



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 45 No. 8

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

August 2021

The Great Work Of Foreign Missions

By Brian Donovan

(Part 1 of 2)

The main reason for a local church building to exist is to have a gathering place for believers to assemble and bring worship and pleasure to the Saviour as they look for His coming (Heb. 10:25). Once gathered, the preaching and teaching of the holy scriptures should strengthen the saints in the most important thing in their lives, namely, their fellowship and walk with the Lord (Matt. 22:37).

All of the letters of Paul to the saints show that it was his desire to bring them closer to the Lord and strengthen them in their faith, so that they walked to please God, as shown in the following verses:

“For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established” (Rom. 1:11).

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all

to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).

“For the love of Christ constraineth us...and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves” (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

“...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

“I therefore the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the Lord” (Eph. 4:1).

“...that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ” (Phil. 1:10).

“...that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing” (Col. 1:10).

“...to the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God” (1 Thess. 3:13).

“...that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer” (2 Thess. 1:5).

“...nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast obtained” (1Tim. 4:6).

“...thou therefore my son, be

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The Man in a Mess

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together” (Acts 4:26, 27).

This account says that when Jesus Christ was being tried, Pilate was in the group, gathered together against Him. The account given in Acts 3:13 says, **“he was determined to let him go.”** Now those are two conflicting positions.

Now, you want to talk about a guy getting in a mess? How would you like to be a Roman governor and have to deal with a sinless man? You know He is sinless, but there was a crowd out there yelling for His blood, and you couldn't make the right decision.

Now Pontius Pilate is one of the most tragic characters anywhere in the word of God. The thing that is so tragic about Pilate is, as far as you know, he's a good guy. Now he may have had something in his record we don't read about in the Bible, but from the Biblical record, he was an upstanding man. He never committed adultery. As far as you know, he wasn't a murderer or an assassin. As far as you know, Pontus Pilate is just a natural, good, fine, upright, respectable—coward. He couldn't rise to the occasion to do what was right.

I know in the Bible, there is no difference. **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Rom. 3:23). I know I shouldn't give any partiality to Pilate just because he was a clean-living character, but there was something about a man when he

lives a good life and is noble or loyal or clean living. When I think about somebody like Rommel, George Patton, or Chesty Puller going to Hell, it bothers me. Now it ought to bother me when anybody goes to Hell. We're supposed to have a burden for everybody, not just a certain bunch.

Pilate had one terrible failing—he didn't have any courage, and, of course, this was his undoing. If he had done right, he would have gone down in history as the greatest man that ever lived. There would have been more books written about him than about Abraham Lincoln or Napoleon.

The crowd was yelling, “Crucify him, crucify him.” Pilate was saying, **“Why? What evil hath he done?”**. Suppose right in the middle of that thing, old Pontus Pilate had just taken his laurel leaf off his head and placed it on Christ's head and taken off his royal robe, and thrown it over Christ's shoulders and said, “There's your King, crucify me!”. But he couldn't do it.

Pontius Pilate's problem was simple. He had Christ on his hands, and he couldn't get rid of Him—just like the world today. Jesus Christ won't go away! You can't bury Him like Muhammad. Here you are up in the 21'st century, and He's still around. Twenty-one hundred years, boy!

Will you accept, or will you reject? You won't get rid of Him, not if He was who He says He is. Now you know me. I believe He was who He said He was. I believe that **“God was manifest in the flesh”**. Christ was the God-man, the perfect, sinless man, and I believe that is why He will always be an issue.

He doesn't die. He already did his dying, and then He came back up, and

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He's been here ever since. The Holy Spirit is in the world today convicting people as Christ said, "**Of sin, because they believe not on me**" (John 16:9).

"When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it." (Matt. 27:24)

Pontus Pilate tried every trick that a man could try to get rid of Christ. They are just as contemporary today as they were when Pilate tried to wash his hands. He was up against the problem that thousands and hundreds of thousands of grown men are up against in America today.

"Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified." (Matt. 27:22)

That is the problem that HAS TO BE ANSWERED! Men don't want to answer it. They want to duck it, and they want to dodge it. Every religion in the world is a religion founded to get around this decision. I'm talking about a man receiving Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

That's the mess people get in. Pontus Pilate was a "man in a mess". The ruses that he tried to get out of receiving Christ are standard. Every unsaved man in America has tried the same things.

Now, the first thing Pilate tried was *Carelessness*. He wanted to give Him the brush off. Just pretend it's no issue, no big deal. Just brush Him off.

"Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said

unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death" (John 18:31).

One way men try to get rid of Jesus Christ is by brushing Him under the rug—pretending the issue doesn't exist. They try by saying, "Well, I've got my religion, and you've got yours." They say, "I was raised such-and-such, I'm gonna die such-and-such." "Well, I take the sacraments, and I'm an altar boy. Who do you think you are?" They won't be faced with the issue, and the issue is the Lord Jesus Christ!

Folks say, "Well, I don't exactly accept Him, and I don't exactly reject Him." No, it doesn't work like that. Pilate has Him on his hands again. Jesus Christ is the hardest person you tried to give the brush-off to in all your life!

Pilate gives them the brush off, he says; Well, you take Him and try Him according to your law. See, he wanted to get Jesus off his back. He said, "You judge Him."

The Jews said, "**It is not lawful for us to put any man to death.**" Of course, they are lying. They didn't say that when they stoned Steven, did they? My what a fine bunch of hypocrites! Now you know why all that was done? That was all done to fulfill all scripture.

"For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken" (John 19:36).

Steven had his bones broken. The Jews could have stoned Him, but the scripture wouldn't let them. The scripture runs unsaved people even when they don't know it. He's going to do it with nails, and a bone isn't going to be broken—just like the scripture said!

I said to a fellow one time, "The

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question is, have you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?". He said, "Well, no I haven't." Then I said, "Then you are against Jesus Christ, aren't you?". He said, "Oh no, I'm not against Him." I said, "If a man isn't for Him, he's against Him. Either you've accepted Him, or have you rejected Him."

It's kind of like a proposal. If you guys want a girl to marry you, you say, "Will you marry me?". What if she answers, "Well, I think you are the finest, sweetest boy in the world. I don't want to hurt your feelings." You say, "OK. Then let's get married." "Well, I just think the world of you, but..." Well, she just turned him down flat. If she wanted to marry you, she would have said, "Yes."

You accept Jesus Christ, or you reject Christ. What's your case? You have, or you haven't, that's all there is to it. Pontus Pilate tried to get rid of Jesus Christ by carelessness, and it didn't work.

Now the next thing Pilate tried was *Cowardice*.

"When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time" (Luke 23:6,7).

Do you know what he did? He passed the buck. He said, "He's from Herod's jurisdiction. Let Herod handle the problem." I've seen people do that. People get scared.

There are two kinds of courage. There's physical courage, and there's spiritual courage. I've known many men who, physically speaking, weren't a cowards. However, if they had to stand

up and tell people they love Jesus Christ, they'd faint. No spiritual guts!

One time, I was preaching in a church, and there was a fellow in the back—a big old marine. He had been in about twenty-five years, and he had medals all over him. His chest looked like an Army Navy store! I got through with the service and gave the invitation, and he came down and got saved.

After the service was done, I had a little time to talk to him. I stopped him and said, "What took you so long?". He said, "What do you mean?". I said, "You were raised down south, weren't you?". He said, "Yeah, I was raised in Carolina." I said, "Haven't you heard the gospel your whole life?". He said, "Yeah, I've heard it all my life." I said, "What kept you from getting saved until now?". He said, "I was scared." He looked at me, and he said, "Preacher, I have taken five machine-gun nests single-handed, but going down that aisle, with all those women looking at you, and all those little kids—it scared me to death."

As far as you know, Pontius Pilate was not a thief, a drunkard, an adulterer, a whoremonger, a fornicator, a liar, a pervert, a blasphemer, an extortioner, an embezzler, or a kidnapper. Still, he lost his soul because of a lack of backbone. He tried to push the Lord off on Herod.

Men do that. They run from the Lord. They worry about how they are going to live it. They worry about what people are going to say about them.

One time, a guy told me when I tried to lead him to Christ that he couldn't get saved. I said, "Why?". He said, "I drive a beer truck, and I'd have to give up my job." When I got saved, I was a

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disc jockey in the daytime and a dance band drummer at night. And what were you saying?

In all the years I've been saved, I've only ever talked to one fellow that gave an honest answer about this thing. His name was Archie, and he was about 30 years old. He was a devil! He would keep the car at home on Sunday so his wife couldn't go to church and had to have somebody come and pick her up. He'd tell dirty jokes in front of her and her friends to embarrass her. His daddy was a white-haired old deacon in one of those churches around there and a real spiritual, godly old saint.

I got him at home one day when nobody was around there and went in and talked to him for about half an hour and got nowhere with him. Finally, I said, "Archie, you were raised in a Christian home, and your wife is saved. You know everything I'm telling you." He said, "Yeah, I guess I do."

I said, "Archie, I want to ask you something. What's going to happen to you when you die?" He said, "I'm going to Hell." I said, "What's Hell like, Archie?" He said, "It's a lake of fire." I said, "Will you ever get out?" He dropped his head and said, "Nope, I'll never get out." That shook me. I said, "Archie, you give me one good reason why you couldn't bow your head and get saved right now?" He said, "I'll tell you why, I'm not man enough. I just don't have the guts."

Cowardice didn't work. And you know what happened when Pilate sent Jesus to Herod? Herod sent him right back.

"And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe,

and sent him again to Pilate" (Luke 26:11).

The next thing Pilate tried was *Cleverness*.

"And Pilate...Said unto them... behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him...I will therefore chastise him, and release him. (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)" (Luke 23:13-17).

They try that. Men try to educate themselves out of Salvation. My dad was like this. My dad went to 10 years of college, had an I.Q. of 150, and was Ph.D. He went off to college to study geology to prove that evolution was right and that Genesis was wrong. The bigger the belfry, the more room for the bats! He had a master's degree from M.I.T. in Boston. My dad was one of those intellectuals and just as lost as he could be. My dad used his brains to get around believing Genesis.

After I got saved, I went up to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware where he was retired. I got down on my knees in front of him and my mother and asked him to forgive me for the way I lived as a teenager. I didn't know how to witness to anybody, I had just been saved a couple of weeks, and I made a big fool out of myself. I was bawling and got down on my knees, asked them not to go to Hell.

I saw him one more time before he died and had a chance to deal with him. By then, I had done some personal work. I had dealt with easily 4,000 people face to face. He was rejecting the scriptures just as fast as I was giving them.

He said, "I don't believe in a devil.

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If you had a devil, you would have an opposing force to God. (He was a deist.) If you had an opposing force to God in the universe, you couldn't count for the laws of physics to hold up. For example, you couldn't count on the tensile strength of steel while building a bridge."

I said, "Dad, the devil ain't interested in the tensile strength of steel on a bridge—he's interested in damning your soul." He got up with his face just white and went out of the room. That's the last chance I ever had to deal with him. He was scared out of his britches—with all his education.

I remember one time I had a meeting in Tallahassee, FL. I was out doing personal work with the pastor one day, and we stopped by a house, and this old fellow was sitting out on his front porch spitting tobacco juice into a can. He was a "hard-shell" Baptist, as they call them, a 5-point Calvinist, more like a hard head than a hard shell!

I was dealing with him about his soul, and we went round and round and got nowhere. He'd say, "Well, the thing is to be shall be. You believe that, don't you?". Finally, I said, "Pop, it won't do you any good to talk like that after you been burning in Hell for about 20 million years." He said, "Well, I guess maybe your right."

That poor fellow was from back in the backwoods and had never finished the 6th grade. He was sitting there trying to figure out the eternal decrees of God in order to get out of receiving Christ! You can't get around Him!

The world's greatest minds have been dedicated to attacking that Book. They have always been dedicated to getting rid of that Book and finding

something wrong with the historical accounts of the resurrection, so the man doesn't have to receive Jesus Christ.

People say, "How do you know you're saved, Ruckman? How do you know Christ was raised from the dead?". I met him in downtown Pensacola in 1949. That's how I know He's not dead!

Pilate said, "I have two prisoners here: Barabbas and Christ. Which one do you want to let go?". He said to himself, "They wouldn't want Barabbas; he's a murderer and a thief."

"And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)" (Luke 23:13-17)

His cleverness didn't work—Pontius Pilate had Jesus on his hands again, so he tried the last thing that men always try. When nothing else works, then *Compromise*.

Pilate was in a sweat. In the middle of all that, as if he doesn't have enough problems, out comes his wife. She says, **"Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him."** (Matt. 27:19)

He starts to think; the crowd just wants a little blood. They want Him crucified, but if I just bloody Him up a bit and they can see Him, they'll have mercy on Him and let Him go.

"I will therefore chastise him, and release him" (Luke 23:16).

"Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of

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the Jews! and they smote him with their hands” (John 19:1-3).

He takes Jesus Christ and has Him whipped within an inch of His life, again fulfilling scripture.

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:5).

“The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows” (Psa. 129:3).

This is the last thing an unsaved man will do. Men say, “I’ll clean up, and I’ll start taking my family to church.” “I’ll make a family altar and memorize a couple of verses of the scripture.” “I’ll quit my beer buddies downtown.” “I won’t buy lottery tickets anymore.” “I might even join the church and get baptized.” A lot of them do that. Do you know what that is? That’s a compromise.

He declared the victim innocent two times, but he didn’t have enough guts to let Him go. Now He comes dripping in blood, and Pilate says; I got it made now, I got it made now. **“Behold the man.”**

“Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.” (John 19:1-6).

And there he has Him on his hands again. He says, **“Why? What evil hath he done?”**

“The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought

to die, because he made himself the Son of God” (John 19:7).

Do you know what Pilate did? He called Christ back and asked Him, “Where are you from?”. He KNEW where He was from (geographically). He had just sent Him to Herod because He was from Herod’s jurisdiction. He knew exactly where Jesus was from. No Roman governor with access to the tax roll could miss where He was from.

The Lord stands there and doesn’t answer him, and Pilate blows his top.

“Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?” (John 19:10)

That bloody figure looks at him with spit and tears running off Him and says, **“Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above”** (John 19:11). And that really rattled his cage

“And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar’s friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar” (John 19:12).

What am I going to do, what am I going to do, what am I going to do? Pilate had Christ on his hands again. He tried every way in the world to get rid of Him, and nothing was working.

“When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it” (Matt. 27:24).

Poor old compromising, vacillating,

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 plastic, pliable, pitiful Pontius. If he just could have risen to the occasion. He just couldn't make it; too many strings attached to it ("**If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend**"). Uh, oh! There's your income, buddy. They got him in the billfold.

Tradition tells us that Pontius Pilate lost his job anyway about four years later and was exiled to the Black Sea where he committed suicide.

We know nothing about Pilate's other sins, but there is not a trace of adultery, murder, killing, stealing, lying, pride, jealousy, laziness, or idolatry in the Biblical text. His only sin was the sin of any man in Hell today: refusal to

act on what he knew to be right. Pilate got in a "mess," and he never got out.

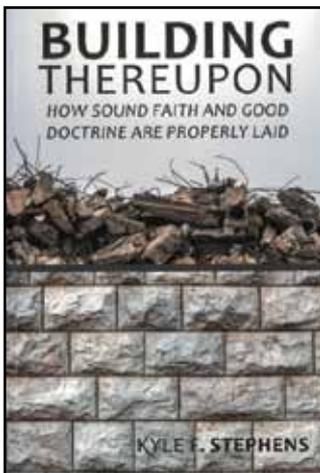
There is no way for you or any other man to avoid the decision Pilate had to make. Eventually, you will have to receive Jesus Christ or reject Him. If Pilate could have "risen to the occasion", he would have gone down as the greatest man in history outside of Christ Himself, but he could not.

The question of questions is, "**What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?**" (Matt. 27:22)

The proper answer is, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house**" (Acts 16:31).

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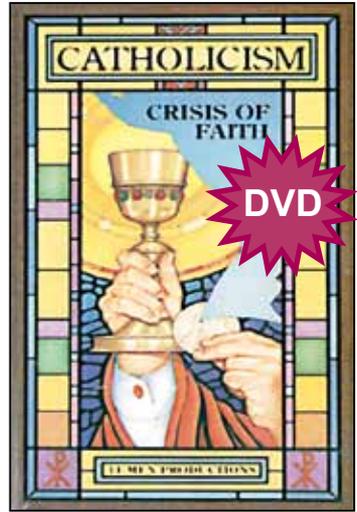
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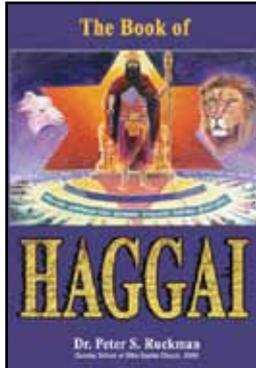
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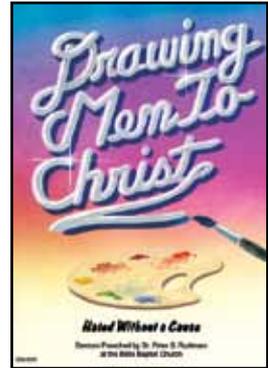
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The Great Work Of Foreign Missions

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strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:10).

"...teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

The efforts of Bible-believing ministers should be to **"give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word"** (Acts 6:4), that we might be able to **"feed the flock of God which is among you"** (1 Pet. 5:2). It is not to see how large the Sunday school attendance can be, how big a fleet of buses can be obtained, or how big and beautiful of an edifice can be built.

At Bible Baptist Church here in Pensacola, we have an adequate building that is about forty-plus years old. The Pensacola Bible Institute has a building that is fifty-five-plus years old. As long as those buildings continue to hold in the air conditioning in summer, hold in the heat in winter, and hold off the rain (for the most part), we will keep them, and thank God that we still have them. Our prayer is that the Lord continues to come and meet with us in these old buildings, and never leave us to ourselves.

A new building could never take the place of our Saviour gracing us with his presence and moving during the singing and the preaching and teaching of the scriptures. No one joins our church or comes to attend PBI for the "decor". No visitor ever comes to our old building and gets impressed with

the "elegance and ambiance" of the place. Yet countless folks have come and gone giving testimony that they were impressed with the singing of praises to our God and the preaching of the KJV1611 and how He spoke to their souls. A new building cannot make that happen.

The next most important thing after your personal walk with the Lord, is for you to go out after souls, whether across the street, across the nation, or across the oceans. As a result, here at Bible Baptist Church, we intend to continue to invest in sending men to go out and preach the gospel to every creature. Whenever we preach, we are after the man, not his money. When the Lord wholly gets the man, He'll get his wallet. Our efforts at this church are to invest our time and money into training young Christians to live for Christ, and then sending them out and supporting them as they go after souls.

The real need in this Laodicean age is not money. We live in an age of being **"increased with goods"**, not knowing **"that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked"** (Rev. 3:17). The real need of Bible Baptist Church is Christ. The real need of foreign missionaries is Christ. The real need of the foreign mission field is labourers to go into His harvest. We need men and women who are sold out to the Lord Jesus Christ to GO.

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few" (Matt. 9:37-38).

The Lord will see to it that the needs
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are supplied (Phil. 4:19), wherever there is a submission to His call. There is no price tag on a soul submitted to the will of God. If given a choice between putting ten million dollars into the church account, or helping ten men willing to submit to the will of God, I'll take the ten men any day of the week.

Every saved sinner has a ministry to reach the lost. Every child of God has a calling to tell others. Although every saint cannot be called to go overseas as a missionary, we are all called to have a part in that great work of saving souls. Once we were reconciled to God through Christ, He gave to each of us **"the ministry of reconciliation"** and has made us **"ambassadors for Christ"** (2 Cor. 5:18-20). We are actually in the place of Christ to the lost sinner today, and when we give out the gospel, it is as if Christ Himself is doing the preaching (2 Cor. 5:20).

Though the needs are everywhere, and the burdens are great, every saved soul must find what part, and where, he fits into this calling. Seeing the multitudes going to Hell should compel the Christian to do something. What Christian could not develop a burden when he sees the twenty-two million souls of Sao Paulo without Christ, the eighteen million souls of Bangkok, the thirty-seven million souls of Tokyo, the twenty-one million souls of Mexico City, the thirty million souls of Delhi, or the eight million souls of New York City? But picking up a burden is not the same as having a specific calling.

I have felt heavy burdens when

in Bangkok, Johannesburg, Seoul, Manila, Athens, London, Paris, Rome, Cairo, Istanbul, Amsterdam, Munich, Lilongwe, Sao Paulo, Montreal, Edinburgh, Copenhagen, Vienna, Brussels, Chisinau, and dozens of cities in the USA. But those burdens do not constitute a calling. Every one and a half seconds, another soul steps out of this world, and into eternity. There is no question that the vast majority are lost (Matt. 7:14), so how could it be possible to NOT be burdened?

Missions work is not a secondary program of the local church to perform whenever they feel that there is enough money left over for it. It is not an option, but a major reason for its existence. Some pastors look at money to foreign missions as a hindrance to their local plans of building an empire. Bible-believing preachers should not just occasionally train a foreign missionary, but should kindle a missionary spirit in every single Christian in the congregation. Since the Holy Spirit of God is **"not willing that any should perish"** (2 Pet. 3:9), then any Christian walking in fellowship with that same Spirit will have a part in winning souls in some form.

The local, Bible-believing church that is in fellowship with the Spirit of God will hear that voice calling for someone to go, and at the same time, hear that voice calling others to help those reach their calling (Acts 13:1-3). The first Christians went out into all the world as they were commanded (Matt. 28:19-20). They were not big

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shots, but servants who witnessed to their masters, prisoners who told their jailers, and just common, saved sinners with a desire to reach the lost.

Despite the persecutions of the pagan Roman rulers (70-200 AD), which was then followed by the slaughters of the pagan Papal rulers (400-1500 AD), the gospel could not be stopped. The blood of the martyrs inspired many more believers to take part in this most important work of taking the gospel to the lost. Most of the church historians are actually writing about the "anti-church history" that comes from the Roman whore.

Clovis of the Franks celebrated X-mass of 496 AD by being baptized along with 3000 of his troops, in obedience to their "mother". One hundred years later, Augustine was commissioned by Pope Gregory to corrupt the Bible-believing Celtic churches that preached the pure gospel of Christ. In a master stroke of satanic genius, Gregory allowed the pagans to keep their festivals and temples, only now to use them for Christ. The apostles of Satan continued in Germany with Boniface, backed by Charles Martel (the Hammer 750 AD), enforcing the pagan Roman Catholic ways on the heathen masses, and then Charlemagne (800 AD) was crowned by Pope Leo III to conquer Western Europe for "**the mother of harlots**".

The real "missions movement" of the Roman anti-church was the Crusades, in which tens of thousands of Jews, Muslims, and Bible-believing Christians were slaughtered by the mother

of abominations from 1095-1291 AD. This work was followed up by Spain's Roman Catholic Queen Isabella, who hunted down the "heretical" Bible believers and also expelled the Jews from her land. In France, the Roman Catholic Catherine de Medici orchestrated a slaughter of the Bible-believing Huguenots in 1572, with estimates of up to 30,000 killed as the Seine River became red with their blood.

Yet the Lord has always had a "**few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments**" (Rev. 3:4), and it began with the "Morning Star of the Reformation", John Wycliffe. In 1382, Wycliffe translated the scriptures into the first complete English Bible from the old Latin manuscripts that corrected Jerome's Vulgate. John rejected the Roman Catholic Church's heresies of transubstantiation, prayers for the dead, infant baptism, and Mary worship. More importantly, he trained his disciples to go out into the fields and streets and markets and preach a pure gospel.

These men were deridingly called Lollards, and became the forerunners of the Moravians, who later would be used in the great missionary thrust of the 1700s. Wycliffe died preaching the truth, and thanks to his teaching that the Popes were antichrists, his corpse was dug up under orders of Otto Colonna (alias Pope Martin V) and burned at a stake in 1428, some forty-four years after he died.

John Huss of Bohemia (today's Czech Republic) took up and trans-

Continued on 13

The Great Work Of Foreign Missions

Continued from 12

lated the banned works of Wycliffe into Czech, and also followed his lead in preaching the gospel to every creature outdoors. This earned John a martyr's crown, as he was burned at the stake by Pope Alexander V, one of the three stooges who all claimed to be Pope in 1415 (one in Avignon, one in Pisa, and one in Rome). The whole area of Bohemia, for the most part, remained a Bible-believing population until the 1620s, when the Hapsburg dynasty finally subdued the Hussite majority.

For the most part, the 1600s found that the Protestant missions movement was minimal, with the Lutherans (Luther) and Quakers (George Fox) and others being used to return to the scriptures for their beliefs instead of creeds. But with the 1700s, there was a return to the apostolic times of evangelism, with the Moravians leading the way.

Nicholaus Von Zinzendorf was born into a wealthy German family in 1700, and as a nineteen-year-old young man, saw a painting by Domenico Feti called "Ecce Homo" (Behold the Man), with a beaten and bleeding Christ being presented to the crowd by Pontius Pilate. The caption read, "All This I Did For You, What Are You Doing For Me?". At that point, Zinzendorf dedicated his life to Jesus Christ and used his wealth to establish a shelter for the persecuted believers in Europe, and called the place "Herrnhut" (The Lord's Watch).

The real thrust for foreign missions did not come until 1731, when he attended the coronation of the Danish

king and met two native converts from Greenland. Zinzendorf returned to Herrnhut with a determination to send men to go after lost souls throughout the world.

The same year, the Moravian Leonard Dober, stowed away into a slave ship headed for St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. He was followed by eighteen more men who spent the couple-of-months voyage across the ocean beneath deck in a 10' by 10' room that wasn't high enough to stand in. These missionaries worked alongside black slaves to reach them with the gospel in St. Croix and Surinam.

Moravian missionaries went to the Gold Coast (now Ghana) in 1737, South Africa (1737), Jamaica (1754), Antigua (1756), and Labrador (1771). In one twenty-eight-year period, the Moravians sent out 228 missionaries across the earth.

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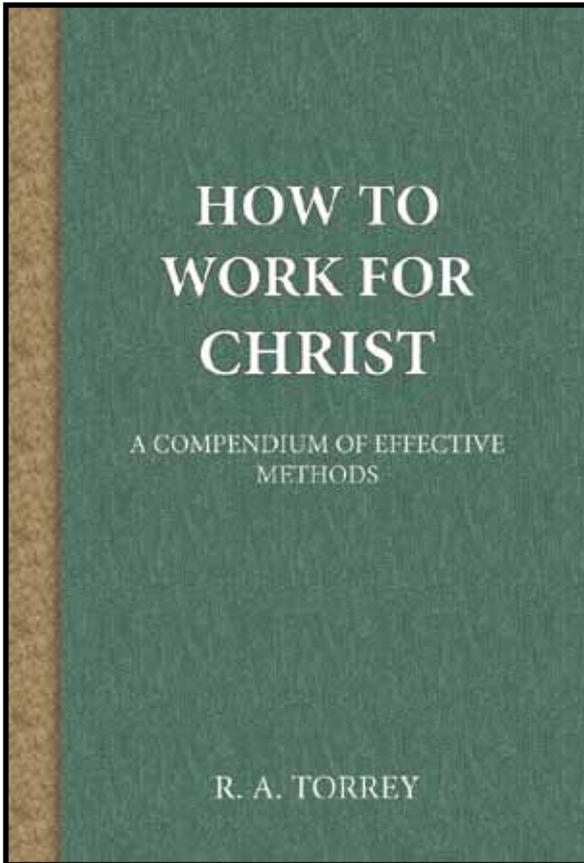
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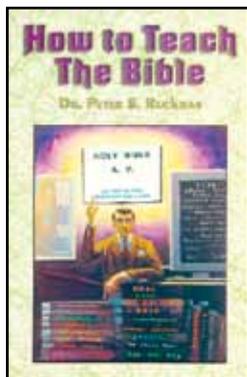
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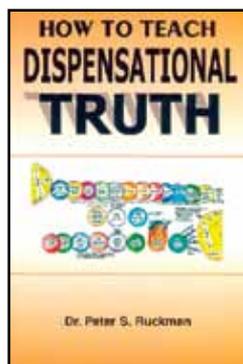
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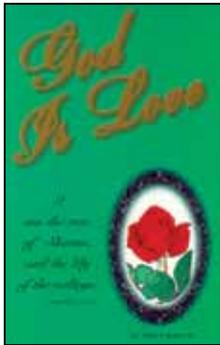
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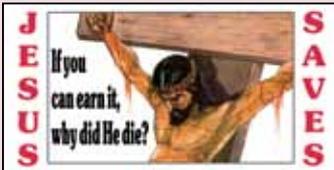
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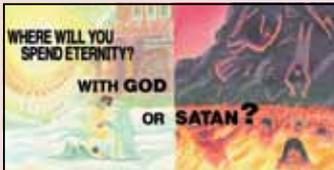
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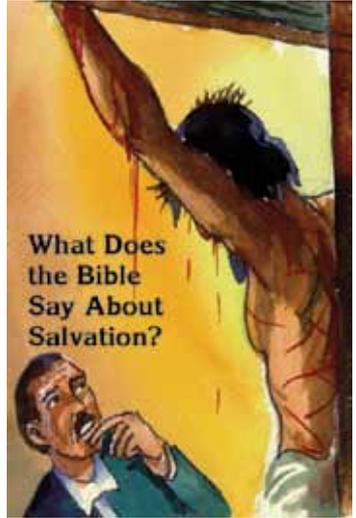
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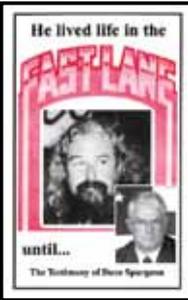
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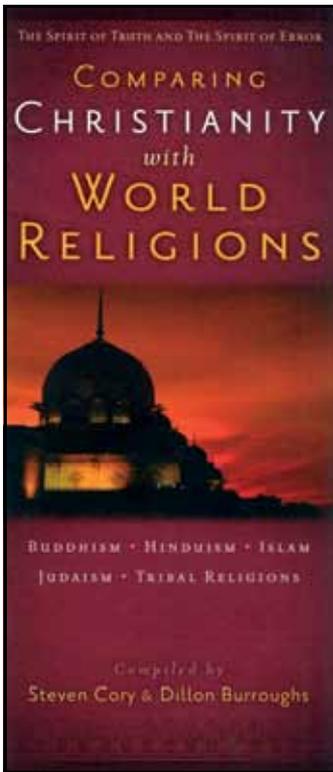
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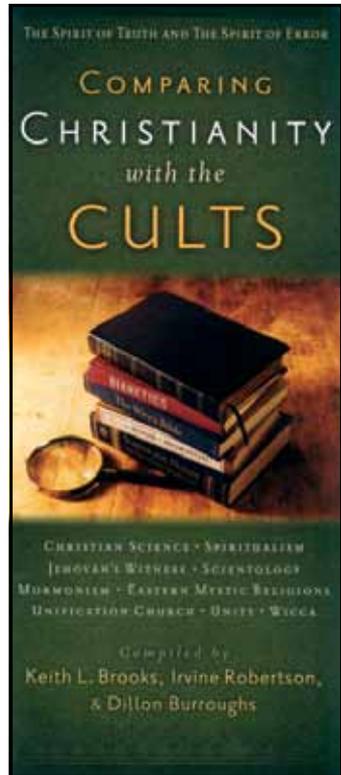


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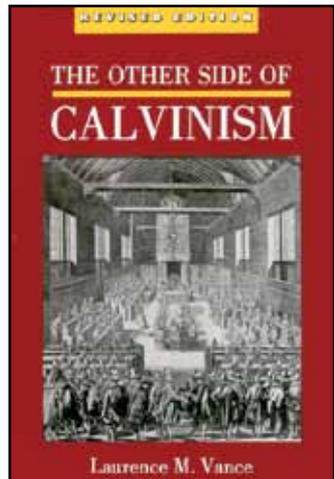
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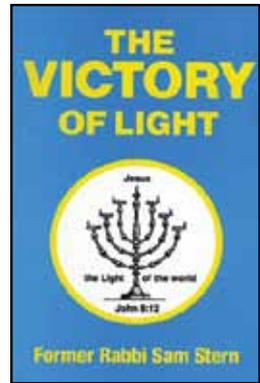


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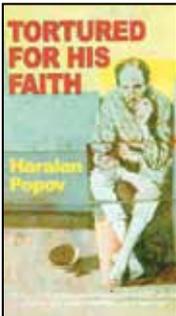
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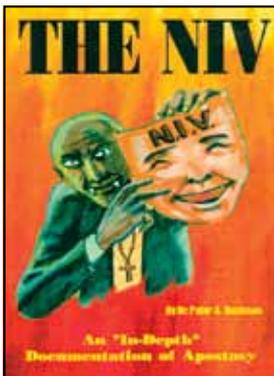
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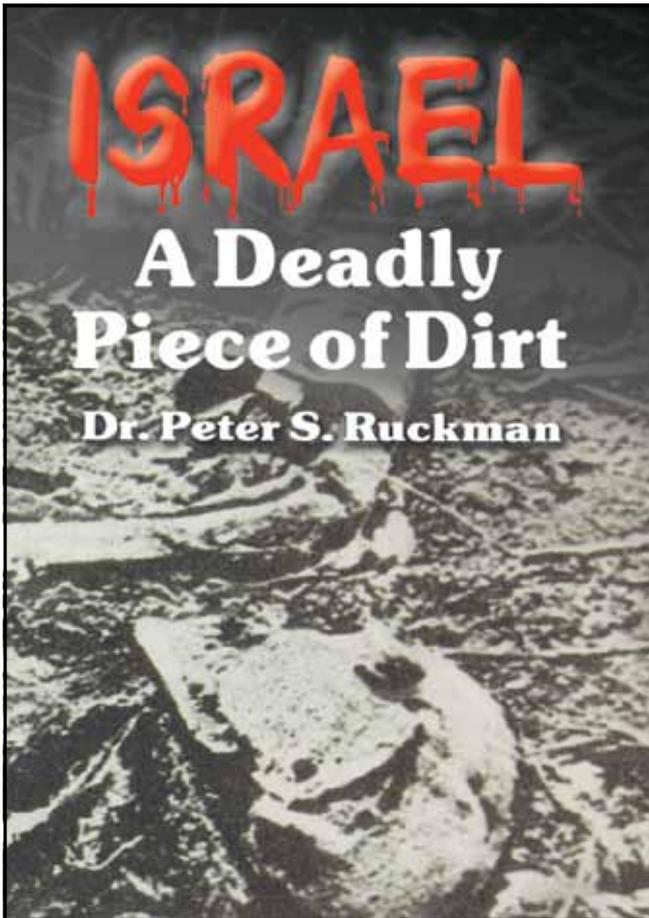


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Number 13 Arrives

By Robert Militello

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun” (Eccl. 1:9).

An allegory can be a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to manifest a hidden meaning. The word appears once in our King James Bible in Galatians 4:24. Paul shows that Ishmael and Isaac, Abraham's sons, typify two covenants (verses 25-26). One is of bondage (that's Ishmael) and one of promise of freedom for Isaac. The Jews were given the promises of God. They were not without hope in this world as the Gentiles were. Gentiles now, because of grace, have access to all God's promises through the new birth. Oh, the riches of His mercies!

So, the Old Testament is a factual history, but it is also allegorical in many respects. Sometimes the Lord is pleased to pull the curtain away and give us insights in scripture that amaze and bless us.

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psa. 119:18).

Some years ago, I was drawn to the similarities between the prime ministers of the modern state of Israel and the judges of biblical Israel. Modern history testified to the faithfulness of God's word in a spectacular way when on May 14, 1948, Israel was born again, although not spiritually. So, something that was long ago is back; surprise, surprise.

Judges is the seventh book in

scripture, and it covers a period of ongoing apostasy interrupted by God's mercies through deliverers and judges. Modern Israel is in many ways the Book of Judges Part II, though not in its lengthy period of years. Today, Israel has prime ministers, and they act as judges making decisions for the well-being of the state. Israel has a president, but that office has little real power. Still, it does serve as a pulpit of sorts engaging in national moral persuasion as circumstances often dictate.

Starting with Moses (Exod. 18:13), followed by Joshua (Deut. 34:9), and ending with Samuel (1 Sam. 7:15), there have been thirteen judges. Saul is anointed by Samuel, and Israel gets a king, and he is much more than a judge for the people of God. Today, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has recently completed his course as prime minister number 12. Eli was judge number 12, and he also hung around a long time before Samuel took over. Eli did not finish his course well. The ark of God was taken, and his sons were killed in battle with the Philistines (1 Sam. 4:17).

Coincidentally, Ehud Olmert, Israel's eleventh prime minister, finished his course in a sad way, as did Samson, judge number 11. There are other notable connections between all those appointed by God to be caretakers for His people, but what impressed me most was the listing of the only female judge (Judg. 4:4).

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Number 13 Arrives

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Deborah, a prophetess, gets the call from God, and with Barak, Israel gets deliverance from the Canaanites. After Moses, Joshua, and Othniel (Judg. 3:10), Caleb's nephew, a woman takes command as the fourth judge of Israel. In 1969, Israel turns to Golda Meir to lead the nation. She succeeds David Ben Gurion, Moshe Sharett, and Levi Eshkol. As prime minister number 4, she will send Israel's army out to battle. That will be the Yom Kippur war of October 1973. No other female will become prime minister, and after Deborah, there were only males called upon to judge God's flock. What signposts God gives us along the way to show us how near the Day of the Lord is.

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief” (1 Thess. 5:4).

If the pattern holds, this last prime minister, number thirteen, will transition Israel away from a parliamentary government toward an eventual monarchy of sorts. Next door to Israel, Jordan has had a king since the British created the nation and, Jordan encompasses land given to the Jews by Moses. Remember, the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh requested pasture land east of the Jordan. Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, had been defeated (Num. 32-33) by God's army and to the victor belongs the spoils.

Israel's last election on March 23 (the fourth election in two

years) failed to give Prime Minister Netanyahu the majority in the Knesset (Israel's parliament) that he had hoped to gain. Israel's political parties, large and small, have taken their bickering to what has become a national disgrace. Israelis are sick of it, so they yearn for a kind of political deliverer who can unify the nation. Prime minister number 13 may turn out to be a kind of Samuel, though lost as a Jew without Christ.

Actually, Israel has suffered from over democratization since its founding. It has had 110 political parties represented in the Knesset. Today, there are 39 parties registered in Israel. To gain a seat in the Knesset, a party must exceed 3.5 percent of the electorate vote total. Voters in Israel vote for parties, not candidates directly. This system is failing, and everyone in Israel knows it.

There are now 13 parties lusting for power and a thirteenth prime minister running the show. This tiny nation with God's name is still headed for turbulent waters. So, the body of Christ looks on and waits (patiently?) for the long-promised deliverance (Tit. 2:13) from the prophesied outpouring of God's wrath. The creation of the modern state of Israel was unquestionably God saying to the Gentile world, “Your days are numbered!”. Few expected a nation long dead to come up out of the ashes.

Among those who had written that the promise of a national resurrection for Israel was never

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Number 13 Arrives

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going to happen was America's esteemed poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. When men highly esteemed by the world or idolized as celebrities speak or write on things contained in God's word, they manifest the darkness that is in them, despite their fame.

Longfellow wrote in 1854 a poem entitled *The Jewish Cemetery at Newport*. He had visited the burial yard of the first Jewish congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, established in 1684. The Touro Synagogue was visited in August 1790 by President George Washington. God's blessing upon our nation was kickstarted by little Rhode Island, which colony first granted religious freedom to all its inhabitants. Size never matters much to the Lord, as Goliath had learned centuries before.

Longfellow's fifteen stanza poem ends with a pitiful lament telling me he was a stranger to God's word:

"But ah—what once has been shall be no more!

The groaning earth in travail and in pain,

Brings forth its races, but does not restore,

AND THE DEAD NATIONS NEVER RISE AGAIN."

You weren't around to see it, Mr. Longfellow, but in 1948, the Lord proved you wrong. To be fair, many Christian expositors of the word also taught that God was finished with national Israel, although Paul warned against this delusion in Romans 11.

Modern, secular Israel was

born to die. It wears grave clothes and knows nothing of the Lord's quickening power. As a lost man, it needs to be born again. How long will this "dead man", modern Israel, continue to serve as God's flypaper trapping the nations in a death spiral because of their hatred of the Jew?

Born in 1948, Israel was a young man who grew up fighting for his life, and the Lord kept the state alive. Now, he's older and is hardened by sin. The nation's politicians are at each other's throats. Israeli society has become more corrupt. Tel Aviv is the gay capital of the Mideast. Palestinians will riot and kill, demanding a state of their own. Modern Israel will become exhausted and turn to a deliverer. Getting old leads to the need for a caretaker. The United States will drift further away from its support of Israel.

"As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching, we have watched for a nation that could not save us" (Lam. 4:17).

Will the United States come to Israel's defense in the future? What do you think? The political wind in Washington, D.C. today doesn't bode well the way it did for Israel under Trump. Those days are gone.

Now Moses wrote in Psalm 90:10 that man has seventy years to do his thing on this earth and ten more if he takes care of himself. Israel was 73 on May 14, 2021. Verse 11 in that Psalm is ominous. It shows the Jew full of fear. Verse 12 is an implied admission of wasted time,

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Number 13 Arrives

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and verse 13 is a plea for rescue. How can one miss seeing Israel today in these verses?

How many Israelis today are aware of how short their time is? Israel is an old man hardened by sin, trusting in its military and stubbornly refusing to obey what the prophet Moses wrote about in Deuteronomy 18:18-20. Only God has the power to raise the dead. He raised Israel out of a grave after almost two thousand years. Shortly, He'll raise what is left of Israel to the new life promised to the nation by the prophets. Ezekiel saw a valley full of bones.

“And he said unto me, son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O LORD God, thou knowest” (Ezek. 37:3).

Israel will be a blessing to all nations. God said it, and it will happen, but great sorrow must precede great joy.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: BUT IF IT DIE, it bringeth forth much fruit” (John 12:24).

There is a very dark cloud ahead for the new prime minister. Naftali Bennett will have to deal with a reenergized Iran thanks to President Biden wanting to deal again with the Persians after President Trump cut them off in 2017. How to confront the increasingly aggressive Iran wanting a nuclear weapon to eventually destroy Israel will test Israel's new government like no other issue facing it. Note how the King James Bible has the Book

of Esther appearing before Job. Bible students know that the Book of Job is a picture of Israel going through the great tribulation. Forty-two months of horror for Israel and forty-two chapters for Job to abhor himself in dust and ashes is clearly in view.

Our Bible, not the Hebrew one ending in Second Chronicles, tells us that Israel's problem before going into the great tribulation will be the Jew-hating leadership of Iran possessing the same spirit of Haman. Today, Iran is the chief benefactor for Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon—both terror organizations looking to sweep Palestine clean of Jews. President Trump's defeat had them dancing in the streets, and now the Democratic Party sees its once-solid support for Israel eroding under pressure from newly elected “Progressives”.

These representatives in Congress are loaded with sympathy for the oppressed Palestinians, and they are backed by all the major media outlets. Christians who know their Bibles and stay informed know which way the wind is blowing. Already, our State Department has gone on record supporting a Palestinian Consul's office in East Jerusalem. This, in effect, gives tacit approval for Jerusalem to be divided, with part of it serving as the capital for a future Palestinian state. With the Lord's eye always on Jerusalem and the devilment now resurfacing in the State Department, how much longer will America continue to live off God's

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Number 13 Arrives

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bestowment of abundant grace and mercy? The clock is ticking.

“Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep” (Psa. 121:4).

The United States may wish it had such a promise from God, but it does not. Our nation has turned from the Book that made it great. On June 26, 2015, our Supreme

Court said God was wrong when He said marriage was strictly for a man and a woman.

“It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law” (Psa. 119:126).

So, the Lord is working to take America apart. Our elected representatives put a positive spin on our nation's future while the

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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.

Number 13 Arrives

Continued from 29

Lord flushes a toilet full of drugs, porn, violence, and corruption upon our pleasure-loving, sin-sick society. If the prophet Daniel were around today, would he be asked to explain the handwriting on the wall in President Biden's Oval Office? Does anyone with vision in Washington, D.C., want to tell the voters where we are really headed? See Psalm 9:17. We're going to Hell unless God lied. Israel gets saved; WE DON'T.

For those who doubt the Bible is God's word and not man's, I point to the divine preservation of the Jew. History is fact, not fable, and from the call of Abram to leave his home and travel to a land unknown, the Holy Spirit chronicles the experiences of a peculiar people belonging to an awesome God. The world media focuses on the affairs of that tiny nation totally out of proportion to all other nations besides the superpowers—why? What is it about Israel that causes the movers and shakers of the world to scratch their heads? Even the Pope fears for the future of his corrupt church because the Jew has a future promised by God, and he does not.

“For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?” (Deut. 4:7).

This is why little Israel captures the attention of the whole world. Prime minister number 13, Naftale Bennett, will not for an hour escape from the overbearing scrutiny he will

be subject to as Israel's new leader. He will need the wisdom of Solomon to keep his governing coalition from falling apart. Judging the Israelis today with all the contention among the political factions will be a most exasperating experience, as Pontius Pilate discovered when first assigned to Judaea. Does Mr. Bennett know the people he will govern as well as Moses did? We will soon find out.

Here's Moses praying in Deuteronomy 9:27, **“Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, or to their wickedness, nor to their sin.”**

If you are born again, you have a Jew living inside of you. As America continues to turn away from God, it will experience more antisemitism. Israel will be painted as an oppressor of the Palestinian people by the media. Jews will be hated simply for being Jewish. Fear will lead many Jews to consider emigrating to Israel. They will look for a refuge, but apart from faith in Jesus Christ, this is no real refuge anywhere until He comes. The Jewish Bible in 2 Chronicles 36:23 ends with a charge by Cyrus, king of Persia, to the Jews in his kingdom. They are told to return to Jerusalem. If fear leads many Jews in America to leave for Israel—Amen. Let the will of the Lord be done.

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! HOW UNSEARCHABLE ARE HIS JUDGMENTS, AND HIS WAYS PAST FINDING OUT!” (Rom. 11:33).

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September 16-19

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- Samuel Magdalein

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