Butler Rd.
Union, ME 04862
Pastor Mike Kee
(207) 975-5571

Bad Attitude Baptist Blowout

— **September 19–22** —

Speakers for this Blowout:

- Steve Andrus
- David Peacock
- Paul Sherrouse

Evening Services—6 P.M.

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Joe Smith: His Satanic Vision and Moron Angel

By Peter S. Ruckman

“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind” (Col. 2:18).

“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8).

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matt. 24:24).

In Hebrews 1:7, the writer defines **“angels”** as **“spirits.”** As any reader of the New Testament knows, there are not only angelic spirits associated with God, there are *unclean spirits* associated with the Devil (e.g., Luke 9:42). It should be no surprise, then, that from time to time, these unclean spirits masquerade as **“ministering spirits”** sent forth by “God” (cf. Heb. 1:14) to give “His word” (cf. Acts 7:53) to some poor sucker who doesn’t have enough spiritual discernment to fill the eye socket of a blind mosquito, for that is how their master operates (2 Cor. 11:13–15). Thus Satan, through his unclean spirits, creates false prophets and teachers who preach **“another Jesus”** and **“another gospel”** that are *not* the Jesus or the gospel found in the New Testament (2 Cor. 11:4).

The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche got his “God-is-dead” philosophy and the idea of a “superman” from a spirit that arose within himself

as a separate personality (see *The Christian’s Handbook of Science and Philosophy*, 1985, pp. 147–148). In psychiatry, this is known as either *schizophrenia* (hearing voices in your head) or *multiple personality disorder* (totally separate personalities in the same person—see Mark 5:9). As the student of scripture knows, though, sometimes mental disorders have *spiritual causes* (Matt. 4:24 cf. Matt. 17:15; Mark 9:17–18). It should be noted that Nietzsche’s “angel” took the name of an eighth-century B.C. *false prophet* named *Zarathustra* (aka, Zoroaster), who, like Mohammed, had to *plagiarize the Bible* in order to get a following for his “religion.”

Two of the fastest-growing religions in today’s world claim to be based on angelic visitations, and interestingly enough, they are both two sides of the same coin. They are *Mohammedanism* (Islam) and *Mormonism*. Mohammed claimed to have received revelation from a 600-winged “angel” (Hadith, Sahih Bukhari, Vol. VI, no. 380). So right off the bat, you know, if you read your Bible, that you are *not* dealing with an angel. No angel in the holy scriptures (the Holy Bible, not the Noble Koran) has *any* wings, much less 600 of them (see comments on the angel of the Lord in *The Bible Believer’s Commentary on Judges and Ruth* under Judges 13; see also comments on Rev. 21:17 in *The Bible Believer’s Commentary on Revelation*).

Mohammed’s “angel” was an imposter, and not a very good one at that. He claimed to be the “Gabriel” of the Old and New Testaments, but

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Abdullah bin Salam says that Mohammed's "Gabriel" "from amongst all the angels, is the ENEMY OF THE JEWS" (Hadith, Sahih Bukhari, Vol. IV, no. 546). He was?! Get out your Bible and read Daniel 8–9 and Luke 1. Those are the passages in the Bible where Gabriel shows up. Read them and see if there is anything in there that would lead anyone to believe Gabriel was "the enemy of the Jews." Gabriel is sent to Daniel to tell him what will happen to Israel at the end times, and he is sent to Zechariah and Mary to tell them about the birth of the Messiah and the birth of His forerunner, John the Baptist.

Don't take my word for it; open up your Bible and READ IT! You aren't an *illiterate* like Mohammed, are you? I take it for granted that if you take the Bulletin that you *can read*, so read Daniel 8, Daniel 9, and Luke 1. You don't live in Saudi Arabia or Iran. You can get ahold of a Bible; you can still get a copy of the *right Bible* in this country. So get a copy and READ IT. Don't be as *stupid* as Mohammed.

The fact of the matter is, the exact *opposite* of the message of the 600-winged demon who gave Mohammed every word in the Koran. (Allah never said one word to Mohammed; he got every word from a 600-winged freak and had to take his word for it that what he was saying was from "the God.") The "Gabriel" that spoke to Mohammed said that *Allah had no Son* (Sura 23:89, 37:150, 25:2, 2:116, 112:1–4, 17:111, 19:34, 18:4). The Gabriel of the Holy Bible said, "**thou . . . shalt call his name JESUS. He**

shall be great, and shall be called THE SON OF THE HIGHEST" (Luke 1:31–32); "**The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called THE SON OF GOD**" (Luke 1:35). The "Gabriel" of the Koran is no more the Gabriel of the Bible than Thomas Paine was the Apostle Thomas.

Do you know what happened to Mohammed when his "angel" spoke to him? He would hear a ringing in his ears, his heartbeat would take off, he turned red in the face, he'd fall to the ground, the sweat would pour off him, he drooled uncontrollably, his breathing became like a camel snoring, and his followers would cover him up with a white sheet. As he lay there in that condition, he would hear things and see things no one else could see or hear (kind of like Nietzsche's schizophrenia). Bukhari relates this in his collection of approved ("sahih") hadith in Volume I, numbers 1–4; Volume II, number 544; Volume III, numbers 17, 829; Volume IV, numbers 95, 438, 458, 461; Volume V, numbers 170, 462, 618, 659; Volume VI, numbers 447–448, 468, 478, 481, 508. Did that happen to Daniel or to Zechariah or to Mary? Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego go into an epileptic fit when one "**like the Son of God**" showed up with them (Dan. 3:26)? Were Manoah or his wife "slain in the Spirit" when the angel of the Lord talked to them (Judg. 13)? Is that how the scriptures were "**given by inspiration**" (1 Tim. 3:16) to Moses or David or Isaiah

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or Jeremiah or Jonah or Matthew or John or Paul or Peter or John, et al.? That's some "angel" you've got there, Mohammed. He's like that spirit that would tear the boy and leave him flopping around on the ground, gnashing his teeth and foaming at the mouth (Mark 9:17–20). I do believe the Son of God identified that spirit as a *foul devil* (Mark 9:25 cf. Matt. 17:18).

Now the American version of Mohammedanism is Mormonism. Both were founded by a false prophet. Both claimed to receive revelations from angels. Both claim to accept the Bible as a revelation from God but elevate the false revelations of their prophets, *which contradict the Bible*, over the authority of Holy Scripture. Both the false prophet of Islam (Mohammed) and the false prophet of Mormonism (Joseph Smith) *plagiarized* other works to make up their own religion. Both religions preach a "Jesus" not found in the Bible. Both false prophets had a problem with their gonads and had to have multiple wives, concubines, and sex slaves to satisfy their overac-

tive libidos (polygamy). Neither false prophet could predict the date or circumstances of his own death. "Heaven" for both religions consists of sex. Both religions split after the death of their founders. Both religions took over territory by immigration and violence; the only difference is that Mohammed and his Moslems were better at violent armed conflict than Joseph Smith and his Mormons. Joseph Smith said, "I will be to this generation a SECOND MOHAMMAD, whose motto in treating for peace was 'the Al-Qur'an or the sword.' So shall it eventually be with us—'Joseph Smith or the sword'" (*History of the Church*, Vol. III, pg. 167). But for all his megalomania, Joseph Smith never was the military dictator Mohammed was.

Joseph Smith based his religion on two "visions." The first took place in 1820 when he was fifteen years old. Of course, he never told anyone until seven years after it happened (1827). Then, between 1827 and 1859, he gave *nine different, conflicting accounts*. (A liar has to have a good

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memory.)

In the early accounts, he described the “angel” telling about the golden plates of The Book of Mormon. Later on, it was God the Father and Jesus Christ telling him all Christian denominations were wrong and an abomination. Sometimes it was daytime; at other times it was night. In some accounts he was out in the woods; in others he was in his bedroom. He was either fourteen, fifteen, or seventeen, depending on the account. The “angel” was either Nephi or Moroni. Later on, the “angel” turned into “Jesus,” then two unidentified “personages,” then many angels, and finally he settled on the “two personages”—one of whom was “Jesus” and the other “God the Father.” Even as a teenager, Joseph Smith had a reputation as a *con man*. One is left with the distinct impression that Joey boy couldn’t keep his story straight—a story made up to con a bunch of stupid professing Christians who wouldn’t search the scriptures to see if the “bill of goods” Joey was peddling was so or not (cf. Acts 17:11). So I am not discounting the possibility that Joe’s “visions” and “angels” were nothing but a flimflam man selling his own brand of “snake oil.”

But let’s just look at Smitty’s “visions” as real “spiritual experiences” and see how they measure up to **“the holy scriptures,”** which can make any **“child” “wise unto salvation”** (2 Tim. 3:15) without any reference to creeds, churches, visions, angels, or pulp fiction like The Book of Mormon.

Here is the “official,” canonical account as given in Mormon “scripture,”

The Pearl of Great Price, in “The History of Joseph Smith, the Prophet.” This is after Mormon leadership buried all the conflicting accounts they could and came up with the one that fit the theology of the church after Joseph Smith and Brigham Young got through with it.

According to Joe, he was being confused by the Presbyterians and the Methodists of his area as to what the right church was. He was like that fellow I ran into at the gym one time. I witnessed to him, and in an attempt to avoid trusting Christ, he came back with: “Well, you Baptists say one thing, and the Methodists say something else, and the Jehovah’s Witnesses say something else. How am I to tell which one of you is right?” I said to him, “You mean to tell me you’re a college graduate, and you can’t tell when someone is lying to you from scripture?” Joey boy had the same problem.

When the Bereans wanted to find out if Paul was telling them the truth, they **“searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so”** (Acts 17:11). They didn’t pray for some vision or angelic visitation; they *read their Bibles* to see whether the scriptures said what Paul said they said, in their context and proper divisions (2 Tim. 2:15).

Instead, Smitty decided to ask God for the wisdom he lacked (James 1:5), totally forgetting (if he ever knew to begin with) the Person in whom that wisdom is found.

“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, AND THE WISDOM

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OF GOD" (1 Cor. 1:24).

"But of him are ye in CHRIST JESUS, who of God is made unto us WISDOM, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30).

"In whom [talking about Christ—Col. 2:2] are hid ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM and knowledge" (Col. 2:3).

Now where does one learn about the personification of God's wisdom, who is made wisdom to us, and in whom is **"all the treasures of wisdom"**? Well, according to the One who is the subject of those verses, you learn about Him by *searching the scriptures* because they testify of *Him* (John 5:39). So right off the bat, we see that Joseph Smith is ignorant of Jesus Christ and the scriptures, and that he doesn't have the same view of the authority of Scripture as David (Psa. 138:2), Peter (2 Pet. 1:19–20), Paul (2 Tim. 3:15–17), the Bereans (Acts 17:11), or Jesus Christ Himself (John 5:39). Joseph Smith is the perfect candidate for God sending a lying spirit to deceive him (Ezek. 14:1–9 cf. 1 Kings 22:19–22).

Back to Joey's "first vision": "So in accordance with this, my determination to ask of God, I retired to the woods to make the attempt. It was on the morning of a beautiful, clear day . . . I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God."

Let's stop right there a moment. Here is a lost man who never made a profession of faith in Christ as his Saviour. He is trying to claim Psalm 37:4 like an Old Testament saint

would, when he himself is one of the **"evildoers"** and **"workers of iniquity"** of the psalm (Psa. 37:1). This poor, confused teenager, who doesn't have good sense, much less spiritual discernment, is **"dead in trespasses and sins"** (Eph. 2:1). He is a child of disobedience walking according to the prince of this world—the devil (Eph. 2:2). He is a child of wrath whose only **"desires"** are the lust of his own flesh (Eph. 2:3), and this becomes evident through the rest of Smith's life. Whatever he is about to see or encounter has nothing to do with God or Jesus Christ.

"I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me" Why, that's what happened to Mohammed the first time he encountered his "angel." Old Gabe seized Mohammed and squeezed him so hard he thought he was going to die (Hadith, Sahih Bukhari, Vol. I, no. 3).

"Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction" If this really is a spiritual encounter, then what you have is "smoke and mirrors" on the Devil's part, for look at what follows: ". . . just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me." Someone is trying to counterfeit Paul's conversion by plagiarizing Acts 26:13. As we are about to see, someone is going to manufacture his own "Mount of Transfiguration" experience as well (see Matt. 17:2).

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By the way, do you know what Joey boy said about the first time the angel Moroni (or was it Nephi? A liar has to have a good memory)? He described that angel as "AN ANGEL OF LIGHT." That was in Doctrines and Covenants (more Mormon "scripture") all the way up to 1968. That's when a bunch of people who had left Mormonism to receive the real Jesus Christ of the Bible as their Saviour began quoting 2 Corinthians 11:14 to their former church.

"And no marvel; for SATAN HIMSELF is transformed into AN ANGEL OF LIGHT."

The Mormons dropped *that* revelation of their "prophet" like a hot potato. It went "bye bye" never to lift its embarrassing conclusion again.

Back to Joe's "first vision": "When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages . . . One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—*This is My*

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Beloved Son. Hear Him!"

So Smitty is professing to have seen God the Father and God the Son *bodily*. *Joseph Smith is a liar.*

You say, "Why do you say that, Ruckman?" Because the Holy Ghost who gave the Scripture by inspiration to the Apostle John said, "**NO MAN hath seen God at any time . . .**" (John 1:18). Is that clear? The Holy Ghost gave the same information to the Apostle Paul: "**whom NO MAN hath seen, NOR CAN SEE**" (1 Tim. 6:16). Joe Smith claimed to have seen God the Father, did he? Then in the mouth of two witnesses (2 Cor. 13:1), Joseph Smith is a *liar*.

Do you know why Joey could not have seen God the Father out there in the woods of Manchester, New York? Because "**the only wise God**" is "**INVISIBLE**" (1 Tim. 1:17). You've got pretty good eyesight if you can see something that is invisible. You might see how an invisible thing affects things around it (Rom. 1:20 cf. John 3:8), or you might "see" it with the eyes of faith (Heb. 11:27), but you don't see it with your physical eyeballs, because it is *invisible*. Joseph Smith was not only a liar, he was *stupid* as well.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John never saw the One who said, "**This is my beloved Son . . . hear he him**" (Matt. 17:5). Paul never saw God the Father on the road to Damascus; he saw *Jesus Christ* (1 Cor. 15:8).

You were told in the Bible that the only way any man can see the Father is through the Son (John 14:9): ". . . **the only begotten Son, which is in**

the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18). *Jesus Christ "is the image of the invisible God"* (Col. 1:15). Joseph Smith saw God the Father bodily? Aww! your father's moustache!

Do you know why Joseph Smith based his whole religion on a vision in which he supposedly saw God the Father bodily? Because according to the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, Joseph Smith taught that "the great secret" (an expression found nowhere in the Bible) was that "God Himself . . . is an EXALTED MAN." The "Father" of Mormon mythology "has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22). The goal of every Mormon man is to become a god just like God (cf. Gen. 3:5) and have rule over and receive worship from his own world while having eternal sex with his goddess wives. Joseph Smith, like Mohammed, thought "below the belt."

Joseph Smith saw Jesus Christ bodily, floating over the forest floor, did he? Aww, blow it out your nose! He's a double liar. "Now wait a minute, Ruckman; didn't you just say Paul saw Christ on the road to Damascus?" Yes, but did you actually look up and READ 1 Corinthians 15:8? Paul was a special case: he was "**one born out of due time**" and chosen in a special way to be an apostle (1 Cor. 9:1). Stephen saw him too, but he saw Him preparing to come back, if the Father had permitted (Acts 7:56 cf. Matt. 26:64)—again, a special case.

Right now, Jesus Christ is seated at "**the right hand of God**" (Mark 16:19;

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Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3, 12:2; 1 Pet. 3:22). That's where He will stay until it is time for Him to come back (Psa. 110:1). When "Jesus Christ" supposedly appeared to Martin Luther, Martin took it to be the *Devil*, because according to Scripture, Jesus is now seated at the Father's right hand. Old Martin threw an ink well at him and told him where to head out. Luther had more sense about these matters than the neurotic teenager Joseph Smith.

Now let me ask you something: if you were a lost man and Jesus Christ sure enough appeared to you, what would you ask Him? Well, I sure wouldn't ask Him some fool question like: "What's the one, true church?" You could know which church was right and still split hell wide open. If you had any sense, the first question you should have would be: "How can I make it pass the judgment and miss hell (Rev. 20:11-15)?" An unsaved jailor had more sense than the "prophet" of Mormonism (see Acts 16:30).

Let's move on, now, to Joseph Smith's second vision in which he saw an angel named Moroni (or maybe it was Nephi—a liar has to have a good memory). We don't need to go through

the "laser-light show" again. All we need to look at here are some things old Moroni said to Joey that proved that Moroni was a *moron* when it came to prophecy. This is to be found in the Introduction to every Book of Mormon the "missionaries" on the bicycles bring to your door. It is "The Testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith."

"Moron" the angel told Joe that "the fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it (i.e., the golden plates containing The Book of Mormon), as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants [i.e., the "ancient inhabitants" of the *Americas*; not Israel or Egypt or Babylon or Assyria or Persia or Greece or Rome—as found in the Bible]." Then old "Moron" was a liar, and so was "the Savior" who came "to the ancient inhabitants." "**The everlasting gospel**" is found one place in your Bible—in Revelation 14:6. It is not preached by any apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher, or Christian anywhere in the book of Acts or in any of the epistles to the New Testament churches (Romans-Philemon). It had *nothing* to do with any gospel Paul preached in Acts 20:24 or 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. If you don't believe me, look up Revelation

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14:6–7 and READ IT. There is *nothing* in the passage about Christ dying for anybody's sins or being buried or rising again for anyone's justification. There is not one word about faith in Christ, believing on Jesus Christ, or calling on the name of the Lord as you find in Romans 10:9–10, 13 and Ephesians 2:8. **"The everlasting gospel"** is preached by an angel, who, if he preached the same message today, would **"be accursed"** (Gal. 1:8). So the Book of Mormon and the Moron "Savior" are both *cursed by the God of the Holy Bible*.

Moroni showed Joe "what is called the Urim and Thummim . . . the possession and use of these stones were what constituted 'seers' in ancient or former times; and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book."

Aww, cut it out, you stupid moron; stop showing your ignorance. The Urim and Thummim were on the breastplate of the Old Testament Jewish high priest (Exod. 28:30; Lev. 8:8; Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65). It had nothing to do with "seers" at all (1 Sam. 9:9 cf. 1 Sam. 28:6). Moreover, no New Testament believer needed the Urim and Thummim to translate anything (Acts 2:1–11; 1 Cor. 14:13–18). They had something better than any "seer stones"; they had God the Holy Spirit living in their bodies. That is something Joseph Smith and all his followers lack.

Then old Moroni the moron angel told Joe "of great judgments which were coming upon the earth, with great desolations by famine, sword, and

pestilence; and that these grievous judgments would come on the earth in THIS GENERATION." In other words, the great tribulation was going to come on the earth in Joseph Smith's generation. Well, Joseph Smith died in 1844, so if Moroni was right, we should be 170 years into the millennial reign of Christ by now.

But Moroni was a moron and gave little Joey a *false prophecy*, an affliction which he bore till the day he died. Joe was told he would build the Mormon temple in Independence, Missouri; he didn't. He was told he would print a "proper" translation of the Bible; he didn't. He said he would make it victoriously through the jail sentence at Carthage, Illinois; he didn't. Joe Smith was a false prophet who would have been *killed* in the Old Testament system he was trying to emulate in his religion (Deut. 18:20–22).

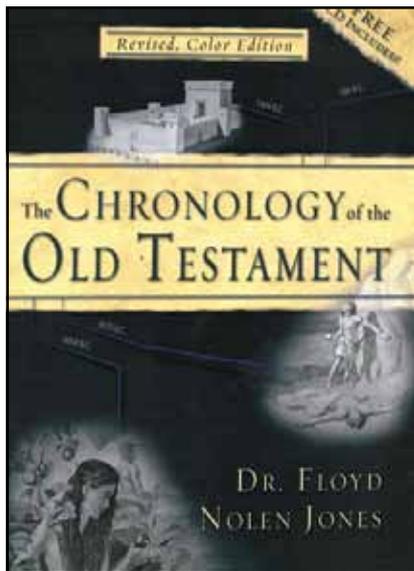
That is about enough of "angels." Any Bible-believing Christian who has studied the Book can recognize who is behind these "angels of light." He first shows up in the Garden of Eden *questioning what God said* (Gen. 3:1). That's the "ministry" of "Zarathustra," "Gabriel," and "Moroni": destroy your faith in the Book and substitute for it some satanic claptrap that doesn't rise to the level of "Peanuts," "Pogo," or "Maggie and Jiggs" when it comes to the truth. According to Colossians 2:18, if you follow them, you are nothing but a conceited fleshpot. That goes for all you college professors, imams, "elders," "apostles," and any doctors, lawyers, senators, congressmen, or presidential candidates stupid enough to follow them across the street.

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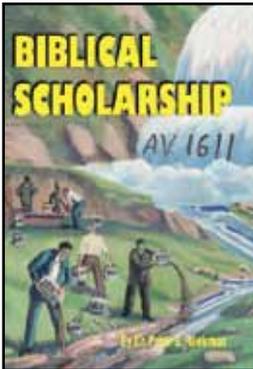
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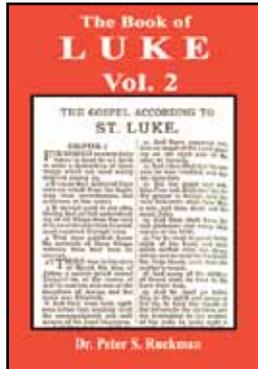
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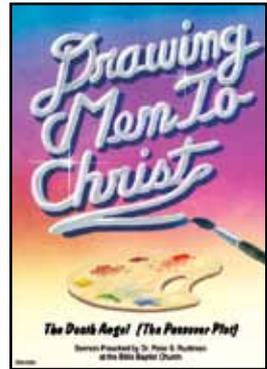
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By Robert Militello

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man” (Jer. 17:5).

Refusing to believe what God says in His word opens man up to the Devil's faith. Because of sin, men are biased against the scriptures. Human nature prefers flattery, and the God of the Bible will not charm His creation. Without doubt, we have entered into a period in which the God of truth is allowing the Devil to market the most outrageous lies and fables. Our educational system has embraced evolution as a religious dogma. Alongside this fantasy, our children are taught that all truth is relative. Later, they are told that all religions worship the same God. Teachers have enormous power over the developing minds of children. They are the first authority figures outside of parents and guardians to be given the keys to a child's understanding. What the teacher believes will help prepare a fertile mind to embrace numerous lies from hell, unless that teacher has been born of God. Are there many such teachers left in the public school system today? What do you think?

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Prov. 3:5).

Well, how can you trust in the Lord if you don't know what He says? There are thousands who graduate each year with degrees in Education, primary and secondary. These prospective teachers are, for the most part, biblical dumbbells. Their knowledge of God's word would fill the back of a postage stamp. They will be employed by local school boards

that have been told by the U.S. Supreme Court that prayer and Bible reading have no place in a public school classroom. There will be no display of the ten commandments anywhere; after all, truth is relative, not absolute. These teachers took courses in psychology, sociology, and child development. The wisdom of this world has entrenched itself into their minds before ever stepping into their first classroom. Trusting in the college texts they have read and what the professors taught them, they are now ready to mold the minds of millions of children and young adults. God help our children.

“For the LORD giveth wisdom: OUT OF HIS MOUTH cometh knowledge and understanding” (Prov. 2:6).

There isn't a sectarian teachers college in America where that scripture would be embraced. Faith in what man has learned by cultivating the social sciences and humanities is what will build a better world, or so they believe. Jesus Christ coming again to wrest the kingdoms of this world from the Devil is a fable to those who point proudly to their college degrees. Knowledge apart from the fear of the Lord is the elixir by which the Devil captivates the minds of those who teach in our classrooms. That knowledge leads away from the cross and not toward it. It is the knowledge Eve desired, and it drove her and Adam out of the blissful, perfect paradise into which they were placed by their Creator. Every intellectual pursuit of men since Adam's fall has been motivated by a desire to return

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to that paradise. But that can never be because man wants to return there his way and not God's way. The cross and only the cross of Jesus Christ destroys the wisdom of this world.

"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (1 Cor. 1:20).

You bet He has, but tell that to our educational establishment. Pride is no friend of truth.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Years ago, before computers became dominant, folks had to rely on a flow of knowledge that was much slower than today. There was more time to think and arrive at conclusions that were reached with less stress and haste. Our social atmosphere was characterized by a noticeable tendency to friendliness and truthfulness. People were more likely to trust their fellow citizens, neighbors, and coworkers. It seemed less dangerous to do so back then. What really made this possible was acceptance of a moral code and civility based on biblical principles. That has disappeared. Today, putting faith in your fellow man and the institutions that govern us is risky and, oftentimes, downright foolish. You would think this would lead people to a willingness to examine and consider what God has to say on the issues of life. That is not happening. We now look to experts in their fields to influence our decisions. So who influences the minds of these experts? You know who. He is **"the god of this world"** (2 Cor. 4:4). So

we look to technology, statistics, research studies, professional associations, and higher education to guide us through a complex and confusing world. Because of sin, men are programmed to look to anyone or anything before coming to God's word for answers. Sad, isn't it?

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

What has been happening since the dawn of the nuclear age (1945) should be clear to most Bible believers. The Lord has been positioning the nations of the world, governed by unregenerate men, to seek for a savior. This savior will be a man of action, possessing a brilliant mind and expert in the craft of diplomacy and intrigue. The Devil's christ will be the ultimate object of trust for those who refused God's grace in the church age. His capacity to beguile sinners will be almost unlimited. Only the elect of God will be kept from trusting him. Jews as a people and Israel as a nation are walking blindly into a net camouflaged by the offer of **"Peace and safety"** (see 1 Thess. 5:3). Since the Jews all but abandoned faith in what Moses wrote, they have labored hard to acquire the wisdom of this world. Most have made education their god. It has enabled them to travel on a fast lane to worldly success. Satan knows this and will present to the children of Jacob a man of superior intellect, one who makes the whole world wonder after

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him (Rev. 13:3). The faith the world will put in this man is beyond what we can presently imagine because it will be a product of hell.

In Romans 1:18-32, Paul gives us a lesson in the history of man. Verses 28-31 list the fruits of a reprobate mind. Note in verse 30, the inclusion of this term: **“inventors of evil things.”** As men degenerate into new levels of ungodliness, they become inventors, and the things they invent capture our affections. Paul warned believers in Colossians 3:2, **“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”** Nothing coming out of hell since Romanism seduced Europe will dazzle men like the power of AI (artificial intelligence). Men's minds will become nothing more than playgrounds for devils. AI means sophisticated computer systems will enable you to perform tasks that once required human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, and decision making. Imagine a computer system bypassing the human reasoning process to make decisions for you. Would any such computer program designed to make calculated judgments include what Solomon wrote in Proverbs? Satan desires to put men into a new kind of mental ward where there is no light from God and the darkness in men's hearts rivals that which physically fell on Egypt in Exodus 10:21-23. What a comfort it is to know that our Saviour is soon to snatch us away.

Thinking for oneself and arriving at sound conclusions is a characteristic of a regular reader and student

of the word of God. If God's wisdom is ignored and unbelief or laziness infects the soul, the society you are a member of develops a herd mentality. It is sometimes referred to as “groupthink.” Almost all of our media outlets have succumbed to this pernicious malady years ago. Lazy people are prone to fall for delusions of all sorts. The Roman Catholic Mass is a spiritual farce which can be easily identified if a Catholic would open the Bible and read Hebrews chapter 10 with just a small amount of intellectual energy. Folks don't have to be ignorant if they choose not to be so.

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee” (Hos. 4:6). Is this true today among God's people? Certainly; pastors, so-called Bible teachers, and Christian colleges have been seduced by modern “Bible” versions. They were told in 1 Thessalonians 5:21, **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”** Shouldn't you try on a suit of clothes before you buy it? How dare any man go into a pulpit to feed the flock of God without having prayed and searched the scriptures to see if God kept His word to keep His word pure. Who wants to sit under a shepherd and hear this pseudo-intellectual vomit: “A better rendering would be . . .” or “in the Greek this word is . . .”?

How often did the late Dr. Ruckman say, “Don't trust what I'm saying about what God says in His word; look it up for yourselves”? As a Catholic student in Jesuit school, I was not encouraged to think for myself regarding what

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the Bible teaches. In New Testament class, I heard the official interpretation the Catholic Church gave to the texts I was reading. Those private interpretations were found in Catholic commentaries where on the flyleaf of the books you saw the phrase, "*Nihil Obstat.*" In Latin that meant, "Nothing Objectional." Catholic censors also used the word "*Imprimatur,*" meaning the contents of the book had the church's stamp of approval. Now all of this was designed to get you to trust in men and not God's word. It was suggested to me that reading and studying the Bible on your own would only confuse you. No one is as expert in planting seeds of doubt like the Jesuits. They get that ability from their father: "**Yea, hath God said**" (Gen. 3:1). Faith in what man says apart from what the word of God plainly declares is faith born in hell. The Catholic Church was so fixated in promoting faith in man that it declared their pope as an infallible teacher on all things concerning faith and morals.

In 1870, at an ecumenical council in Rome, the bishops and cardinals wrote: "Infallibility means more than exemption from actual error, it means exemption from the possibility of error." That is what the Jews say is *chutzpah* of the vilest form. *Chutzpah* in Hebrew means "shameless audacity," and "effrontery displaying supreme self-confidence." Now you can understand how a man will one day step into the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and declare himself to be God. The Devil is "**king over all the children of pride**" (Job 41:34), he had the Jesuits lay the groundwork

for his plan to usurp the authority of Jesus Christ alone by declaring a man in a Halloween costume to teach perfectly what truth is. Few knew that the council meeting in 1870 would plant a seed of catastrophe for the Jews allowed to rebuild their temple after almost 2,000 years. If you know the Jesuits, you know that they plan for the long term. They're masters of strategic plotting. All their labor is directed toward elevating the mind of man so that man thinks he is his own god. Those Christians who serve as useful idiots for the Jesuits (especially in the pulpits) are often rewarded by being labeled as "good, godly, recognized scholars." Cast doubt on the word of God and find yourself lauded by those who refuse to submit to the authority of God's perfect work—the KJV 1611. Birds of a feather flock together—very sad!

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

Due to man's impressive record in technological achievement, his spirit is reaching the level of haughtiness that will bring down wrath from heaven. Since the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth century, man has been ascending, while dependence upon God has been diminishing. Government sees to the needs of people on a much larger scale than it did years ago. Faith has moved precipitously away from God and toward man. In the most subtle ways, the Devil, with God's permission, is moving mankind to a place where his pride will bud like Aaron's rod. Why should men trust a God he cannot see when he

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can see "God" in himself? The words of God are losing the hold they once had on so many, while the words of men fill shelf after shelf in bookstores everywhere.

"And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end" (Eccl. 12:12). Solomon was on to something 3,000 years ago. Man has a lot to say, and the Lord allows him to talk like Balaam's jackass. Spend a lot of time with what men write, and the knowledge you acquire turns you into a spiritual donkey. I know this because my two college degrees did just that to me. Committing as much of the book of Proverbs to memory as you are able gives you more than you will ever hope to gain by sitting under professors who can only pass along what they learned from other men. Nevertheless, the Lord knows how best to use what you have. Moses was skilled in all the wisdom of Egypt. Our God knows where to find what He needs when the situation calls for it. Isn't it wonderful to be in His body and possess the words of life whenever we wish to place our eyes upon them? We will give an account one day as to where we allowed our eyes to roam, so fear God; you'll sleep better.

On July 20, 1969, scientists at the Houston Space Center showed the world what man can do when he sets his mind to it. Neil Armstrong took a dream men had since they first saw the moon shine, and made science fiction become nonfiction. Men everywhere praised the god of science. Pride in human achievement was on a roll, and the archenemy of God's word

took advantage of the moment to cut away at faith in God and move what faith men possessed toward this new god—**"science falsely so called"** (1 Tim. 6:20). Astounding advances in medicine, telecommunications, and automation have so impressed us today that we've forgotten that a leopard can't change his spots and men's nature remains evil. Still, the greatest wonder of all remains the conversion of a soul from darkness to Jesus Christ. No genius of man can effect this change. It is the work of the Holy Spirit along.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

In these last days, Western civilization, especially Europe, has become increasingly godless. Even those with little spiritual discernment recognize this ominous drift away from the standards by which their fathers lived. In the days of the judges of Israel, the word of God exerted hardly any authority over the lives of the Jews. The King of Israel, the Lord God, was replaced by reliance upon what each man thought was best for himself.

"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right IN HIS OWN EYES" (Judg. 21:25).

Now, the spirit of this world, strengthened by the achievements of man, battles every attempt of the Holy Spirit to penetrate the darkness of men's minds. A great spiritual darkness has permeated the air over

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Europe. Humanism is the religion of Europe. Jesus Christ gets scant mention, and only around Christmas or Easter does one get to hear that name spoken. It's very hard to evangelize there, and it will be increasingly so here in our own nation as we come to the very end of the church age.

“And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary

unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea” (Mark 6:48). These gale-force winds blowing against all who try to win souls tell me it's just about time to leave. **“Fight the good fight of faith”** (1 Tim. 6:12) right up until the last moment. The Lord is watching along with unseen others. **“Wherefore seeing we also**

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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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are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight” (Heb. 12:1).

Is man a reliable witness? Can he be trusted to accurately testify when called upon? One man's testimony can decide whether someone lives or dies. Our judicial system tends to give men more credence than does our Creator.

“At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death” (Deut. 17:6).

How many innocent people have been put into prisons, and some executed, because the testimony of one witness was deemed credible? When it comes to a murder charge, the Lord told Moses that one witness was insufficient. Why? Who better knows the weakness of man than the Lord? Why are so many today, including God's own saints, willing to believe much of what is reported by the media, or appears on the internet? What happened to critical thinking? I've been around a while and see a level of gullibility that has taken root in our society that's really dangerous. No one reads the fine print, and those that stay up nights thinking of more ways to detach you from your money know that. Trusting in man prepares the nations to receive a counterfeit christ and being educated will not prevent you from being seduced.

I'll prove it from history. The Germans were the most literate society in Europe. In the twenties and thirties, German higher education was

top quality. So were their scientific academies and institutes of medicine. This most educated population perhaps in the world fell hook, line, and sinker for a demoniac, World War I corporal who served up lie after lie until he had the nation in his hand. What did education and science do to save Germany from this descent into spiritual madness? NOTHING! Regrettably, this nightmare will soon afflict not just one mighty nation, but the whole world. **“God forbid: yea let God be true, but every man a liar”** (Rom. 3:4). Men lie, and like every other endeavor with practice, you can become very skilled at it. Christians lie one to another (Col. 3:9). Dr. Ruckman was magnificent in his ability to ferret out the liars who masqueraded as “Christian scholars.” Sad to say, some of the brethren were relieved when he went home to glory in April 2016. God put a King James Bible in your hands because no father wants his children to be suckers and patsies for con men—saved, or lost. Amen?

There is the faith deposited into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, and there is a faith that leads to damnation. Our faith is under siege in a land where “IN GOD WE TRUST” appears on our currency. Jude gave us instruction that we can't afford to ignore.

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, IT WAS NECESSARY for me to write unto you, and exhort you that YE SHOULD EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH which was once delivered unto the saints” (v. 3).

That's my duty, and yours too, until we leave this sorry world. Titus 2:13.

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