

Friday Church News Notes

Another Christian Winner of American Idol: *The World and Christ, Too*

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The new winner of the incredibly worldly *American Idol* television show is Kris Allen, a “devout Christian” who is worship leader at New Life Church in Conway, Arkansas, and has done missionary work in various places.



While pursuing the title of *American Idol*, Allen performed songs written by such filthy rockers as the homosexual Freddie Mercury (“We Are the Champions”), accused child molester and unisex monster Michael Jackson (“Man in the Mirror”), drug, prostitute, pornography addict Marvin Gaye (“What’s Going On?”), and rapper Kayne West (“Heartless”), who has appeared in a blasphemous pose on the cover of filthy *Rolling Stone* magazine depicting Jesus wearing a crown of thorns. According to *Business Insider*, it was Allen’s “teenage-girl fanbase” that kept him in the running (“Idol Finalist Kris Allen,” May 13, 2009). Allen told his pastor that “feeling the warm stage lights and seeing the eager audience looking up at him

reminded him of only one thing: going to church.” But that is only because contemporary churches like his ape the world, the same type of music, the CONTINUED, PAGE 2

BART EHRMAN: AN UNBELIEVER WHO HAS A PROBLEM WITH GOD

Bart Ehrman is the author of “God’s Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question--Why We Suffer.” Ehrman is a “biblical scholar” who rejected his fundamentalist roots for the deadly wilderness of agnosticism. Today he majors in criticizing the New Testament Christian faith even while pretending to respect it. Because of his unbelief, he has become something of a mainstream media darling. He has been interviewed on the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, National Public Radio, National Geographic, BBC, the Washington Post, CNN, and others. Ehrman claims that a turning point in his path to unbelief was his inability to answer the question of why an Almighty God allows suffering in this world. The Bible answers that question, but Ehrman doesn’t like the answer so he pretends that it is not a good one. The answer is that God made man perfect and placed him in a beautiful paradise, but man was also made with a will that could rebel against God, and that is exactly what he did. God did not create suffering; man did through his rebellion against God’s law. At the same time, God is not only a compassionate God, He is a holy and just God and He punishes infractions of His law. If this were not true, the moral basis CONTINUED, PAGE 2

JEWISH ACTIVISTS FILED CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE POPE



Jewish leaders and activists filed criminal charges against Pope Benedict XVI on his recent trip to Israel. According to the complaint, the Vatican is holding treasures from the second temple that were plundered by Rome’s army under General Titus in 70 A.D. The complainants claim that at least some of the vessels are still in existent in the Vatican cellars and the pope, therefore, is guilty of possessing stolen goods (“Pope Named as Defendant,” Arutz Sheva, May 9, 2009). Witnesses to the complaint include Israel’s chief rabbis Yonah Metzger and Shlomo Amar, along with Rabbi Yisrael Ariel of the Temple Institute. We have not been able to find out how the case was settled, but we do know that the pope was allowed to return to Rome even though the complainants had hoped to delay his departure. The Arch of Titus, the oldest arch in Rome, depicts the Roman armies carrying artifacts from the temple in a victory parade. The golden candlestick is plainly visible.

No doubt the Vatican is filled with gold, precious stones and pearls, plundered from others.



R.J. Helton

IDOL, Continued

same rock band format, the same rock show milieu, the same dress, the same addiction to the heavy back beat, the same “judge not” philosophy. Other professing Christian winners and finalists of the *American Idol* competition are Kelly Clarkson, Clay Aiken, Ruben Studdard, R.J. Helton, Chris Daughtry, Carry Underwood, Jordin Sparks, and David Cook. Aiken and Helton have since admitted that they are homosexuals. The October 20, 2006, issue of *People* magazine quoted Helton as saying, “Just because I am gay does not mean I can’t love God. I’m very proud of who I am.” (Helton’s Christian music album *Real Life* sold 20,000 copies.) Aiken was featured on the cover of *People* on September 24, 2008, with the words, “Yes, I’m Gay.” *American Idol* is rightly named, in that it represents the modern pop culture in all of its narcissism, its fleshly sensuality, its immodesty, its unisexuality, its vanity, and its moral relativity. Its producers and judges

make no pretense that it is some sort of platform for godliness. It is, in fact, a perfect fulfillment of the world described in 1 John 2:16, the world that the believer is warned not to love, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:16). It is impossible to love the world and Christ, too. The Word of God says, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). The Christianity represented by the contestants on *American Idol* is not biblical Christianity; it is the apostate Christianity predicted in Bible prophecy, the “live after your own lusts” Christianity. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3).

**EHRMAN, Continued**

of the universe would be destroyed and anarchy would reign (as it does in this present godless world). The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), and God has punished the world for its sin. At the same time, God has made a way of salvation at great cost to Himself. He sent His eternal Son into the world, born of a virgin, to become incarnate as a sinless man and to die a horrible death on the cross to pay the punishment that sinful man deserves. He rose from the dead and commanded that the gospel be preached to all men, offering eternal salvation to those who repent and believe. God has given men light (John 1:9), but most reject it. That is not God’s fault. There is nothing unrighteous about the God of the Bible, but He is God and He does not have to answer to man. God is justified by those who believe. It is not God who has the problem. It is the Bart Ehrman’s of the world that have the problem, and it is not a problem that will end at the grave.

WHY DOES UNBELIEF REIGN IN THE HIGHEST REACHES OF BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIP?

The fact that unbelief predominates in the field of biblical scholarship today is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy and is further proof of its infallibility. Some 2,000 years ago, the apostle Paul looked down through the corridor of time and made the following prediction about the last days: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ... But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. ... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 3:1, 5, 7, 13, 4:3-4). Paul prophesied that the course of the church age will be characterized by increasing apostasy, by an onslaught of false teachers who will deny the faith, and that is exactly what we see today. Other prophecies describe the coming and judgment of Bible teachers that will deny Christ as Lord, which is exactly what Bart Ehrman and his liberal buddies have done (e.g., 2 Peter 2; Jude). If the New Testament is a pack of myths and lies as scholars such as Bart Ehrman claim, how does it contain such precise prophecies?

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ROBERT DICK WILSON: A GREAT SCHOLAR WHO BELIEVED THE BIBLE

In his books, lectures, and interviews, Bart Ehrman and his modernistic buddies would have their listeners believe that no real biblical scholar accepts the Bible's historicity as defensible, but this is nonsense. Many great scholars have defended the Bible as divinely inspired. ROBERT DICK WILSON has been called "probably the outstanding authority on ancient languages of the Middle East." When he graduated from Princeton at age 20, he could read the New Testament in nine languages. Eventually he learned 45 languages, including all of the languages into which the Bible was translated prior to 600 A.D. At age 25, Wilson decided to dedicate the rest of his life to investigate the historicity of the Bible to see if it could be defended against the onslaught of theological modernism. Based on the longevity of his ancestors, he estimated that he might have 45 more years to dedicate to his project. Dividing this into three periods, he devoted the first 15 years to mastering every language that had a bearing on the text of the Old Testament, the next 15 years to the study of the text of the Old Testament itself, and the final 15 years to writing down the results of his research. Among the languages he learned were Babylonian, Ethiopic, Phoenician, Aramaic, Egyptian, Coptic, Persian, Armenian, Arabic, Syriac,

and Egyptian. The Presbyterian Church of America's Historical Center lists over 100 of Wilson's published writings. When asked what he tried to give to the estimated 2,000 students that sat under his ministry, Wilson replied, "I try to give them such an intelligent faith in the Old Testament Scriptures that they will never doubt them as long as they live. I try to give them evidence. I try to show them that there is a reasonable ground for belief in the history of the Old Testament. I've seen the day when I've just trembled at undertaking a new investigation, but I've gotten over that. I have come now to the conviction that no man knows enough to assail the truthfulness of the Old Testament. Whenever there is sufficient documentary evidence to make an investigation, the statements of the Bible, in the original texts, have stood the test" (Robert Dick Wilson, *Is the Higher Criticism Scholarly?* foreword by Philip Howard, 1922). Why did Robert Dick Wilson believe the Bible and teach his students to trust it and believe in God, while Bart Ehrman disbelieves the Bible and encourages his students to be skeptics? It's not a matter of Ehrman having superior scholarship. It is a matter of faith. As Jesus said, an unbelieving heart will not be convinced though it witnesses someone rise from the dead (Luke 16:31).



GROVELING FOR EARTHWORMS OR PLUCKING VIOLETS?

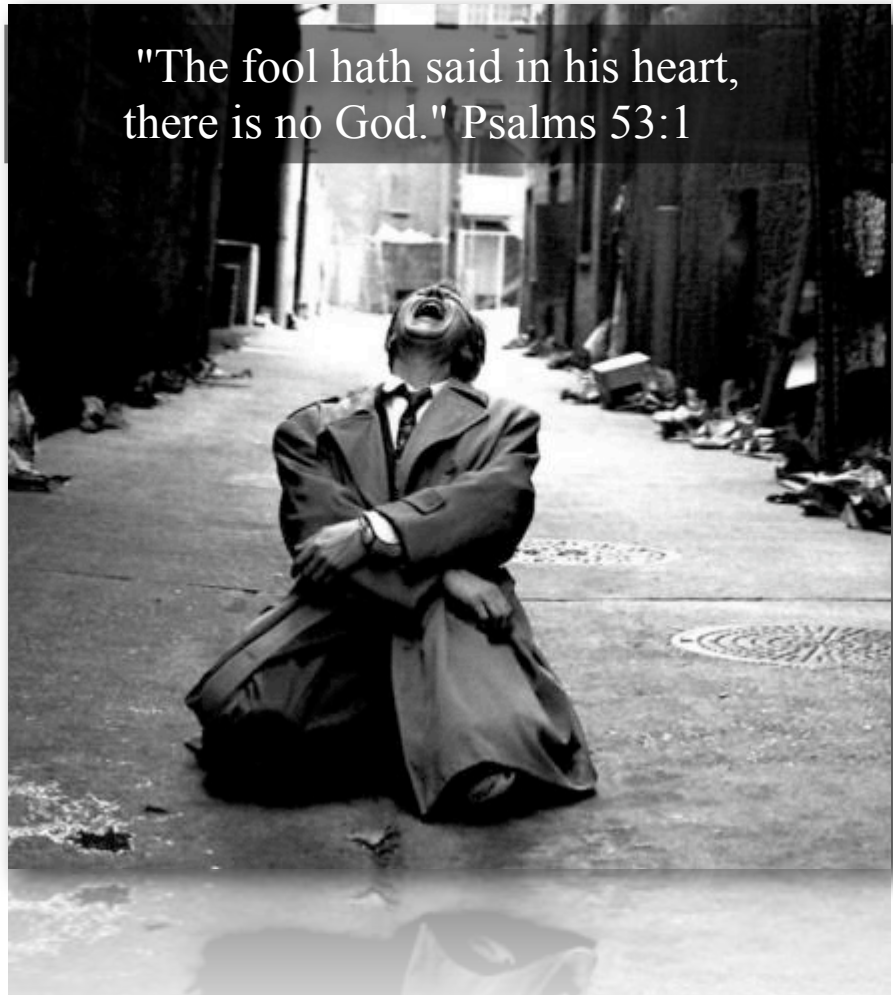
The following is from Robert Dick Wilson's *Is the Higher Criticism Scholarly?* (The Sunday School Times, 1922): "Notwithstanding this evident plan and purpose of a divine redemption which runs all through the Scriptures, there are today many professedly Christian writers who treat of the Israelitish religion as if it were a purely natural development. They diligently pick out every instance of a superstitious observance, or of a departure from the law, or of a disobedience to the divine commands, as if these represented the true religion of ancient Israel. They cut up the books and doctor the documents and change the text and wrest the meaning, to suit the perverted view of their own fancy. They seem to think that they know better what the Scriptures ought to have been than the prophets and apostles and even the Lord Himself! They tell us when revelations must have been made, and how and where they must have been given, and what their contents could have been, as if they knew more about such matters than God Himself. Imagine a man's writing the history of the last eighteen hundred years and denying that the New Testament had been in existence during all that time, denying that the Christian church with all its saving doctrines and benevolent institutions and beneficent social system derived from the New Testament had been active and, in a sense, triumphant for at least fifteen hundred years, simply because he could select thousands of examples of superstitious customs, and hellish deeds, and impious words, and avowed agnostics, and Heaven-defying atheists, that have disgraced the pages of history during this time! LET US NOT GROVEL FOR THE BEETLES AND THE EARTHWORMS OF ALMOST FORGOTTEN FAITHS WHICH MAY PERCHANCE BE DISCOVERED BENEATH THE STONES AND SOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, WHILE THE VIOLETS AND THE LILIES-OF-THE-VALLEY OF A SWEET AND LOWLY FAITH ARE IN BLOOM ON EVERY PAGE AND EVERY ORACLE REVEALED WITHIN THE WORD OF GOD IS JUBILANT WITH SONGS OF EVERLASTING JOY. The true religion of Israel came down from God arrayed in the beautiful garments of righteousness and life. We cannot substitute for this Heaven-made apparel a robe of human manufacture, however fine it be."

DON'T BE DOUBLEMINDED IN TRIALS

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:2-8).

EVOLUTION

A fatherless universe.
 A mindless world of matter.
 A building without a blueprint.
 A house without a home.
 A family without a mother.
 A body without a soul.
 A history without a goal.
 A religion without hope.
 A humanity without help.
 A society without law.
 An institution without love.
 A day without light.
 A night without end.
 A fog that never lifts.
 A gloom that depresses.
 A spirit that chills.
 A philosophy without logic.
 A science without facts.
 A theory without reality.
 A wound without healing.
 A disease without a doctor.
 A world without God.



CONCLUSION: The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.