

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES



TEMPLE ALTAR REBUILT, READY FOR USE

The Temple Institute has announced the completion of an altar of burnt sacrifice intended for the Third Temple (*Breaking Israel News*, Mar. 9, 2015). Founded in 1986, the Temple Institute's objective is "to see Israel rebuild the Holy Temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem." The founder of the Institute, Rabbi Yisrael Ariel, was a member of the paratrooper unit that liberated the Temple Mount in 1967 at the end of the Six Day War. At much expense (tens of

millions of dollars have been donated) and based on extensive research, they have fashioned priestly garments, the high priest's golden crown costing \$30,000, the high priest's breastplate with its 12 precious stones inscribed with the names of the tribes of Israel, a copper laver, an incense altar, silver trumpets, gold- and silver-plated shofars, harps, and many other things. Of special interest is the large menorah that was fashioned from 95 pounds of pure gold, valued at about \$2.5 million. The altar of burnt sacrifice, completed last December, is made of bricks fired at roughly 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,832 degrees Fahrenheit). It can be disassembled and

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WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF SPEAKS AGAINST ISRAEL'S "OCCUPATION" OF THE WEST BANK

Speaking at J Street's fifth annual conference, Denis McDonough, the White House Chief of Staff, called Israel's control of the West Bank "an occupation" that "must end" ("Obama's Chief of Staff Fires up J Street," *Breitbart.com*, Mar. 23, 2015). J Street "was founded to disrupt the close U.S.-Israel alliance and to serve as an

alternative to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the powerful pro-Israel group." Israel won control over West Bank and east Jerusalem during the 1967 Six Day War, though it has withdrawn from most Palestinian towns and returned control of the Temple Mount to the Muslims. Those who consider Israel an illegal "occupier" of any part of that land don't believe God's eternal promise to Abraham and his seed, and the fact that Israel is



Denis McDonough

willing to bargain any part of the Promised Land for peace is evidence of her continued apostasy. "And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which

thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever" (Gen. 13:14-15). "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Gen. 15:18). "And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God" (Gen. 17:8).

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reassembled quickly. In July 2012, the Temple Institute published a video entitled “The Children Are Ready,” depicting children building a model of the Third Temple on an Israeli beach. In Jewish tradition, the rebuilding of the Temple is associated with the coming of the Messiah. According to Maimonides (also called Rambam), the highest rabbinical authority, any Jew that starts rebuilding the Temple is a potential Messiah. Shimon ben Kosiba was considered a Messiah in the second century when he led a revolt to recapture Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. He was named *Bar Kokhba* (“Son of the Star”) based on the Messianic prophecy of Numbers 24:17, and a coin was struck depicting the Temple with the Ark of the Covenant inside and the Messianic star on the roof. By this tradition, it is simple to see how the Antichrist will be looked upon as the Messiah. (For more see *The Future According to the Bible*, available in print and eBook editions from www.wayoflife.org.)

“EVANGELICAL” CHURCHES IN CALIFORNIA CHANGE VIEWS ON HOMOSEXUALITY

Two major “evangelical” churches in California have changed their views of homosexuality. Last year, Ken Wilson of the Vineyard Church in Ann Arbor said that Jesus gave him “a strong nudge” to write a letter to his congregation entitled “An Evangelical Pastor’s Path to Embracing People who are Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender into the Company of Jesus.” He claims that he no longer believes that the Bible forbids “sexual relations between those of the same gender” (“Minister Claims,” *Christian News Network*, Apr. 20, 2014). The Jesus that Wilson is dealing with is obviously not the Jesus of the Bible, who taught that marriage is for one man and one woman (Mat. 19:4-6). This month, Fred Harrell of City Church in San Francisco, which is associated with the Reformed Church in America, announced, “We will no longer discriminate based on sexual orientation and demand lifelong celibacy as a precondition for joining” (“Megachurch Leader Drops Celibacy Requirement for ‘Gay Members’--as Long as Sex Is in ‘Marriage,’” *Christian News Network*, Mar. 28, 2015).

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA APPROVES “GAY MARRIAGE”

The following is excerpted from “Presbyterian Church Formally Approves,” *Christian Headlines*, Mar. 18, 2015: “The Presbyterian Church has formally recognized gay marriage and will allow same-sex weddings. The Church approved a new definition of marriage, which includes ‘commitment between two people.’ The definition was approved last year by the General Assembly, but needed approval from a majority of the 171 regional districts. The 86th vote was cast Tuesday night. The new definition reads: ‘Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.’”

BOB DYLAN SAYS HE WAS CHANGED FOREVER BY BILLY GRAHAM



In an interview with *AARP* magazine, 60s rock icon Bob Dylan praised Billy Graham. He said, “Billy Graham was the greatest preacher and evangelist of my time--that guy could save souls and did. I went to two or three of his rallies in the '50s or '60s. This guy was like rock 'n' roll personified--volatile, explosive. He had the hair, the tone, the elocution--when he spoke, he brought the storm down. Clouds parted. Souls got saved, sometimes 30- or 40,000 of them. If you ever went to a Billy Graham rally back then, you were changed forever. There's never been a preacher like him. He could fill football stadiums before anybody. ... Long before Mick Jagger sang his first note or Bruce strapped on his first guitar--that's some of the part of rock 'n' roll that I retained. I had to. I saw Billy Graham in the flesh and heard him loud and clear” (“Looking Deeper into Dylan,” *AARP* the magazine, Feb.-Mar. 2015). This is a strange statement. Dylan was changed forever in the 1950s and 1960s by Graham's preaching? Dylan, the drug user who taught the 1960s generation that there are no answers to life's mysteries (e.g., “Blowin' in the Wind”), who included Tarot cards and Buddhas on his album covers, who made a profession of faith in Christ in the 1980s only to repudiate it? Even rock historian Steve Turner, who has attempted to justify Dylan's apostasy, admits: “The womanizing and drunkenness that Dylan once saw as evidence of the old life have apparently continued almost uninterrupted” (Turner, “Watered Down Love,” *Christianity Today*, May 21, 2001). An article in the *San Luis Obispo* (California) *Register* for March 16, 1983, quoted Dylan as saying: “Whoever said I was Christian? Like Gandhi, I'm Christian, I'm Jewish, I'm a Moslem, I'm a Hindu. I am a humanist.” Actually, Bob Dylan well represents a large percentage of Billy Graham's converts. Multitudes of people professed faith in Christ, but biblical evidence of the new birth was rare. Graham helped Christianize America, but it was a house built on sand.

THE GAITHER'S NEW BOOGIE WOOGIE ALBUM

Bill Gaither's new album *Happy Rhythm*, is described as “bounce, croon, boogie woogie, and worship” (www.hallels.com, Mar. 13, 2015). Boogie woogie and worship are incompatible. One celebrates the flesh, the other the Spirit. One is of the world, the other of heaven. One is of the devil, the other of God. What confusion! Few men have done more to break down the walls between the “church” and the world than Bill Gaither. As far back as 1980, a firsthand report of the Gaither's appearance at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis said, “The Bill Gaither Trio entertained 15,000 Southern Baptists on Sunday evening with a musical program worldly enough to make any true believer weep” (Robert S. Reynolds, *Foundation*, Volume VI, Issue 1, 1985, p. 9). Gaither has increasingly used every type of rock

rhythm in his music. During the disco craze in the late 1980s, the Gaither Trio even recorded a disco album (*Calvary Contender*, August 15, 1989). Gaither is helping to build the one-world “church” with his ecumenical philosophy. In his autobiography *It's More Than the Music*, Gaither stated that one of the benefits of playing concerts in “neutral, non-church environments” was that people from “all church denominations” attended. “Before long, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, charismatics, Catholics, and Pentecostals were all praising the Lord together. Subtly, the walls between denominations began to crumble...” (*It's More Than the Music*, p. 115). Gaither's *Hymns for the Family of God* was purposefully “nondenominational” and included devotional readings from a wide variety of Christians,

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including heretics such as Deitrich Bonhoeffer (one of the fathers of Neo-orthodoxy), Malcolm Muggeridge (a Roman Catholic who did not believe in Christ's virgin birth or bodily resurrection), and Robert Schuller, who redefined the gospel in terms of his self-esteem heresy. The Gaithers provided the music one evening at Indianapolis '90, a large ecumenical charismatic gathering I attended with press credentials. One-half of the 25,000 participants were Roman Catholic. A Catholic mass was held each morning, and Catholic priest Tom Forrest from Rome brought the closing message. At New Orleans '87, which I also attended with media credentials, Forrest said that purgatory is necessary for salvation. The Gaithers were perfectly at home in this unscriptural gathering and entertained the mixed multitude with their jazzy music. For more about the Gaithers see *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*, available in print or as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.

BACTERIA SPEAR CELLS WITH POISON-TIPPED SPIKES

Researchers at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Switzerland have found that the bacteria that cause cholera spear neighboring cells with a kind of poison-tipped spike ("Cholera bacteria spear their prey," *Live Science*, Jan. 1, 2015). After spearing their prey, *Vibrio cholerae* release proteins that dissolve the cellular membrane, thus bursting the cell and releasing the DNA which the bacterium absorbs. The warfare that is going on throughout the creation is the result of man's sin against God. The good creation was plunged into confusion. "... the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Romans 8:22). Redemption and restoration is the subject of the book that is in the hand of the One sitting on the throne in Revelation 4-5. "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals" (Rev. 5:1). In these chapters of Revelation, we see the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, having won the right to sit on David's throne, victoriously taking the book containing God's program for the establishment of God's kingdom on earth, preparing to open it and bring the events to pass. *The book sealed with the seven seals contains the events we find recorded in Revelation 6-20*. It contains God's program for judging the world and overthrowing the devil and putting Christ on the throne of the world forever. It is the fulfillment of all Messianic prophecies.

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, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.