
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

TESTS DATE CLADDING OF CHRIST'S TOMB TO FOURTH CENTURY AD



The renovated Edicule is seen in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem's old city.

The first ever tests of the tomb purporting to be Christ's in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre date the marble cladding and mortar to the fourth century AD, the time of Constantine ("Age of Jesus Christ's Purported Tomb Revealed," *National Geographic*, Nov. 28, 2017). The OSL (optically stimulated luminescence) tests were independently conducted by two labs. This is further confirmation that the tomb is the correct one. In about 135, the Roman emperor Hadrian built a Venus temple over the site then revered as Christ's. Since this was only about 40 years after the death of the apostle John and the location of the true site was still well known, there seems to be no

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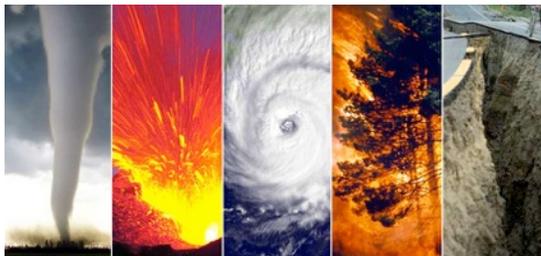
WORLD'S LARGEST BATTERY GOES ONLINE IN RECORD

The world's largest battery, built in South Australia by Elon Musk of Tesla, went online December 1 in record time. Musk had pledged to complete the gigantic battery, the size of an American football field, in 100 days or do it for free, and the project was completed before the deadline. The 100MW capacity battery is intended to help solve the state's persistent power outages by storing electricity produced by wind and solar to use during periods of high demand. This project in particular and modern technology in general hold many interesting lessons. For one, it is evidence that man is made in the image of God, as the Bible says. Of earth's creatures, man alone can do "God-like" things, though he is not God and is accountable to God as a creature. Second, modern technology is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel that in the last days "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Da. 12:4). Third, the Tesla project is a testament to the efficiency of private enterprise in comparison with government business, and it is a testament to the advantage of a free market system to produce excellent goods and services. Finally, modern technology is a testimony to God's love for man in giving him the ability and resources to improve his condition even though he is currently living in rebellion to His Creator. Technology, though, cannot solve man's fundamental problem, which is that he has sinned against God and is under God's judgment, and it won't stop the hand of God from bringing judgment upon this world in its time. Man's salvation will never be obtained by clever inventors. It was provided by God Himself in sending His Son to suffer and die and shed His blood to make atonement for sin.



UNPRECEDENTED DEVASTATION COMING ON THE EARTH

World news is filled with reports of disaster, both natural and manmade. There are floods, earthquakes, active volcanos, violent revolution, wars, terrorism. According to Bible prophecy, which has always been accurate, these things are but minor harbingers of greater devastation to come. The world's population will be decimated, economies ruined, disaster management resources utterly overwhelmed. In comparison, the world wars of the 20th century were but a "walk in the park." This time of unprecedented trouble will occur in a seven-year period called "the day of the Lord" and "the great tribulation." It is a time when God will judge the world for its rebellion, a time when man will be humbled and God exalted. Some of the highlights are as follows: A fourth part of the earth's population will die in warfare and associated famines in the beginning of the tribulation (Re. 6:8). A third part of the sea will be turned to blood and a third of the ships destroyed (Re. 8:7-9). A third part of the waters will be made bitter (Re. 8:10-11). Demonic armies will torment and kill men (Re. 9:1-19), one-third of mankind perishing in this one judgment. A malevolent world ruler will exercise control over a global economy, forcing all men to worship him and killing those who refuse (Re. 13:15-18). Men will be scorched by a super-heated sun and gnaw their tongues for pain (Re. 16:8-11). A great earthquake will shake the world so terribly that the mountains will fall and the islands will flee away (Re. 16:18-20). Hail stones weighing 100 pounds will fall upon the earth (Re. 16:21). "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. ... For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:3, 4, 9).



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doubt that the pagan temple was in the correct place. In 325, the "Christian" Emperor Constantine tore down the Venus temple and built an octagon church by the name of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre *on the same site*. Though the church was destroyed by Muslims in 1009, it was subsequently rebuilt *at the same site*. For this reason, we are convinced that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre actually covers the place of Christ's tomb. Of course, this is not very important, since the tomb has been empty since three days after Christ's crucifixion, and the resurrected Christ was seen by hundreds of reputable eyewitnesses, such as Gamaliel-educated Saul, who were willing to die for their testimonies, and we don't believe in Catholic-style pilgrimages. But it's still very interesting!

THE NEW DEATH DOCTOR

Philip Nitschke has taken Jack Kevorkian's place as the most prominent euthanasia proponent and builder of suicide machines. The 70-year-old medical doctor, founder of Exit International, has participated in hundreds of assisted suicides. In 1996, Nitschke built a machine called *The Deliverance* to trigger a lethal injection of barbiturates. In 1997, he published the *Peaceful Pill Handbook* with instructions on "painless and efficient ways to commit suicide." Now he is trying to market a new death machine called Sarco, a sleek capsule that doubles as a casket. The individual lies down in the capsule, enters an access code, and a container attached to the capsule fills up with liquid nitrogen to bring the oxygen level down to about 5 percent, thus killing the user. The Sarco resembles a spaceship, which is "intended to convince its user that he or she is journeying to the great beyond," Nitschke says ("Meet the Elon Musk of Assisted Suicide,"

Newsweek, Dec. 1, 2017). Nitschke says it is the "right of a rational adult to have a peaceful death." If man were merely an evolved animal, there would be no moral problem with this, because there would be no absolute morality, but that's not the case. Man is not his own. He has a Creator to whom he is accountable. God's law says, "Thou shalt not kill." Death is not a spaceship ride to "the great beyond." According to the Bible, there are but two destinations, heaven or hell, depending on whether the individual dies with or without the Saviour Jesus Christ. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:27-28). (For more on this subject see "Do We Have the Right to Die?" at www.wayoflife.org.)

THE OBITUARY OF MRS. PRAYER MEETING

The following anonymous piece has appeared in various publications, and though written "tongue in cheek," it accurately and frightfully describes the prayer ministry of too many supposedly Bible-believing churches: "Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was a strong, healthy child, fed largely on testimony and Bible study, soon grew into worldwide prominence, and was one of the most influential members of the famous church family. For the past several years, Mrs. Prayer Meeting has been failing in health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees, coldness of heart, inactivity and weakness of purpose and will power. At the last she was but a shadow of her former happy self. Her last whispered words were inquiries concerning the strange absence of her loved ones now busy in the markets of trade and places of worldly amusements. Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr. Reform, and Dr. Joiner, disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness. They had administered large doses of organizations, socials, contests and drives, but to no avail. A postmortem showed that a deficiency of spiritual food, coupled with a lack of faith, heartfelt religion, and general support, were contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power. In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights, except the third Wednesday night of each month when the Ladies Pink Lemonade Society serves refreshments to the Men's Handball Team." It has rightly been said that "a prayerful life is always a powerful life; and a prayerless life is always a powerless life."

THE BUTTERFLY'S COMPLEX BEAUTY



The following is excerpted from *Seeing the Non-existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes*, David Cloud, copyright 2011: "Butterflies are so beautiful that they have been called 'flying flowers.' There are thousands of different amazing types. 'Every one of these 20,000 species have different color patterns,



and every one of them have different shaped wings. The diversity is so magnificent. If I was the greatest artist in the world there is no way I could come up with all of these patterns. It would be absolutely impossible' (Ronald Boender, *Butterfly World*, Fort

Lauderdale, *Metamorphosis*, DVD). The butterfly's colorful wings are covered with millions of shingle-like, overlapping scales, which create the color and patterns. (*Lepidoptera*, the Latin term for the butterfly order of insects, means 'scaly.') Solid colors derive from pigmented scales, while the iridescent colors derive from reflective scales that ingeniously refract a particular wavelength of light. The biophotonic crystal cells are designed and arranged perfectly to absorb certain wavelengths of white light and reflect only that part of the light that is red or blue or whatever. There are tens of thousands of scales for every square centimeter of wing, and each scale was a living cell until a day or two before the butterfly emerges from its pupa. In the video *God of Wonders*, zoologist Frank Sherwin observes, "The scales have tiny lattices and ribbed walls that are designed to cause interference patterns in light waves within the 300 to 700 nanometer range--exactly the range humans see as color. We have found by using the electron microscope that there are structures there that can have no more variation than .00004 millimeters, a wonderful testament to God's design."

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.