



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 45 No. 3

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

March 2021

The Great Jewish Hostage Negotiator

By Brian Donovan

After the worldwide flood of Noah’s day, man began multiplying and replenishing the face of the earth. They sought to build themselves a world kingdom that would be the crowning achievement of man’s ingenuity. Led by the founder and first king of Babel, Nimrod (Gen. 10:10), the whole earth came together to be of one language and of one speech. Fueled by the wicked imaginations of the “**mighty hunter**” (verse 9), man gathered in force on the plain of Shinar (Gen. 11:1-2), which is another name for Babylon (Dan. 1:2).

They dreamed that they could build a tower to reach Heaven of their own works, with no need for God. Nimrod’s rebellion is evident by the wording of the King James Bible, where it says that he was a mighty hunter “**before the Lord**”. That phrase is used to mean “in opposition to”, just as it is found in Genesis 13:13 (notice the

number of rebellion), where the men of Sodom were said to be wicked, and sinners “**before the Lord**” exceedingly.

Right after the Lord destroyed the United Nations plan for world peace and safety in numbers by confounding their language and scattering them over the face of the earth (Gen. 11:7-8), we are introduced to the calling out of Abram (Gen. 12:1-4), who became the father of the nation of Israel, as well as the father of the faith of those in the New Testament (Rom. 4:16).

Before Abram could become fruitful, Terah had to die (Gen. 11:32) as a spiritual picture of the old man needing to be crucified before the sinner can enter the promised land. Lot was then separated, in order to leave Abram alone with God (Gen. 13:14). These events are followed by the first terrorist kidnappings mentioned in the Bible.

As smaller kingdoms began to build up after they were dispersed from Babel, the kings began to do what mankind has always done best—attack and kill each other.

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The Greatest Thing You Can Do

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman
(Part Two of Two Parts)

The next thing is the *Method*. When Jesus commissioned the apostles and sent them out to preach, He told them, “**be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves**” (Matt. 10:16). An old colored preacher added this: “about seven serpents to one dove.” The point is, *use wisdom*.

Did you know there are some things about the devil that are very commendable? How about *persistence*? Satan is persistent; you have to hand him that. He has *power*; he has *wisdom*. Those are things you should strive to have as a Christian, just not from the same source or motivation. When you approach somebody to give him the gospel, use wisdom.

I never fished (literal fishing) until I was 39 years old. I was raising three boys by myself, and I was trying to figure out something we could all do together that was clean. I settled on fishing and hunting, but I didn't know anything about either one.

So the next time I had a meeting in Tupelo, Mississippi, I saw signs for a fisherman who made and sold lures. His name was Bill Sharpe. His signs had pictures of him with big strings of bass he had caught. I figured if I got ahold of him, I would know something about fishing.

Well, Bill showed up at the church where I was preaching. He was a backslidden Christian. He came up to me after the service and said, “You sure know that Book, don't you?”

I said, “Well, a little.”

“I wish you'd teach me that Book,” he said.

I said, “It would take a good while.”

He said, “How could I do it?”

“Aren't you the fellow I saw in the picture with all those fish?” I asked.

He said, “Yeah. I make my own blanks, I make my own rods, and I make my own lures.”

I said, “I tell you what I'll do. I'll make you a deal. If you'll teach me how to fish, I'll teach you the Bible.”

He agreed, so for the next five years, if I ever had a meeting within a few hours driving distance, Bill would be there at the service at night. We went to the hotel, afterwards, where I would teach him the Bible. He always had two sheets full of questions he wanted to ask. During the daytime, he would take me out to whatever fishing was in that area.

One of the things I learned from Bill Sharpe is that with some fish you set the hook hard; with others, you don't. You don't set the hook hard in a speckled trout because it is what is known as a “weak fish”; that is, it has a front lip through which the hook will pull if you set the hook hard. With a bass, on the other hand, you have to let him give a couple of tugs to the line before you set the hook because he hasn't taken it completely yet.

Now that is how you have to fish for men (Matt. 4:19). Not everyone to whom you witness is the same. You have to use wisdom in dealing with each one.

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The Greatest Thing You Can Do

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When I first got saved, I had a buddy at the radio station where I worked; his name was Pete Cecchini. Every day after our shifts, we would go out and get a beer together. Well, I knew that was all over after I got saved, but I didn't know how to get rid of him and stop it. I asked Hugh Pyle what to do. Bro. Pyle said, "You won't have to get rid of him; he'll get rid of you."

I said, "Oh no, we've been friends for years. Pete won't give me up."

Bro. Pyle said, "He'll give you up if you witness to him. Are you afraid to witness to him?"

I said, "No."

Bro. Pyle said, "Well, you witness to him, and he'll give you up."

I was so green at the time that if you had stuck me into the ground, I would have rooted. I couldn't imagine anyone getting mad just because you witnessed to him.

Next day, I was getting ready to end my shift, putting the records back in the shucks, when Pete came in and said, "Hey, Ruckman, let's go get a beer."

I said, "OK, I'll be right with you." I finished what I was doing and said to Pete, "Come here; I want to talk to you just a minute." He came back in the record room, and I shut the door behind him. I said, "Do you know what happened to me the other day?"

"What's that?" he said.

"I got saved," I told him.

"You got what?!" he said in a shocked tone.

I said, "I got saved."

He said, "Ah, Ruckman, you're getting religion."

I said, "Nah; I got saved." I walked toward him and said, "You ought to get saved; it's great, man."

He backed toward the door, opened it, and he was gone. That was the last time he ever asked me to have a beer with him.

Two years later, I came back to Pensacola from Bob Jones, and Bro. Pyle had me speak at a youth meeting. There was Pete with his wife in the congregation. He was winking at me; he thought I was some Elmer-Gantry con man. He figured Ruckman was still the old Ruckman. I thought to myself, "Boy, what a night it is going to be for you."

Everything started out fine. I was using that "backdoor" approach about which Peacock was talking. I started out light-hearted enough, but when I started using the sword, old Pete got quiet and then sullen. You could tell he was under conviction. I gave the invitation and had a couple of teenagers come forward and get saved, but not Pete.

Afterwards he came up to me and said, "Boy, Ruckman, something happened to you."

I said to him, "I told you, man, I got saved. You ought to get saved. Are you saved?"

He looked away. As I talked to him further, I noticed he couldn't look me in the eye. Then it dawned on me why he couldn't. I had been saved for two years, and by then, I had been

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through the Bible thirty times. It had manifested itself in my *face*. When Bro. Pyle wrote about it in his autobiography, he said I looked eight years younger two weeks after I got saved than the day he led me to Christ. That Book had done something for me, and Pete couldn't look me in the eyes because of it.

I said, "Now, Pete, look at me right in the eyeballs. If you can tell me I don't have something you need, I'll leave you alone and won't ever preach to you again."

He looked at me and started to say something, but he dropped his head again. I said again, "Look me right in the eyeballs and tell me I don't have something you need."

He tried to say something again, and his eyes dropped again. Then it was as if something clicked. He lifted his head up and looked at me and said, "I need what you've got, and I need it real bad." And back he went to the prayer room, got on his knees, and got saved.

Use wisdom, and if you don't have it, ask God for it (James 1:5). Of course, I would rather have a Christian with all zeal and no knowledge than a bunch of knowledge with no zeal, but the best thing is to have *both*.

You will need wisdom to perceive if the person is under conviction or not. If he's not, don't force the issue and "pick green fruit." The truth is, you will run into so few people who are "ripe for the plucking" that when you do, it kind of startles you. You

almost forget to tell them how to be saved.

I was out on the streets in Greenville one night after I got through studying, passing out tracts. Back then, there were still folks out walking between ten and eleven at night. Well, I ran into this old guy on crutches. I said, "Sir, are you a Christian?"

He said, "No."

I took a tract and stuffed it in his pocket. "Would you read that when you get a chance?" I asked.

"All right," he said.

"Have you ever thought about getting saved?" I asked.

"Yes," he said.

I said, "Do you know how to be saved?"

He said, "Yes."

"Well, the Bible says, '**whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**' (Rom. 10:13)," I said. "Would you be willing to call on the Lord right now to save you?"

He said, "Yes."

I said, "Let's step over here out of the way." But before I could get him to do that, he dropped to his knees where he was in the middle of the sidewalk. He began to cry out to God in a voice so loud it scared me half to death.

That guy was ready; not all of them are. Make it a habit that before you go out soulwinning that you pray and ask God for wisdom.

The last thing is the most important: the *Decision*. It is like a salesman trying to get a commitment out of a customer to buy what he's sell-

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ing: you want the name "on the dotted line." Of course, don't press for a decision if there is no conviction, but if there is conviction, then press.

There are all kinds of ways of getting a decision *if the proposition is right*. Some of the brethren say, "I just don't believe a person can get saved by coming down an aisle and shaking the preacher's hand." Of course not! But if the proposition is, "If you will *receive Christ as your Saviour* the best way you know how, then come down the aisle and take the preacher's hand," then that will do it. You see, it was not coming down the aisle and shaking the preacher's hand that saved the person; it was *receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour*.

Now here is a proposition that will send you to hell, all the while making you think you are headed for heaven: "It's time to *make your decision for Christ*; come down the aisle and *let Christ come into your life*." There's two propositions that have nothing to do with salvation whatsoever. You aren't saved by making some nebulous "decision for Christ" or "letting Christ into your life." Simon the sorcerer "made a decision for Christ" (Acts 8:13), and he went to hell like a bullet (Acts 8:20). You don't get saved by giving God a break and deciding to "let Christ into your life." He gives you the break by allowing you to come to His Son to receive the free gift of salvation *through Him*. You are not saved by making up your mind to serve Christ or live for Christ.

You are saved *by the blood He shed on Calvary's cross*.

I'll give you a proposition that will save you: "If you will accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, the One who died for your sins and rose again to give you eternal life, then come down here and stand on your head on the organ." That will do it. Why? Because when the person does that, he is showing that he has decided to receive the death of God's Son as the payment for his sins. The saving proposition is this:

"But as many as RECEIVED HIM, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE ON HIS NAME" (John 1:12).

If you are responding to the offer to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour by trusting only Him and what He did for you on Calvary to save you, then you are saved whether you shake the preacher's hand, pray, or stand on your head on the communion table. And if you responded to any other proposition, it wouldn't matter if you "prayed through," got baptized, or "made Jesus Christ your Lord"; you would still go to hell.

Getting a decision is the hardest part of soulwinning, because right at the moment you want to get a decision, the devil will pour it on. He will do anything he can to prevent one of his children (John 8:44; Eph. 2:1-3) from receiving Jesus Christ.

Boy, have I seen that. I have been in a home, dealing with someone, and just at the right moment,

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the shutter goes up: FLAP, FLAP, FLAP! I got down to the point with one woman to receive Christ, and relatives from 500 miles away, whom she hadn't seen for fifteen years, showed up at the door unannounced.

I gave an invitation once up in Wing, Alabama. I said, "You ought to come down here NOW and get saved." I stamped my foot for emphasis when I said "NOW," and out from under the platform ran a rat down the aisle. People were trying to sing and watch out for that rat, and women were screaming. You have never seen such a mess in all your life.

I gave an invitation in John Rawlings' church, and in flew a pigeon and got caught up in the rafters and couldn't get out. People were staring up at that pigeon through the entire invitation. John Rawlings himself was giving an invitation in a church in Texas one time, when down the aisle came a chicken.

I have seen a lot of things in my time, man. On at least three occasions, a fellow has come down the aisle during an invitation, wanting to know *where the bathroom was*. You talk about a disappointment!

I was preaching in a rescue mission in St. Louis, and a bum came down during the invitation. The director of the mission told me to ignore him. I found out afterwards that he was a shell-shocked veteran who did this at least twice a year, but I had never seen it before then. He came

to the front, came to attention, saluted, and then went back to his seat.

I witnessed one time to a doctor here in Pensacola named Melvin Young. I had witnessed to him when I first got saved and got nowhere with him. When I was at Bob Jones, I mailed him one tract a month for eight months. After sending him a different tract a month for eight months and praying for him the entire time, I came back to Pensacola for a meeting. I went downtown to witness to Dr. Young.

I had never seen a man in worse condition in all my life up to that point. His eyes were blinking, his face was white, and he acted like he was paralyzed in a trance, just staring at me. I witnessed to him for about thirty minutes, and I thought he was ready to trust Christ. I put my hand out to him across his desk and said, "Doctor, if you will accept Christ the best way you know how . . .," and at that moment, the telephone rang. For a moment, he looked at me like he didn't hear the telephone, but at the second ring, he shook his head, snapped out of it, and answered the phone. It was an emergency call, so he had to leave. I never saw him again. The next day I had to get back to school and didn't get a chance to see him again. The last I heard, his family was busted up, and he lived alone, drinking himself to death. The devil knew just when to step in.

Now the best way to get a decision is to ask the person if he will take your hand if he wants to trust

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Christ. A handshake is a natural gesture. When he takes your hand, pray for him. Then when you're done, ask him to pray in his own words, the best way he knows how, for Christ to save him. That's how Hugh Pyle did it with me. You don't want the person to think there is anything special in some preacher's "formula" for praying.

If the person pauses, it might be because he doesn't know how to pray. I didn't when I got saved. I grew up as an Episcopalian where you said prayers out of a prayer book, and I was going through Catholic convert courses where you repeated a series of three prayers *ad nauseam*. I didn't know how to talk to God.

If the person tells you he doesn't know how to pray and needs some help, then help him, but if he will do it on his own, that's better. If you have to help him, let him know up front that it is not the prayer that saves him; it is Jesus Christ. And let him know that it is receiving Christ in sincerity and faith that will work, not just repeating a prayer.

Let him know that if he can follow you in a good conscience and mean what he says, then he can pray, but if he has reservations or won't mean it, he shouldn't. If he is going to back out, he will back out right there. I have had the guy back out right in the middle. I mean, he pulled his hand away right in the middle of the prayer and said, "I'm not ready yet." That is his business; you've done your part. Don't talk him into some-

thing if he's not ready; it won't do him any good.

The prayer I usually have someone pray goes something like this: "Dear Lord, I know I'm a sinner, and I don't want to go to hell when I die . . ." I have never had anyone stop there. They all agree to that. ". . . I am coming to you the best way I know how . . ." It's not whether you believe enough or repent enough or say the right words; it's coming to Jesus Christ the best way you know how. If you do that, you have the promise that He won't cast you out (John 6:37). ". . . Please save me, let me know I'm saved, and fill me with the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen."

After you have led him to Christ, take the time to give him some verses on assurance and eternal security. First John 5:13 is good. Romans 8:38-39 are good. John 10:27-29 are good.

I was witnessing to a man up in Alabama one time. His wife was saved, but he wasn't. It didn't look like I was making any headway, so I said, "Could I please have a drink of water?"

"Sure," he said, and he went back into the kitchen and got me some ice water.

I thanked him, drank it, and said, "Do you know what you just did?"

"What do you mean?" he said.

I said, "That's a picture of how you get saved. The Bible says, '**let him that is athirst come, And whosoever will, let him take the water of**

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life freely' (Rev. 22:17). I asked you for a drink, and you gave it to me. If you ask the Lord for salvation, He'll give it to you." That did it; he saw it. He got saved right then.

Now brethren, if you want a life of excitement and adventure, just start witnessing for Jesus Christ. Keep on witnessing and don't quit. You will see the "action," and I mean *action*. I have had people pull guns on me, pull knives on me, and threaten to cut off my head and put it in the garbage can. One thing's for sure: *it wasn't boring*.

I had a preacher in one time to talk to the preaching class at the Bible institute. He told them, "There will be many times in the ministry you will be *bored*." That astounded me. I thought to myself, "What kind of ministry have you been in, man?" I have had some *miserable* hours in the ministry; I have had some *wonderful* times in the ministry; I have even had some *horrible* times in the ministry. But *bored*? Not me!

If you keep on putting out tracts, telling lost sinners about Jesus Christ, and preaching on the street, you will see things and experience things no politician, movie star, or sports idol has ever seen or experienced.

The wildest decision I have ever seen, I saw in a car, going down the road at fifty miles an hour. Back when I started out in the ministry, I was able to do some things you probably can't get away with anymore. I don't know if the law will

let you use a PA system in your car anymore, but I had one in mine back in the 50s.

You have never "lived" until you pull into a fast-food joint after a high school basketball game is over and all those kids are hanging out in the parking lot, getting into all kinds of trouble, and you get on the speaker and say, "**The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good**" (Prov. 15:3). You will see those cars "drag race" out of that parking lot to get out of there. My buddies and I used to drive through the country in North and South Carolina at 11:00 at night and get on that megaphone and say, "**Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh**" (Matt. 24:44). The lights popped on in all those farmhouses off the road. That was a lot of fun.

My song leader, big Bob Persons, and I were headed back to Greenville late at night. We saw a house at the bottom of the hill with a big bay window. The lights were on, and you could see some folks in there playing cards. I had Bob put the car in neutral so we could coast by without being heard. Then as we went by, I said, "**it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment**" (Heb. 9:27). What happened next was so funny that we had to shut the mike off so they wouldn't hear us laughing through it. They must have just dealt a hand. They were looking at their cards when they heard that verse.

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They looked up in astonishment and then looked at each other as if to say, "Where did that come from?!"

But one night, traveling along about midnight, a car whipped around us and then slowed down to fifty miles an hour so he would be right in front of us. So I had a phonograph player there with me and put on a Charlie Fuller Old-Fashioned Revival Hour Quartet record. I preached him a message on the White Throne Judgment over the speakers, and then I put that quartet on singing "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling." Then I said over that microphone, "Have you ever accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour? If you have, please blink your lights."

No blink. I then said, "If you are willing to accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour, please blink your lights." No blink. After a minute or two, he drove off down a side road.

But about three o'clock in the morning, here he came again: same car, same license plate. He passed us and traveled right in front of us at fifty miles an hour, just as he had done before. So I got back on the mike and gave it to him again: I preached on the unpardonable sin. At the end, I gave the same invitation.

"If you have ever received Jesus Christ as your Saviour, blink your lights." No blink. "If you will receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, blink your lights." And there was a pause of about five seconds, and he blinked

his lights three times. There wasn't another car in any direction for fifteen miles. With that, he shot off, and we never saw him again.

You say, "Do you expect to meet that fellow in heaven?" I do. "Now don't tell me, Ruckman, that blinking your lights will save you." You missed the point. I gave him a straight proposition on salvation, and he gave me an answer to that proposition that he agreed to it. If I said, "If you will, the best way you know how, trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and *quit trusting yourself*, but trust His shed blood to save your soul . . .," that will save you no matter what I told you to do next.

I was preaching a meeting a little ways from Wing, Alabama another time, and there was a lady in that church who had a husband named Henry. During the summer, Henry would work up in the Great Lakes and come home in the winter. Henry was about six feet five and weighed about 300 pounds. He cussed and smoked and drank. His wife Maizie was a little frail woman with four or five kids about two years apart. They had an old, run-down farmhouse there in the country. I was asked to go witness to Henry because he had just gotten back in town from the Great Lakes.

So I went over to Henry and Maizie's house for dinner. It was a quiet meal. Henry was looking me over. After we were through eating, I asked Henry if we could go in the living room and talk a few minutes. He

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was agreeable, so we went in there, and I witnessed to him. He listened carefully. His wife had been praying for him for years.

When I got to the point where I thought he would accept Christ, I said, "Henry, would you accept Christ as your personal Saviour?" About that time there was a big bang in the back of the house. One of those kids had leaned too far back in a rocking chair, and it went over. Henry said, "Pardon me a minute, preacher," and he went and took care of things.

He came back, and I witnessed to him some more. When we got to the point where I was sure he would make a decision, the two oldest kids got in a fight. Henry got up and said, "Excuse me, preacher," and he went and broke up the fight. I prayed, "God do something for this fellow before he goes to hell."

Henry came back and sat down. I quoted Romans 10:13 to him and said, "Henry if you will just call on the name of the Lord . . . ," and BEEP! A truck pulled up outside with some horsetrader wanting to sell a horse to Henry. Henry excused himself again and went out.

I was just in an agony for Henry. He came back, and I just looked at him in exhaustion. He looked back at me and finally said, "Well, preacher, I reckon I'm about to be saved." I said, "Let's pray!" And down we both got on our knees before something else came up.

He prayed and got up crying. He said, "I sure do feel a lot better now."

I said, "It's all right to feel better, but feelings don't save you. Trusting Christ is what saves you."

"I know, preacher," he said, "but I still feel better anyway."

I said, "Go tell your wife what you did." That big old boy lumbered back to the bedroom where his wife had been praying the whole time. She had a white handkerchief in her hands, fiddling with that thing.

He came up behind her, and for a moment, I didn't think he was going to make it. A lot of men who have all kinds of physical courage have no guts when it comes to speaking up for Jesus Christ. I prayed for Henry that God would give him grace.

Maizie said, in a high, feeble voice, "What did you do, Henry?"

He started bawling, and you could barely understand him saying, "I got saved." I decided I had better leave and let those two have some time together. As I left, I looked back there, and Henry was kneeling beside the bed with his arm around Maizie, praying.

I wouldn't take a million bucks for that. Alongside that, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett are paupers. And if you are lost and happen to be reading this, I tricked you again. In telling Christians how to lead a lost person to Jesus Christ, I have told you how to be saved. Won't you come to Jesus Christ the best way you know how, trusting only in His shed blood and righteousness to take away your sins and get you to heaven? Won't you call on the name of the Lord and be saved?

The Great Jewish Hostage Negotiator

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In Genesis 14:1-12, the scripture describes a war between nine different kingdoms (four against five), in which Abram's nephew, Lot, was taken hostage by the terrorists.

The kings named in Genesis 14:1 are listed with different spellings in the ancient Assyrian tablets, with the most famous of them being Hammurabi of world renown. The "Amraphel" of verse 1 is a transliteration of "Hammurabi" and the so-called "great lawgiver" of Assyrian history.

These nine kings met down in the vale of Siddim, pillaged the city of Sodom, and took Lot hostage before departing. A messenger came and told Abram (Gen. 14:13), who is called the "**Hebrew**" (the first mention of the word in the KJV), and without delay, this Jew chased the terrorists down and returned with his nephew and all the goods. The scripture speaks of it as if it was no big deal that the Hebrew knew how to deal with the terrorists and get his hostages back. The victory of Abram over the "great" Hammurabi and his boys is treated in the scripture as if Abraham went out for a stroll one afternoon and returned with what he wanted.

A similar case of Jewish hostage negotiation is found in 1 Samuel 30. While Saul was seeking David's life, David made the mistake of spending sixteen months with the Philistines in hiding (1 Sam. 27:7). It was not until the Lord intervened to get David out of the mess he got himself into that

he finally returned home. When the Jews were getting ready to defend themselves against the Philistines,

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Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

March 12-14

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

April 9-11

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

April 30-May 2

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

June 18-20

Bible Believers Bapt. Church
596 SE Alexander St.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
Pastor John Robinson
(503) 706-7147

June 25-27

Bayview Baptist Church
1116 W. 7th St.
San Pedro, CA. 90731
Pastor Steve Andrus
(310) 548-7234

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David was still with the Philistine King, Achish, and was about to go into battle with them against his own Jewish brethren. The Lord had to raise up jealousies among the Philistine soldiers, which forced Achish to ask David to leave (1 Sam. 29:5-7). This was the Lord's way of getting David back where he belonged. But when David finally returned to Ziklag, he found the city burned, and all their wives and children taken hostage (1 Sam. 30:1-3).

David encouraged himself in the Lord his God and went to seek the will of God for his battle plan. The Lord's answer was **"Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all"** (1 Sam. 30:8). David obtained some inside information from an Egyptian servant, and the Bible says, **"David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day...and David recovered all....And there**

was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor anything that they had taken..." (1 Sam. 30:17-19).

The Jews don't seem to have a problem about how to handle Arab terrorists. Of course, King David's intel was far superior than the secret service of modern Israel (Mossad), as he had direct access to the Lord Himself. In 1 Samuel chapter 23, when David was running for his life from Saul, he was holed up in the city of Keilah. Enquiring of the ephod, David asked the Lord if Saul would come into the city, and if he did, would the men give him up. The Lord showed David that Saul was on his way, and the men of the city would surely deliver him over. Since David was not a Calvinist, he exercised his free will and prevented his own death by getting out of town, obviously understanding that it was not predestinated from the foundation

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The Great Jewish Hostage Negotiator

Continued from 12
of the world.

As a man with extensive experience dealing with both Jews and Arabs once summed it up, "The Arab is surrounded with a halo of picturesque romance...he is often depicted as a fiery fanatic, prepared to die for a cause...WWI burst that bubble...he is an admirable looter, a jackal who respects strength. This is in preference to the hard-headed, hard thinking, practical Jew...determined to get what is rightfully his." Those thoughts were penned by British Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen (1878-1967), a lost man with the understanding that there are definite differences of both strengths and weaknesses between the races.

As early as 1919, Meinertzhagen wrote that he believed Zionism was an idea that would eventually materialize and win out, and he based this on the marked differences between the Jew and the Arab. A few years after the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, the Arabs told the Colonel that the "Palestinian Arabs" were human rubbish, but a necessary political goldmine to carry out their plans to destroy Israel and take over the land given to the Jews by the Lord. There has been no change in their thinking over the last seventy years, and the media continues to print the lie that they are "Palestinian refugees".

Since the modern nation of Israel was reestablished, their methods and successes of recovering hostages

and rooting out the Arab terrorists have not changed much from the biblical times of Abraham and David. As soon as the new state was set up, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion gave permission to Mossad, the Jewish intelligence agency, to track down the Nazi killers who had escaped the capture of the nations of Europe, America, and Russia, at the end of WWII.

Perhaps one of their most well-known operations was the capture of Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi who dedicated years of his life to killing six million Jews during the 1940s. After Mossad agents tracked him to where he was living outside of Buenos Aires in 1960, Eichmann was thrown into a car, whisked away in a jet to Israel, and brought to trial. In a fulfillment of Galatians 6:7, after Eichmann was hung, the Israeli skies were soon receiving the smoke of his burning carcass from a prison oven.

In another episode, on September 5, 1972, PLO terrorists broke into the rooms of Israeli athletes at the Olympics in Munich. They killed a coach and a weight-lifter while taking nine Jewish hostages. With the television cameras rolling, for the first time, the world was able to watch these killers at work.

An Israeli commando unit was ready to be dispatched and save their hostages, but was made to stand down by the German government, who told them they would handle the crisis. But the Germans did not

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The Great Jewish Hostage Negotiator

Continued from 13

possess the know-how of the Jews in dealing with Arab terrorists who kill civilians and after setting up an amateurish trap, the German plan caused the death of all of the Jewish athletes. Five of the terrorists were also killed, with three others being captured, but were later released in a trade following another terrorist act of a Lufthansa jet hijacking.

Mossad would later meet with Prime Minister Golda Meir and get permission to launch Operation "Wrath of God" to exact revenge on the released killers. With persistence, they were tracked across Europe and the Middle East, found and eliminated, whether in Rome, Beirut, or Paris.

In July 1976, Arafat's killers were again at work, hijacking an Air France jet going from Tel Aviv to Paris with 248 passengers. Diverting the plane to Entebbe, Uganda, with President Idi Amin's backing, the terrorists released 154 Gentiles, keeping 94 Jews and the crew of 12. Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, allowed his commandos to immediately spring into action, and after storming the Entebbe airport, killed all of the hijackers and saved 102 of the 106 hostages (one hostage was killed when he stood up, not understanding the Israeli commandos' instructions to stay down). Yoni Netanyahu, brother of Israel's present Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and leader of the raid, was killed as he led his unit to recover their hostages.

When the Arab mastermind of the Air France hijacking, Wadie Haddad, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, saw the foiled outcome of his plans, he headed for a hideout in Baghdad, knowing Mossad was aware of his work and would be on his tail. Feeling safe there in Iraq, he continued his efforts to plan more attempts to kill Jews.

Mossad agents found out that Haddad had a weakness for Belgian chocolates and persuaded one of his trusted aides to help. They filled the cream of a box of Godiva chocolates with poison, and the fatted calf ate every one of them, not sharing a single one. In a matter of weeks, Haddad was losing weight and turned into a skeleton, dying in a West German hospital at 48 years old, with no one finding out why until years later, when the intel was released by Mossad. Just as Arafat would do years later when he died, Haddad left his family millions of dollars that he had stolen from his comrades for personal use.

Compare this outcome with President Jimmy Carter in 1979, when Iran held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days while the peanut man wrung his hands. Finally attempting at least some kind of rescue, eight Americans were killed when two helicopters crashed en route to free the hostages. They were finally released on the day Ronald Reagan became President.

The Mossad has always been way ahead of the US intelligence commu-

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The Great Jewish Hostage Negotiator

Continued from 14

nity. Their work over the last seventy years has saved the USA from attacks on many occasions. In 2011, while Obama was courting the Iranians in “peaceful” talks, Mossad ignored the pipe dreams of the West and blew up the secret missile base near Tehran, where they were making long-range nuclear warheads that would reach America. The blast also took out the Iranian head of the missile program, Hassan Moghaddam.

A few years earlier, in February of 2008, Mossad also killed the Syrian military leader of Hezbollah, Imad Mughniyeh. He was being hunted by the FBI and was number one on their most wanted list, after carrying out the plans that killed 241 United States Marines in Beirut, the bombing of the American embassy in Beirut with 63 more dead, the murder of CIA official William Buckley, and the hijacking of a TWA jetliner. It might be a good idea if the American taxpayer money that is spent on the CIA and the FBI was instead handed over to Mossad, and they just tell the Americans what they know.

Yet with all the great work that Mossad has done, by far the greatest Jewish hostage negotiator in the world is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The ministry of the Lord Jesus was, and still is, one of deliverance for those who have been taken hostage. Isaiah prophesied about the great work that the Jewish Messiah would perform, saying, **“He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,**

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound” (Isa. 61:1).

When Jesus visited the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4) some seven hundred years after the prophecy, He opened to the very same passage in Isaiah 61 and read it in the ears of the people there, and with all eyes fastened on Him, applied the scripture to Himself. He then went out, fulfilling this scripture by giving sight to the blind, making the lame to walk, healing the lepers, and raising the dead. But He also performed an even greater work of hostage release by forgiving their sins. The physical healing was the easier part of the bondage breaking. He showed them that the greater work was to release them from the bondage of sins, saying in Luke 5:23, **“Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?”**

Jesus gathered His intelligence through the Spirit of God, perceived the thoughts of His enemies, and acted accordingly. The scribes and Pharisees would reason in their hearts, and Jesus would pick up what they were thinking, and then aggravate them to no end by forgiving the sins of the common sinners, right in front of their faces.

Once Jesus finished His work on Calvary and said, **“It is finished”**, His soul went down into the heart of the earth to recover a slew of hostages that had been held captive for many years. The Old Testament saints were

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The Great Jewish Hostage Negotiator

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unable to go to Heaven because, though their sins were forgiven, they could not be cleared until the Blood of Christ was shed (Exod. 34:7). The repetitious sacrifices of the priests **“can never take away sins”** (Heb. 10:11), nor was it **“possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”** (Heb. 10:4).

With His work finished that the Father gave Him to do (John 17:4), the Lord Jesus judged the prince of this world (John 16:11), destroyed **“him that had the power of death, that is, the devil”** (Heb. 2:14), took the **“keys of hell and of death”** (Rev. 1:18), and led the hostages out from the heart of the earth (Eph. 4:8). The prison **“gates of hell”** (Matt. 16:18) could not prevail against this Rock. The devil could not say a word, as the Saviour led the captives out and ascended up on high with the former Old Testament hostages in His train. The work of Mossad is kid’s play in comparison.

The Lord’s work of salvation today is one of recovering hostages from out of the snare of the devil (2 Tim. 2:25-26). Satan enjoys keeping prisoners bound, as he opens **“not the house of his prisoners”** (Isa. 14:17), while **“the LORD looseth the prisoners”** (Psa. 146:7). Salvation in this present Church Age is only through faith in Jesus Christ’s finished work, and with that comes not only forgiveness of sins, but also the complete clearing of them in His work of redemption.

One day, as a lost sinner, you were a hostage of the devil, and as a child of Satan, you followed **“the prince of the power of the air, the spirit**

Continued on 18

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ



“He is not here: for he is risen. . .”
Matthew 28:6

FACT OR FICTION?

by Dr. Terry Webber, Th.D.

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Dr. Greenleaf, the Royal Professor of Law at Harvard University, was one of the greatest legal minds that ever lived. He wrote the famous legal volume entitled, *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*, considered by many the greatest legal volume ever written. Dr. Simon Greenleaf believed the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was a hoax. *And he determined, once and for all, to expose the “myths” of the Resurrection.*

After thoroughly examining the evidence for the resurrection—Dr. Greenleaf came to the exact opposite conclusion: He wrote a book entitled, *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence, administered in the Courts of Justice*, in which he emphatically stated, **“IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE that the apostles could have persisted in affirming the truths they had avouched, had not JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY RISEN FROM THE DEAD. . .”** (*Ibid.*, p.29). *Greenleaf concluded that according to the jurisdiction of legal evidence, the resurrection of Jesus Christ was the best supported event in all of history!*

And not only that, Dr. Greenleaf was so convinced by the evidence, he committed his life to Jesus Christ!

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The Great Jewish Hostage Negotiator

Continued from 16

that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). The moment that we called out in faith to the Saviour, He took us from the power of darkness, and **"translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son"** (Col. 1:13). The saved is no longer a child of the devil and of wrath, but now a son of God (John 1:12).

At the rapture of His church, the Lord Jesus will release the saints, who now groan within themselves, having to presently live in the bondage of the body of sin (Rom. 8:20-23). The deliverance of the hostages from the **"body of this death"** is only done **"through Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Rom. 7:24-25). The best deal any sinner could make right now, would be to concede to the negotiation of a reconciliation to God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-19).

The second coming of Jesus Christ will release the Jewish tribulation remnant that endures through the rule of the antichrist, while their brethren

will have been slaughtered by the millions. At the coming of Christ, the Arab terrorists will bow to the Jewish Negotiator, and the inhabitants of Lebanon will be ashamed (Isa. 33:9) and be gracious to Israel (Jer. 22:23). Some years ago, in an interesting choice of words, the leader of Hamas in Lebanon (Nasrallah) gloated that, "Hezbollah will not recognize Israel, not today, not in one thousand years." All he would have to do to accomplish that, would be to stop the sun from rising and the stars from crossing the night skies (Jer. 33:20-21).

The Jewish Messiah will return as King of Kings (Rev. 19), and he will not ask for any deals from terrorist, Arab hostage-takers. He will forcibly make them **"bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet"** (Isa. 49:23). His negotiation tactic will simply be, **"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little"** (Psa. 2:12).

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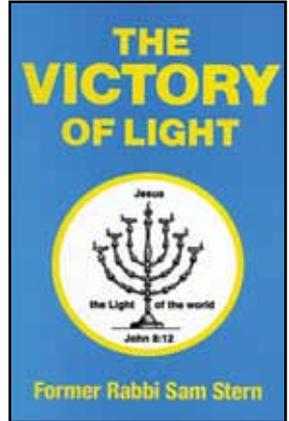
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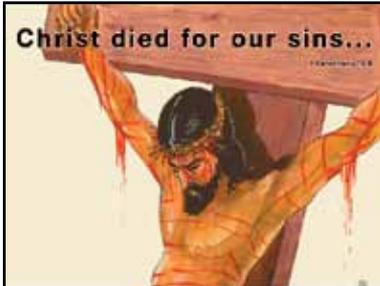


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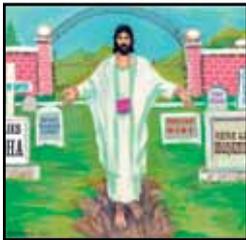
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He is not here: for he is risen.
(Matthew 28:6)

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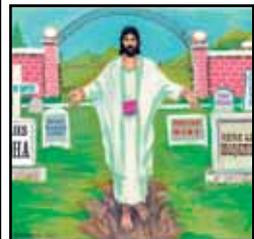
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LAS BUENAS NOTICIAS de la PASCUA



El no está aquí;
porque ha resucitado.
(Mateo 28:6)

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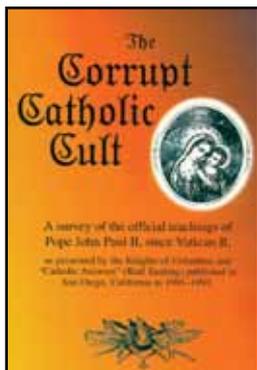
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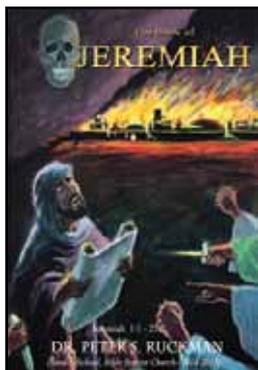
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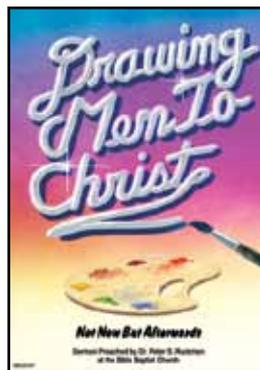
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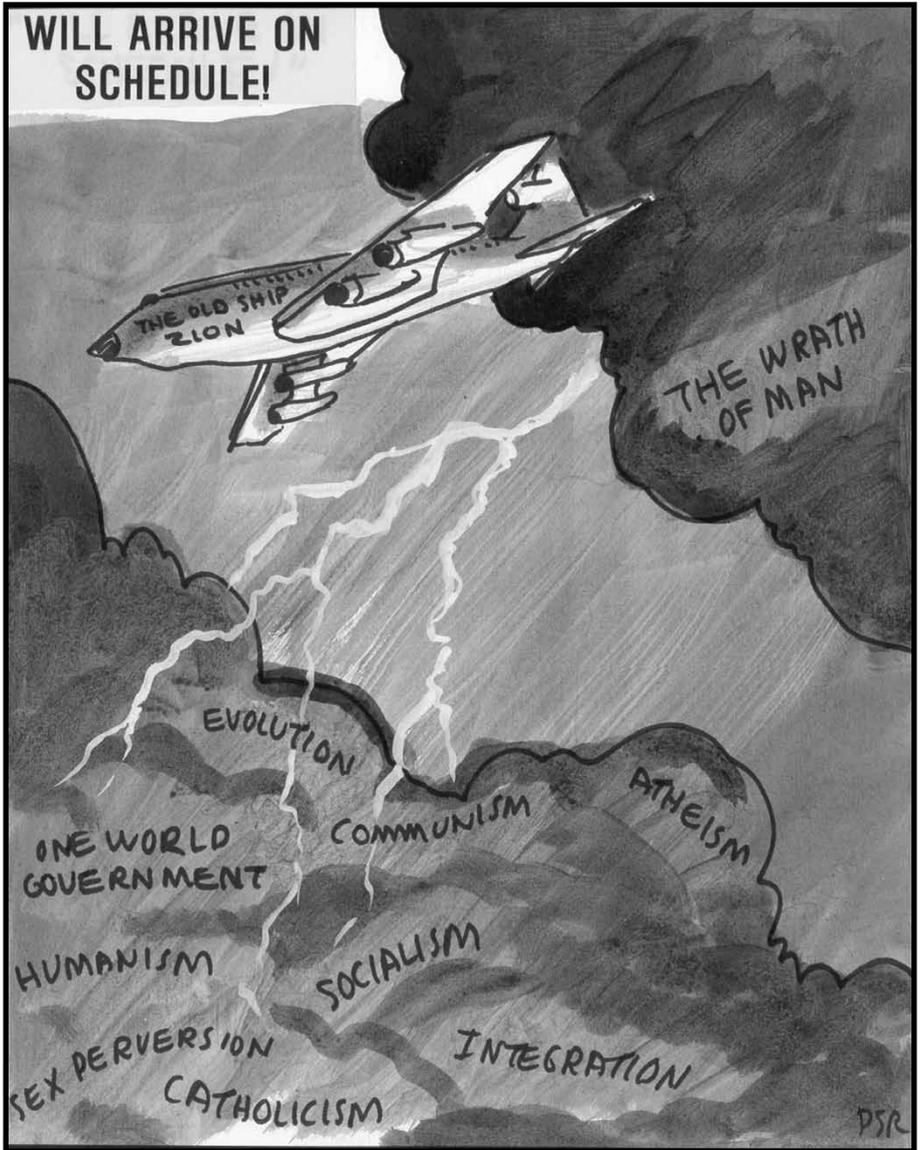


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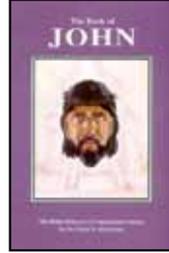
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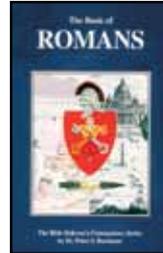
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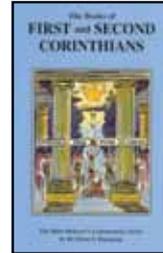
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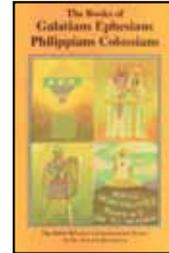
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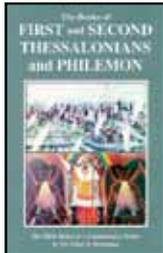
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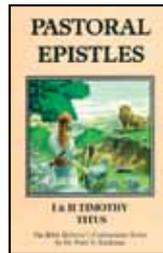
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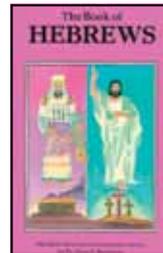
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Spiritual Cataracts

By Robert Militello

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18).

Millions of Christians prayed and voted for Donald Trump last November. He had been perceived as a friend to Christians and a strong supporter of the Netanyahu government in Israel. Few who were amazed at his victory in the election of 2016 thought he would lose to Joe Biden. Well, all the prayers by the saints asking the Lord to give Mr. Trump four more years went by the boards. God hears prayer; we know that. He that does all things well thought it best to turn our nation over to a man approaching senility, if not already there. Our God asserted Himself over the will of His saints in America. **“But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another” (Psa. 75:7).** Why did things turn out this way?

Since the election, I've heard a number of guesses from believers as to why Joe Biden prevailed. There are some who believe our nation is being set up for judgment. Knowing what God says about countries that forget God—that's a safe assumption. I don't pretend to know the mind of God concerning why Donald Trump was sent packing. Still, I have liberty to offer an opinion. I may be off by quite a bit. It has happened before.

Nevertheless, there was something going on with President Trump, his Jewish son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and certain Arab heads of state concerning a comprehensive Mideast peace plan. This plan called for a

Palestinian State. Somehow, somehow, this particular peace initiative (other presidents had their own) may have caused the Lord to take a hand in the matter.

There is no way any Gentile or born-again child of God can comprehend the depth of love God has for His land. He is a jealous God, and He was once married to Israel but put her away for adultery. That land God calls His own throughout the Old Testament was where Jacob's God became intimate with His people. That's not the case now, but it will be again. The Jew, the land, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is a threefold cord that cannot be broken (Eccl. 4:12). No words a human being can think of will adequately explain the connection here. There is a love for that land in the heart of God that is supernatural. Every centimeter of that land is watched over by the Holy Spirit like the hairs on your head.

On January 28th, 2020, President Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, held a meeting at the White House. Both men called for a Palestinian State to be created on land the Jews were given by God—Judea, and Samaria. The details of how this state was to be constructed were to be worked out between the parties under the auspices of the President's son-in-law. The rollout of the plan was scheduled for March. The Lord, knowing all things, had something cooking in the oven while Trump and Netanyahu were posturing as peacemakers. A virus from China was on the way to America, and the peace plan had to be put away in the bottom drawer of the President's Oval

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Spiritual Cataracts

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Office desk. Look at the timing here and tell me if it all was coincidence. The Covid crisis would turn out to be Mr. Trump's Waterloo. Prior to Covid, things were sailing along beautifully with a strong economy, and Trump's reelection was almost a given. Our President was like the captain of the Titanic, never suspecting the iceberg from China would sink his ship.

“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1).

Now, because so-called Christian leaders spent too much time concerning themselves with political issues, they developed cataracts and could not see the danger posed by the “Deal of the Century”. That’s the label President Trump put on the plan to accommodate the Palestinians with the land that belonged to God. Donald Trump prided himself on his ability to put deals together where the chances of success were minimal. He wrote *The Art of the Deal*, which chronicled his rise to billionaire status in a tough New York City real estate market. He was for many years the talk of the town where I worked in Manhattan. Everyone loves a winner. Success has many fathers; failure is an orphan.

After getting elected to the most powerful job in the world, his ego grew larger than the Goodyear blimp. He had Paula White, a TV Christian celebrity, as his spiritual guru. She’s a prosperity gospel devotee. Look her up and understand more clearly why Mr. Trump was headed for a fall.

“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles” (Prov. 21:23).

He bragged too much about

making a deal where others never got to first base. The Lord was listening. He has His own time for allowing the creation of a Palestinian State. There is a man who will put together an amazing agreement that will secure Israel’s borders and allow for the Palestinians to claim a large part of Judea and Samaria as their own. How will the Lord react to this giveaway? Read your Bible.

“And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard” (Micah 5:15).

The man who has been chosen by God to pull off the “Deal of the Century” is on the way. Donald Trump was not going to be that man. Was there anyone in Trump’s circle of Christian big shots who spoke plainly as to how God looks upon the theft of His property? Being close to power has a way of muffling the mouths of those who prefer to do their preaching in the friendly confines of their church buildings. Did President Trump ever hear a bold rebuke from any of his Christian friends? Some of them believe Mr. Trump prayed to be saved. I hope so. Should there not have been at least one Christian “advisor” willing to denounce with boldness the very idea of surrendering God’s land?

“They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly” (Amos 5:10).

Washington, D.C. is eager to hear positive preaching. Every politician wants to believe that the U.S.A. will be just fine if we stay united, eradicate racism, and promote the glories of education and science. God having His pocket picked by Gentile dogs

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Spiritual Cataracts

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coveting His land doesn't keep our spoiled leaders up at night worrying about the future. We look at things that are seen because we are flesh. Everything down here is temporary. Administrations in Washington D.C. come and go. Lying tongues are but for a moment: see Prov. 12:19.

Our God will supply all our need—we have His promise. Sometimes a course correction is needed, and we fail to see it because it appears negative. Many of God's children had, and may still have, trouble accepting the results of last November 3rd. Millions of Trump voters believe the election was stolen. Perhaps, but we will never know for sure. Some things will never see the light of day until the Lord removes the shadows. Consider the death of President Kennedy. Was that a contract killing by the CIA, or the Mafia, or Fidel Castro—who knows for sure? The devilment that has been practiced by the Vatican over the centuries always seems to avoid detection. So what? We have a Book that tells us all we really need to know.

In these last days, it seems that too many of God's people have spent lots of time searching out conspiracy theories. The Book has been neglected much to their hurt. Perpetual distraction is the devil's strategy for thwarting the promise of God.

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

The peace I covet was never going to come from any president—all flesh is grass. Now it's Joe Biden's turn to sit in Caesar's chair. God put

him there whether you believe the election was stolen or not. Get over it and obey 1 Thessalonians 5:18. If heaven is really your permanent address, it shouldn't matter much if the Lord chooses to take away some of the privileges and perks America has allowed Christians to enjoy. I'll repeat—everything here is temporal.

What the Trump defeat really helped to expose was the level of fear in America's Christian population. Faith overcomes fear, and faith grows proportionately as one reads and hears the word of God. So, what can be gleaned from all this, is that TV, especially cable news, got more attention from the saints than did the written words of God. Our society has now become so attached to screens (TVs, phones, and laptops) that reading words on paper is becoming a strange event. If you doubt this trend, observe what goes on in the waiting rooms of doctors, dentists, car repair facilities, etc. Almost everyone is looking at a screen. Reading comprehension scores in America's high schools are an embarrassment. Don't expect the “fair and balanced” media to report on such a topic because it offends the god of education. God bless America, Amen?

It appears that the behavior of President Trump after the election and the riot at the Capital building just before the inauguration caused a lot of his Christian supporters to cool down in their admiration of him. It's not easy to be gracious when you believe you have been swindled out of a victory that appeared certain. Grin and bear it was advice Paul gave to carnal Christians in Corinth.

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Spiritual Cataracts

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There, you had believers taking one another to court, asking Caesar to settle their disputes. What a shame!

“Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you because ye go to law one with another, Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?” (1 Cor. 6:7).

If Donald Trump is saved, growing in the Lord would change his mind about many things. I'm not saying that he was wrong going to court to challenge the vote totals in a number of states. He had every right to do so. Holding on to privilege, status, and power is what you would expect a wealthy man to do.

In the election of 1960, a very close race between Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John Kennedy of Massachusetts, there was a belief that the vote totals for Illinois were tampered with. Kennedy's father, Joseph, was tied to shady characters in Chicago. Cook County, Illinois, had a reputation for corruption. The Democratic mayor, Richard Daley (Catholic), was asked to help swing Illinois to the Democrats. When the votes from Cook County came in, the Nixon lead vanished. Advisors to Nixon told him that fraud cost him the state and the election. Nixon decided not to challenge the results. He believed that a court battle would hurt the nation, so he congratulated Senator Kennedy the next morning. So, America had its first Catholic president. He was shot in the head after less than three years in the White House. Richard Nixon went on to defeat Senator Humphrey in 1968. He later resigned in disgrace in 1974.

Now we have our second Catholic president. Will he finish his first term? We'll see what the Lord has in store for this nation that He has made rich and powerful and has regularly thumbed its nose in the Lord's face. Was the fight waged by President Trump to stay in power in our nation's best interest, or his best interest? I'm as much a patriot as anyone reading this article, but I will not surrender my Christian duty to judge everything in the light of what my Bible teaches. My President, Donald R. Trump, created too many problems for himself. He gave his enemies ammunition to load their guns and fire at him continually.

Now, we are to take heed to Paul's instructions in 1 Timothy 2:1–4. We pray for those in authority so we may live our faith as shining lights in a dark place. Baptists, more than any other denomination, made the separation of church and state a key distinctive of their creed. Our forefathers wanted to live in peace and declare the words of God to all that would listen. There was a fence between Caesar and the body of Christ. Both parties were to respect the prerogatives of each. Something happened with Donald Trump's election. Baptist ministers climbed over that fence and foolishly ignored the danger in doing so. So-called Christian leaders, aware that Caesar was courting them, threw caution to the wind and left their pulpits to attend political rallies and prayer breakfast events. Pastors who warned against this distraction were excoriated and told that they didn't love their country. You know the old admonition, “America, love it or leave it!” Really? I'll stay.

If taking Mr. Trump out of the White

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Spiritual Cataracts

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House is the thing that will lead him to Calvary—wouldn't you be pleased? The Lord loved Trump as much as He loved you and me. Humbling a powerful man can produce much spiritual good depending on how that man takes the humbling. Donald Trump needs prayer. Wouldn't it be a miracle if President Trump dropped plans to start another political party and went to public events witnessing for Jesus and quoting Bible verses? Prayer may move the Holy Spirit to open Joe Biden's heart. I know he's a lost Catholic, but so was my grandfather (my dad's dad), and he was 83 when a Baptist pastor led him to Jesus Christ. Trump's exit from power is not a setback for Christians if you ask the Lord to show you how He sees these events. Everything the Lord allows to come into the lives of His people is for a good purpose.

“Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things” (Prov. 28:5).

When Paul was thrown in prison, the saints must have had great difficulty in understanding why the Lord allowed that to happen. Paul had to reassure them.

“But I would YE SHOULD UNDERSTAND, BRETHREN, THAT THE THINGS WHICH HAPPENED UNTO ME HAVE FALLEN OUT RATHER UNTO THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL” (Phil. 1:12).

Did you get that? Paul's prison epistles became scripture. Did the Christians at that time have any idea of what fruit would come from the apostle's incarceration? How about this?

“And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear” (Phil. 1:14).

I know that President Trump's defeat is a blessing in disguise for the body of Christ in America. Many of the brethren will now give up this fantasy of America becoming great again. It will not happen, and if you have the witness of the Spirit in you, you ought to know that. Saints who fell spiritually asleep watching cable TV or browsing the web should be waking up by this time. The night is far spent. Souls need to be snatched out of hell—that's our business. Caesar is not interested in the Lord's business, so why consider him your friend?

“And what concord hath Christ with Belial?” (2 Cor. 6:15).

Instead of arguing politics, we should look again at when Jude wrote. He said, **“it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that YE SHOULD EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS”** (Jude 3).

What is really worth contending for? Was I called to make America great again, or to warn the wicked to flee the wrath to come? Will I get a crown for demonstrating outside an abortion clinic or signing up new members for the NRA? How dare Caesar take our guns? I have a constitutional right to arm myself, and even though safety is of the Lord (Prov. 21:31), a weapon makes you feel “safer”—right? Am I being sarcastic here? God bless the saint that is not afraid of thinking outside

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Spiritual Cataracts

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the box. Should I count my life and my rights as a citizen dear to me? See Acts 20:24. What would Paul say to twenty-first-century American Christians? Would he be impressed?

When a nation loses the fear of God, it goes in the toilet—regardless of who sits in the White House. The law of human collapse appears throughout the Bible, and it is as trustworthy as the law of

gravity. Donald Trump was not elected to make war against the spiritual decay that has weakened our nation since the end of World War II. America was a safer place at one time. Was it great? That depends on what you mean by great. What made America a safer place than all other nations was that the pulpits preached hell.

Men and women (God help us!) who stand in the pulpits today are, for

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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.

Spiritual Cataracts

Continued from 29

the most part, unwilling to engage in spiritual combat. They are cowardly. What comes out of their mouths is nothing but psychological drivel. America's clergy looks to government to restore decency and bring order to our society. It won't happen. The Lord's body is an army, and what good is an army that doesn't want to fight? President Trump did what he could. Historians will render their verdicts on his presidency, but who cares what they think? The Lord reserves the right to Himself to have the last word on everyone's walk through this vale of tears, or what we

call life.

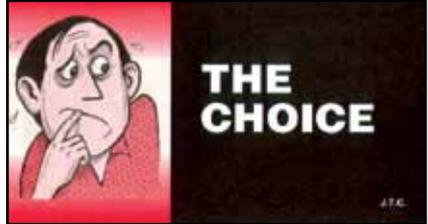
"The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools" (Eccl. 9:17).

Politics is dirty. It's like mud wrestling. If we are a nation of fools that think changing presidents will lift America, then we deserve what we get. Words of wise men are found in a Book that Washington D.C. has little regard for. Sorry to say that many of God's saints are slow learners. When it comes to politics, they are fish out of water. Fight for the Lord's cause. Everything else is a colossal waste of time!

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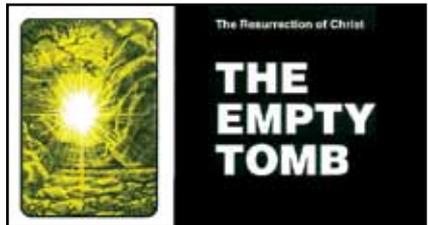
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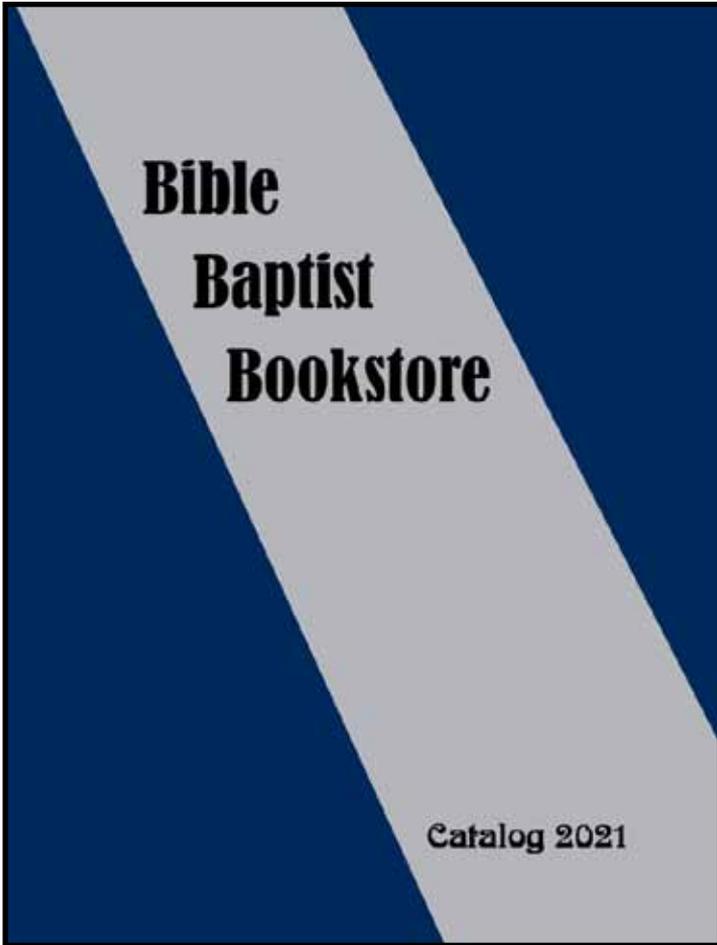
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