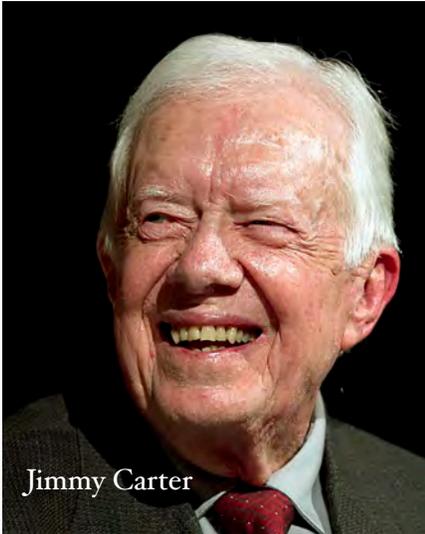

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES



Jimmy Carter

JIMMY CARTER SAYS UNBELIEVERS AND SKEPTICS MIGHT BE IN HEAVEN

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Baptist Sunday School teacher, said recently that he doesn't know whether or not Hindu leader Mahatma Gandhi is in hell because of his rejection of Jesus as only Lord and Saviour. When asked by journalist Nicholas Kristof whether he believed that men like Gandhi go to hell because they don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, Carter replied, "I do not feel qualified to make a judgment. I am inclined to give him (or others) the benefit of any doubt" ("President Carter, Am I a Christian?" *The New York Times*, April 15, 2017). Kristof further asked Carter if skeptics who doubt Christ's virgin birth and resurrection are Christians, to which Carter replied, "I do not judge

whether someone else is a Christian. Jesus said, 'Judge not.'" Jimmy Carter is a long-time Sunday School teacher at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, but he is not a Bible believer. The judgment as to who is saved or lost, who goes to heaven or hell, is not Jimmy Carter's or any other man's to make. God has already made that judgment and stated it in the Holy Scriptures in words too plain to be misunderstood. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on

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RISKS TO CIVILIZATION

A couple of years ago, the University of Oxford published "the 12 most likely ways human civilization could end." These are extreme climate change, nuclear war, global pandemic, ecological collapse, global system collapse, major asteroid impact, a super volcano, synthetic biology (an engineered pathogen), artificial intelligence (rogue robots), unknown consequences (a combination of risks producing an unexpected result), and bad global governance. Thankfully, we don't have to guess about the future of the human race or depend on scientific guessing. One of the manifold ways that the Bible proves itself as God's infallible Word is its amazing prophecies. Many of these foretold Jesus' entire earthly life, including His birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), His rejection by the Jewish nation (Isaiah 53:3), His unjust trial (Isaiah 53:8), His crucifixion by the piercing of His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16), the soldiers gambling for His garments (Psalm 22:18), the mocking crowd (Psalm 22:13), His bones not broken (Psalm 22:17), and His tomb



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JIMMY CARTER SAYS UNBELIEVERS AND SKEPTICS MIGHT BE IN HEAVEN

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him” (John 3:36). “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:11-12). In the interview, Carter grossly misused Matthew 7:1 (“Judge not that ye be not judged”). In the context, Christ warned of hypocritical judgment in particular, not of judgment in general. In the same passage, Christ taught His people to beware of false prophets, which requires a keen exercise of judgment in the sense of proving all things by God’s Word. Carter also said in the interview that he doesn’t believe in a six-day creation.

RISKS TO CIVILIZATION

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donated by a rich man (Isaiah 53:9). These prophecies were written down between 1000 BC (Psalms) and 700 BC (Isaiah), and the copies of the Hebrew Scriptures discovered in the Dead Sea caves in the 1950s and dating to 100-200 BC prove that the prophecies predated Jesus’ birth. Bible prophecy does not end with the earthly life of Jesus. It tells us that there will be a time of tribulation that will exceed all of the troubles this world has experienced thus far, followed by the return of Jesus Christ to judge man’s rebellion and establish His eternal kingdom. The final two chapters of the Bible describe the eternal city of God called the New Jerusalem, which will be the home of the blood-washed saints of all ages.

CHILD EVANGELISM GUIDE AND BIBLE MEMORY PROGRAM



In May last year we published an article “Careful Child Evangelism” from our youth discipleship course *The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church*. The first point of our suggestions for dealing with children is to fill their minds with God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 4:12; Psa. 19:7; 119:130). We mentioned the child evangelism course *How Can I Except Some Man Guide Me?* by Pastor Kerry Allen, and we gave the link to a free online edition of the book, which also includes a Bible memory program for children with 150 salvation verses. The link we gave in that article was not working because their website was hacked. Following is the new link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/560d69cbe4b08ac155051746/t/561c84e2e4b0faa8c84af748/1444709602246/How-Can-I-complete-book.pdf>

A WARNING ABOUT PETER RUCKMAN

There are independent Baptist churches that are a great blessing to this dark world, but some are cultic. And one of those is Bible Baptist Church of Pensacola, Florida, founded by the late Peter Ruckman. This twice-divorced, thrice-married pastor exalted the King James Bible as “advanced revelation” superior to the Greek and Hebrew from which it was translated. He claimed that God shut the door of revelation in 1611 (*The Monarch of Books*, p. 9). In the books *The Salient Verses* and *The Unknown Bible*, Ruckman claimed to have discovered hundreds of advanced revelations in the Bible that no other man has found. He stated on page 347 of *The Unknown Bible*, “Do you realize that in these last two chapters, you have learned a dozen things that were unknown to the greatest Bible teachers in the world?” These new teachings include the idea that angels are 33-year-old males, that all believing women will receive 33-year-old male bodies at the Rapture, that when the believer is born again his soul is literally cut loose from the

inside of his fleshly body, that demons are winged creatures ranging in size from that of flies to eagles, and that the soul is an invisible bodily shape. In his tract *Millions Disappear: Fact or Fiction?* Ruckman claimed that men are saved in different ways in different ages, by faith plus works in the Old Testament and in the Tribulation and by works alone in the Millennium. In his book *Black Is Beautiful*, Ruckman described his belief in space aliens. He suggested that some of the medieval plagues were caused by UFOs, that a B-52 bomber was downed by a UFO and that aliens disemboweled the crew members, that a crew member of a US Navy ship was transported into the future, that the CIA operates underground alien breeding facilities (p. 256), that there are web footed aliens, blue aliens with blue blood (pp. 85, 86), black aliens with green blood (p. 244), grey aliens with clear blood (pp. 310-11), and that Adam originally had water in his veins instead of blood (p. 185).

ECUMENISTS AND NEW EVANGELICALS ARE CONFUSED ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF LOVE

The ecumenically-minded crowd, which is (often unwittingly) building the one-world church, does not understand biblical love. *They are confused about the definition of love* (e.g., its intimate association with knowledge and judgment and obedience, Phil. 1:9-10; 1 John 5:3). *They are also confused about the direction of love*. The first direction of love must be toward God. “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” (Mat. 22:37-38). I must love God enough to take a stand for His Word, to fear God more than I fear man. We agree with Charles Haddon Spurgeon when he said: “On all hands we hear cries for unity in this, and unity in that; but to our mind the main need of this age is not compromise, but

conscientiousness. ‘First pure, then peaceable.’ It is easy to cry ‘a confederacy,’ but that union which is not based upon the truth of God is rather a conspiracy than a communion. Charity by all means; but honesty also. Love, of course, but love to God as well as love to men, and love of truth as well as love of union. It is exceedingly difficult in these times to preserve one’s fidelity before God and one’s fraternity among men. Should not the former be preferred to the latter if both cannot be maintained? We think so” (Spurgeon, “The Down Grade - Second Article,” *The Sword and the Trowel*, April 1887, Notes, p. 16). The second direction of love must be toward those who are in spiritual danger. The Lord Jesus instructed Peter to “feed my sheep” John 21:16-17. I need to love the Lord’s sheep more than I love wolves.



CORN AND GOD

In a simple kernel of corn we can see the wisdom and power and goodness of God toward man. One corn kernel typically produces a stalk bearing two cobs, each with 400 to 600 kernels per cob. Thus, it multiplies itself 1,000 fold and more in one generation. If you replant the 1,000 seeds from one corn stalk and each grows to maturity--each stalk bearing two cobs with an average of 500 kernels per cob (2,000 x 500)--you get one million kernels of corn. That's just the second generation. And if you plant those one million kernels and each stalk grows to maturity, you get a billion corn seeds in just three generations! This is an example of the blessing with which God has filled the world for man's benefit. Corn is self-pollinating, in that each stalk has both male and female flowers. The females are the ears that send out strands of silk that grow out of the top of the ear. (The flower is composed of the kernel, which is the ovule, and the silk, which is the stigma.) Each kernel of corn is individually pollinated by a strand of silk, which is covered with fine, sticky hairs that catch the pollen. The male flowers on the tassels release their pollen into the air. The pollen is held in anthers which contain large numbers of pollen grains, and when released the grains usually settle within 20 to 50 feet of the stalk. Thus it is advised to plant corn in blocks rather than in long rows. Each tassel contains from 2 to 5 million pollen grains, which translates to 2,000 to 5,000 pollen grains for each silk of the ear shoot. The emergence of the silk and the release of the pollen must be precisely timed. The pollen shed usually begins two or three days prior to silk emergence and continues for five to eight days, and it is shed in late morning after the dew has dried off the tassels (Ohio State University Agronomy Facts). The pollen shed is intelligent, responding to climatic conditions, stopping when the tassel is too wet or too dry and beginning again when temperature conditions are favorable. By this means the pollen is rarely washed off the silk by rain since it doesn't release during wet conditions. When the pollen comes into contact with the silk, it starts the growth of a pollen tube down the length of the silk and enters the female flower in 12 to 28 hours.



INFORMATION

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.