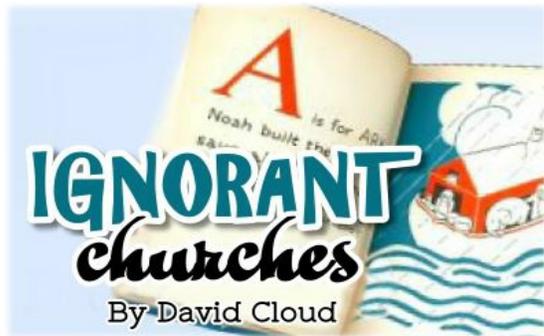


O Timothy

“Keep that which is committed to thy trust...”

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“A reason why churches will be well down the emerging path in 10-20 years is that there is widespread ignorance about important issues such as contemporary music, New Evangelicalism, the Southern Baptist Convention, Reformed theology, reconstructionism, charismaticism, Neo-orthodoxy, Darwinian and theistic evolution, contemplative mysticism, and the emerging church.” Page 6.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 12.**



THE ANTICHRIST AS A MUSLIM? ~ By David Cloud

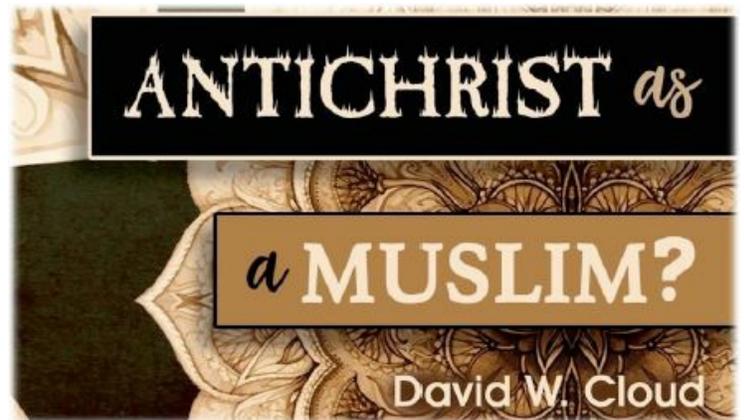
This report is available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org

There is a small movement today that sees the Antichrist as a Muslim who will arise from the Muslim nations.

The chief proponent and promoter of this view is Joel Richardson (b. 1971), author of *Islamic Antichrist*, *Mideast Beast*, and other books and video presentations.

Richardson has extremely dangerous associates, including Glenn Beck, who holds to the false gospel of Mormonism and yet has promoted Richardson's teaching heavily. Beck has published Richardson's "History of the Caliphate" and "The Emerging Leftist-Islamist Revolutionary Alliance," and Richardson appeared in Beck's video *Rumors of War*.

Even if Richardson is personally sound in the Christian faith, which we do not know, he is acting in open



disobedience to God's commands to separate from error (e.g., Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 4:14; 2 Timothy 3:5; 2 John 8-11). Richardson's association with Beck is only one example of this disobedience.

Richardson told one reporter, "I do not agree with various tenets of Mormon theology," but he went on to say,

“Glenn Beck is one of the most genuinely prophetic voices to have emerged in this nation in many years” (“Together at Last: Joel Richardson and Glenn Beck,” Feb. 18, 2011, Barthsnotes.com).

That statement alone would inform me that Mr. Richardson is the blind leading the blind. (See “Beck’s Restoring Love Program,” July 30, 2012, www.wayoflife.org.)

We have not been able to find out exactly what Richardson’s doctrinal position is or what church he attends, but he embraces the heresy of Pentecostal prophesying. On the talk show *It’s Supernatural*, Sid Roth declared that Richardson is “hand-picked literally by God to give revelation of the end time.” In his reply, Richardson agreed. He told of how that “a prophetess” prophesied over his wife-to-be and said, “Your husband, you will marry someone that will have significant insight into the end times, and he’ll release new prophetic understanding concerning the end times to the church and to the world.” Richardson then claimed that he and his wife were in a meeting when the speaker shared “a prophetic word” and called them out by name and “spoke things to us that no man could know ... he said that the Lord was gonna bring me into a season of divine revelation, which I knew intuitively was tied into this word about understanding the end times” (“Who Is

Joel Richardson, Beck’s End Time Prophet,” Feb. 17, 2011, Mediamatters.org).

This is gross heresy. Instead of renouncing the female prophetess and the public soothsaying, Richardson embraces it and uses it to authenticate his ministry.

Friends, we would urge you in the most forceful way to be careful about what you read. God’s people should be studious, but you must know who an author is and what he believes and what his biases might be. God’s Word warns us to stay away from men that are unsound. “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Ro. 16:17).

In the age of the Internet, it is a simple matter to find some basic information about an author. To fail to do this is very dangerous. The previous information about Richardson was obtained in a very short time.

Knowing these things about Richardson, I would never read him for personal profit. The reason that I have made the effort to read some of his works is to critique them biblically and to sound a warning to those who have been confused by his teaching.

And if you are not a serious Bible student with a good Bible education and a serious grasp of Bible doctrine; if you are “unskilful in the word of righteousness” and do not have your “senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14); then you aren’t prepared to browse the Internet and use the books in a typical Christian bookstore safely. If you are the “babe” described in Hebrews 5, you can easily be “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness” (Ephesians 4:14).

The Internet is a two-edged sword. On one side it has made it possible for sound Bible teaching to be disseminated to an extent previously unprecedented, but on the other side it has made it possible for heretics to disseminate their teachings to anyone with a laptop or tablet or smart phone.

To be able to use Christian writings effectively and safely, you must first become skillful in God’s Word and adept in spiritual and doctrinal discernment.

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I would also warn that when it is difficult to find information about a speaker or author, such as his testimony of salvation, church affiliation, and doctrinal beliefs, that should be a loud warning in itself. This is the case with Joel Richardson. His web site gives no information along this line. We are told that he “travels globally teaching on the gospel,” but we are not told what gospel. Compare 2 Corinthians 11:1-4. Why doesn’t he have the gospel on his web site? Why doesn’t he tell us what church he attends and what he believes? Before I will allow a man to speak to me on Bible prophecy, I must know these things.

True Bible believers know that they are pilgrims in a dark world and that they have an enemy who wants to deceive them, and they walk in great caution. “The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going” (Proverbs 14:15).

An almost endless number of things could be said on this issue, because Bible prophecy itself is a very large matter and Richardson has said and written many things. We have no intention of writing a comprehensive refutation of all of his teaching, but following are some fundamental reasons why we reject his position and why we warn God’s people to stay away from it:

1. The Muslim Antichrist position feeds on ignorance.

Even Joel Richardson, its chief proponent, says,

“I find myself presented with the interesting challenge of introducing much of the readership to more than one subject that most people are largely uninformed of. Certainly most people have some vague ideas about what the Bible says about the “last-days” – the difficult times that will encompass the earth, the plagues, the ecological disasters, the eventual return of Jesus. But even many Christians – those who read the Bible regularly – are not exactly sure what they believe about many of the specifics of the last-days. And if it can be said that ignorance of biblical eschatology is common, then consider how many people – particularly in the West – have any knowledge at all about what Islam teaches about the Last-days” (*Will Islam Be Our Future?*, chapter one).

Richardson is absolutely correct about the widespread ignorance. While he would not say that he is misusing this ignorance in order to promote false doctrine, that is exactly what we believe he is doing, whether wittingly or unwittingly.

It is the pastors of Bible-believing churches who are guilty in this matter, because they are the ones who have

not properly educated the people. Even children in Sunday School should have a basic understanding of what the Bible says about the future. And God’s people should be educated about Islam because it is a major influence in the world today.

For such education, we suggest the following resources from www.wayoflife.org:

- [Understanding Bible Prophecy](#) (an Advanced Bible Studies Series course)
- [The Future According to the Bible](#) (a thorough study of Bible prophecy)
- [The Bible and Islam](#) (available in print or as a free eBook)

2. The Muslim Antichrist position leans heavily on a study of current history and Muslim prophecy, instead of being developed directly from a right interpretation of the Bible prophecies themselves.

Joel Richardson says, “This book is first and foremost a study of Islamic eschatology” (*Will Islam Be Our Future?*, chapter one).

This is a major problem. Islamic eschatology is a hodgepodge of doctrine. Islamic has no one authoritative, clear doctrine of eschatology. There is a general belief in the coming of a Mahdi (God-guided one), but beyond that there are great differences in eschatology among the major branches of Islam.

In chapter four of *Will Islam Be Our Future?*, Richardson lists the following 21 Islamic teachings about the Mahdi:

1. The Mahdi is Islam’s primary messiah figure.
2. He will be a descendant of Muhammad and will bear Muhammad’s name (Muhammad bin Abdullah).
3. He will be a very devout Muslim.
4. He will be an unparalleled spiritual, political and military world leader.
5. He will emerge after a period of great turmoil and suffering upon the earth.
6. He will establish justice and righteousness throughout the world and eradicate tyranny and oppression.
7. He will be the Caliph and Imam (vice-regent and leader) of Muslims worldwide.
8. He will lead a world revolution and establish a new world order.
9. He will lead military action against all those who oppose him.
10. He will invade many countries.
11. He will make a seven year peace treaty with a Jew of priestly lineage.

12. He will conquer Israel for Islam and lead the “faithful Muslims” in a final slaughter/battle against Jews.
13. He will establish the new Islamic world headquarters from Jerusalem.
14. He will rule for seven years (possibly as much as eight or nine).
15. He will cause Islam to be the only religion practiced on the earth.
16. He will appear riding a white horse (possibly symbolic).
17. He will discover some previously undiscovered biblical manuscripts that he will use to argue with the Jews and cause some Jews to convert to Islam.
18. He will also re-discover the Ark of the Covenant from the Sea of Galilee, which he will bring to Jerusalem.
19. He will have supernatural power from Allah over the wind and the rain and crops.
20. He will possess and distribute enormous amounts of wealth.
21. He will be loved by all the people of the earth.

This list appears to be a clear, authoritative Islamic doctrine of the end times, but it is a myth. There is no consensus within Islam about most of these points. And the original language upon which these points are established is often vague in the extreme.

In reality, there is very little that can be presented as a solid, established Islamic doctrine of eschatology.

While it might be interesting to study Islamic beliefs about the end times, to use such a hodgepodge to interpret Scripture *in any way whatsoever* is wrongheaded in the extreme.

Richardson says, “So in conclusion, we see that several of the most unique and distinguishing aspects of the biblical Antichrist’s person, mission and actions are matched to quite an amazing degree by the descriptions of the Mahdi as found in the Islamic traditions. And now, even further, we see that Muslim scholars actually apply Bible verses about the Antichrist to their awaited savior, the Mahdi. This must be seen as quite ironic, if not entirely prophetic” (*Will Islam Be Our Future?*, chapter five).

We could not disagree with this statement more fervently. The fact that some Muslims are looking for a “Mahdi” and the fact that some are even applying the Bible’s teaching about the Antichrist to the Mahdi amount to nothing of substance. It is most certainly *not* “prophetic.”

3. The prophecies in Daniel are clear on the fact that the Antichrist will arise from the ancient Roman

Empire, and the efforts to interpret these prophecies in a manner different from traditional dispensationalism have been entirely unsuccessful.

First, the chronology of the image in Daniel 2 points to the Roman Empire. The four kingdoms of Daniel 2 follow one another chronologically. The image is one, and each subsequent aspect connects with the previous one. We are specifically told the identity of the first three kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece), and they followed one another chronologically. The reasonable conclusion is that the fourth kingdom is the Roman Empire, since it conquered Greece.

- Gold Head: Babylonian Empire (626 BC - 539 BC)
- Silver Chest/Arms: Medo-Persian Empire (539 BC - 330 BC)
- Bronze Belly and Thighs: Grecian Empire (330 BC - 63 BC)
- Iron Legs: Roman Empire (conquered Greece in 63 BC)

The earliest Muslim empires were founded in the eighth and ninth centuries AD, a millennium after the fall of the Grecian kingdoms to Rome. As for the Ottoman Empire, it was founded by Osman I in the early 1300s AD, nearly 1,400 years after Grecian kingdoms fell.

It is important to understand that *Daniel 2 pertains to Gentile kingdoms that had direct dealings with the nation Israel.* Babylon conquered Israel and destroyed the first temple. Persia returned Israel to the land and allowed the building of the second temple. The Greeks persecuted Israel (e.g., Antiochus Epiphanes). Rome ruled Israel and destroyed the second temple. Some of the Muslim empires, including the Ottoman, ruled “Palestine” and had dealings with the Jewish people, but Israel as a nation in the land had ceased to exist before Islam arose.

Second, the Antichrist is depicted as rising out of a revived Roman Empire in Daniel 7:19-20. The fourth beast corresponds to the fourth kingdom of Daniel 2, and the Antichrist will arise after the 10 kings of an end-time Roman Empire. The 10 horns of Daniel 7 correspond to the 10 toes of Daniel 2, signifying 10 kings or rulers in the end times.

Third, in the prophecy of the 70 Weeks, Daniel identifies the Antichrist as the prince of the people that

“shall destroy the city and the sanctuary” (Da. 9:26). This “people” was the Romans, who in AD 70 destroyed Jerusalem and the Jewish temple under the leadership of Titus, who soon became the Roman emperor. This key prophecy tells us that the Antichrist will arise from Europe and the old Roman Empire and not from a Muslim kingdom. Though the Muslims captured Jerusalem in 637 from the Byzantines, they never destroyed a Jewish temple. It had ceased to exist more than 550 years earlier.

The Roman Empire fits the prophecy of Daniel perfectly. It is the kingdom that conquered Greece, was divided into two major portions (the two legs of Daniel 2), and it is the kingdom that continues until the time of the Antichrist. It has continued in the Holy Roman Empire and in modern Europe.

Joel Richardson, in *Mideast Beast*, gives the following reasons for rejecting Rome as the fourth kingdom of Daniel’s prophecies:

Richardson says the Roman Empire did not conquer all portions of the land holdings of the previous empires (Babylon, Persia, Greece). “Although the Roman Empire did conquer portions of the land holdings of the other empires, it clearly did not conquer all of them, not even a majority of them” (Richardson, p. 59).

Answer: This is a non-issue. The Bible doesn’t say the fourth empire would conquer every part of the territory of the former empires, only that it would conquer and replace those empires, which it did. In fact, the Roman Empire occupied much of the territory occupied by Babylon, Greece, and Medo-Persia, plus far more territory toward the west than they ever occupied.

Richardson claims that the Roman Empire was not a crushing empire as described in Daniel 2:40; 7:7, 23. He says, “Rather than being a crushing force, the Roman Empire was often a positive influence to its conquered peoples. ... The Islamic Caliphate absolutely crushed all of the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Greek Empires” (Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, pp. 60, 76).

Answer: This depiction of Rome is skewed. Rome was somewhat benevolent to people who submitted to her, but she was incredibly brutal toward those who resisted. Consider Rome’s treatment of Israel during the first and second Roman-Jewish wars. Israel’s cities and towns

were ruined. Her temple was destroyed. Her religion was outlawed. Millions of Jews were killed and sold into slavery. Her wealth was robbed and used to build the Coliseum in Rome. Her capital city was razed and an idolatrous Roman city built over its ruins. The very name of her capital city was changed to the name of a Roman emperor, and the name of her country was changed to *Palestina Syria*. Rome did this type of thing to many people, including the Greeks and the Brits and various German tribes. To say that Rome wasn’t “a crushing force” is nonsense.

Richardson says that the Roman Empire does not fit the two divisions signified by the legs. He writes, “There was the Eastern Empire with its capital in Constantinople and the Western Empire with its capital in Rome. Two legs you see. All right. But wait a minute! To begin with, the division occurs before you get to the iron! The two legs begin under the copper, unless this image was a freak. ... So you see, you cannot do anything with these two legs” (Geoffrey King, cited by Richardson, *Mideast Beast*, p. 71).

Answer: This error is caused by trying to press every detail of the statue. It is the same error that is made by those who try to press all details of parables. These things are given to emphasize one particular point. The significance of the two legs is simply that the fourth empire would have two major divisions, and that was certainly true of the Roman Empire.

Richardson says the Roman legions that destroyed Jerusalem were composed of a mixed multitude, including many men from the Middle East.

Answer: While this is true, it is meaningless, since the legions were Roman legions, led by Romans and controlled by Rome. The head of the legions, Titus, became an emperor soon thereafter and the artifacts taken from the temple, together with Jewish captives, were paraded through the streets of Rome in the Triumph of Vespasian and Titus as a sign of Rome’s power. The Arch of Titus was built in Rome to commemorate Rome’s destruction of Jerusalem. It was Rome that minted the coins celebrating the defeat of Israel. The words *Ivdaea Capta* (“Judea has been conquered”) or *Ivdaea Devicta* (“Judea has been defeated”) were engraved around the rim. Israel was usually depicted as a weeping woman sitting by a palm tree with her hands tied. On some coins she is guarded by the Roman emperor clothed in his

military gear and striking a victory pose. The coins continued to be issued by two other emperors (Vespasian's sons) until AD 96. Another Roman coin depicted the execution of the Jewish revolt leader, Simon son of Giora, who was taken to Rome, publicly displayed, then executed. The coin features the Roman emperor Vespasian's head on one side and a triumphal Roman procession on the other, with Vespasian standing in a four-horse chariot and Simon being led to his death. It was Rome that gave Roman names to Jerusalem and Judea.

It was the Roman Empire headquartered in Europe that destroyed Israel in fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy, not the Ottoman Empire or any other Islamic kingdom.

4. The Muslim Antichrist position is frequently based on the more obscure prophecies.

A proper interpretation of the Bible uses the clearest passages of Scripture to interpret the less clear, but false teachers typically reverse this methodology. They use the more obscure to "explain" the clear.

This is what Richardson does. He will use prophecies such as Revelation 17:10, which is difficult to interpret by any "scheme" and possibly will not be perfectly clear until its fulfillment (as is the case with many prophecies), to build his doctrine of the Ottoman Empire as Daniel's fourth kingdom.

One preacher wrote to me as follow:

"I have one question, which is how would Revelation 17:10-11 be interpreted? 'And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.' One of the things I gleaned from your book was about the Anti-christ being called 'The Assyrian' and Assyria was also a world empire based in Turkey, north of Israel. For myself, I understand the five are fallen world kingdoms as: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome (the world kingdom that is, at the time of John). Then Richardson proposes that the other that is not yet come is the Ottoman Empire. So the beast that is the eighth, he is of the seventh (Ottoman)."

I replied,

"As for Revelation 17:10-11, that is somewhat obscure and not clear cut, in my estimation. There are lots of different views. Some things in prophecy cannot be interpreted with exactness until the time of the fulfillment. That particular one will be clear in

the Tribulation. A very important principle of interpretation is that you base doctrine on the clear teaching of Scripture, not on the less clear. There are things 'hard to be understood,' Peter said (2 Pe. 3:16), and though we seek to understand everything in Scripture, we don't use the 'hard to be understood' to overthrow the clearer, more easy to be understood Scriptures. A false teacher will always turn this principle on its head. I think that is exactly what Richardson has done with his Muslim empire thing."

5. The Antichrist will find a solution to the age-old animosity between Israel and the Muslims, but the Bible does not say where the Muslims might fit into these things.

The Bible doesn't tell us exactly where the Muslims might fit into the end times, and it is dangerous to try to fill in the Bible's silence with human speculation. "The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29).

We do know that the Antichrist will operate in the wisdom and power of the devil (Revelation 13:2, 4), and since the world's false religions are creations of the devil and since he operates in "the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2), he will have no problem manipulating the religions and their adherents as he pleases when God gives him permission to do so.

We know that at the beginning of his reign, the Antichrist will be acclaimed as a great problem solver and a man who will bring peace to earth.

We know that the Antichrist will make a seven-year peace covenant "with many" in Israel at the beginning of his reign (Daniel 9:27). He is depicted as coming on the scene on a white horse and an empty bow (Revelation 6).

This signifies that the Antichrist will have the capability to make war but initially he will come as a man of peace. Five times in Daniel the Antichrist is called a liar and a flatterer (Da. 11:21, 23, 27, 32, 34). Daniel says by peace he will destroy many (Da. 8:25).

We know that the Antichrist will make it possible for the third Jewish temple to be built. We see the temple being measured in Revelation 11 at the beginning of the ministry of the two prophets who will preach in Jerusalem for three and a half years (Revelation 11:7). This is the first half of the Antichrist's seven-year peace

covenant. Daniel 9:27 says he will break the covenant at the mid-point of the seven years, and set up the abomination of desolation. Other prophecies fill in the details of this event. Christ taught that this marks the Antichrist's desecration of the temple (Matthew 24:15). Paul taught that this is when the Antichrist will set himself up as God (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

At this point, the Antichrist will require that all people worship him on pain of death and will take control of the world economy toward that end (Revelation 13:15-17).

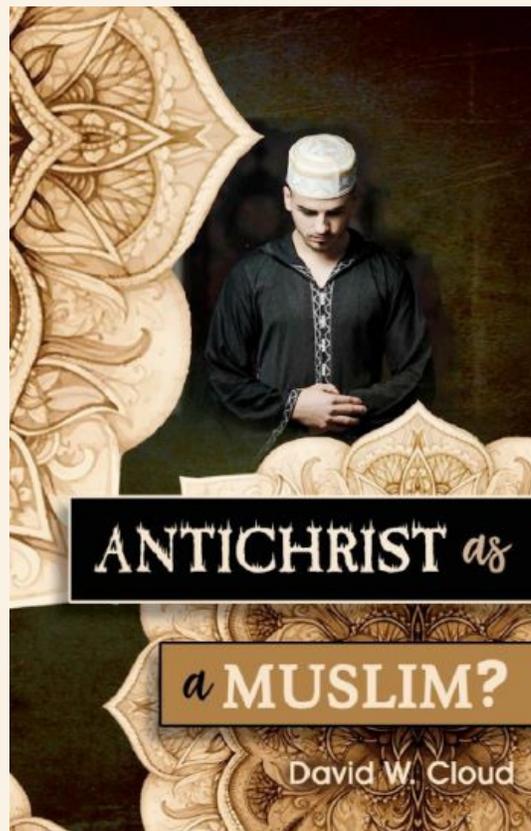
Though it is not possible that the Jews would accept a Muslim antichrist or a Muslim prophet, there could be a Muslim messiah of some sort who will be associated with the Antichrist in some way. Again, the Bible simply does not speak to this issue.

Who knows, Islam might effectively be destroyed before then or at that time. There could be a nuclear bombing of Mecca and Medina and an effectual beheading of the religion. I'm not saying that will happen. I'm saying that the Bible is silent on the matter of Islam and the end times.

The bottom line is that there are many details of end-time events that are not spelled out in Bible prophecy, and the wise will be content with the light that we have and not speculate beyond this, and they will not allow anyone's extra-biblical speculation to become an authority in their lives.

ANTICHRIST as a MUSLIM?

David W. Cloud



Available as a Free eBook From:
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THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD



A Handbook of Biblical Difficulties

David Cloud

THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD

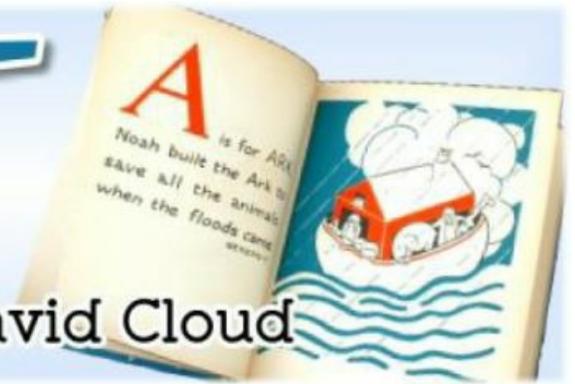
By David W. Cloud

This very practical volume deals with a variety of biblical difficulties. Find the answer to the seeming contradictions in the Bible. Meet the challenge of false teachers who misuse biblical passages to prove their doctrine. One unique feature of this volume is that it contains no criticism of the King James Bible. We don't believe that it has any errors and we do not believe that any correction of it is necessary to solve the alleged contradictions and other difficulties.

Available from Way of Life Literature [Online Store](#)

IGNORANT churches

By David Cloud



The following is excerpted from the latest edition of [Why Most Independent Baptist Churches Will Be Emerging](#), available from Way of Life Literature in print and a free eBook edition, www.wayoflife.org.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6).

Another reason why a large percentage of fundamental Baptist churches will be well down the emerging path in 10-20 years is that there is widespread ignorance about important issues such as contemporary music, New Evangelicalism, the Southern Baptist Convention, Reformed theology, reconstructionism, charismaticism, Neo-orthodoxy, Darwinian and theistic evolution, contemplative mysticism, and the emerging church.

I recall a veteran Independent Baptist missionary who looked around for a few minutes in my 6,000-volume library. He had no questions and showed zero interest and the only comment he made was negative, because he looked upon serious research as more of a hindrance and a sidetrack than a blessing. The only comment he made was that “we will be held accountable for our time,” and I couldn’t agree more, but time spent in serious Bible study and ministry-related research is time well spent for now and eternity!

The mindset of this missionary is the mindset that has already destroyed a great many Independent Baptist churches both here and around the world, and it is going to destroy a great many more in coming years. And this is a missionary who has started churches and raised a godly family, but even godly people can be destroyed by ignorance.

Thousands of churches have been established around the world by fundamental Baptist missionaries, but what is

their character? How solid is their spiritual foundation? Are they well-grounded, properly-taught congregations, or are they shallow and largely ignorant of important issues facing God’s people today?

Are the parents properly educated by the church so they can train, disciple, and protect their children? What is happening to the second generations in these churches?

With the aforementioned mindset, the preacher doesn’t carefully ground his people in such a way that they can deal effectively and intelligently with the issues of the day. He teaches them how to be faithful church members and to do “Romans Road” evangelism and hopefully encourages them to love their wives and discipline their kids, and these are good things (apart from shallow evangelism methodology), but this isn’t enough to protect churches from the onslaught of end-time apostasy and the subtle compromise of the hour.

Most Southwide Baptist Fellowship and BBFI churches taught these things, but they have fallen like dominoes to New Evangelicalism and the contemporary philosophy.

About 15 years ago my pastor rented a table at the Southwide Baptist Fellowship annual conference for two or three years running. He offered solid Bible study books such as the [Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible and Christianity](#) and [Things Hard to Be Understood](#) and seriously-researched books on issues such as music and New Evangelicalism. Though the books were deeply discounted, there was little interest by the hundreds of preachers in attendance.

I see a direct connection between this and the spiritual downfall of a great many of these very churches, including the host church, Highland Park Baptist Church, which turned into a rock & roll, Southern Baptist congregation before going defunct.

A couple of decades ago, those same churches renounced New Evangelicalism, but even the pastors had only a vague idea of New Evangelicalism's history and principles, were uneducated about contemporary music, etc., *and they weren't interested in studying such issues.* And for the most part the people were more ignorant by far than the preachers.

In light of the fact that every Independent Baptist church is inundated with New Evangelical philosophy from every direction (e.g., Christian bookstores, Christian radio, Internet, friends, neighbors, relatives, graduates of compromising schools), it is no surprise that churches that were not properly educated and spiritually fortified against error are either in the New Evangelical contemporary camp today or are heading in that direction.

A preacher friend told the following sad testimony about the condition of many Independent Baptist preachers:

"Some years ago I started asking preachers questions when we sat around talking or when we drove down the road. Questions such as what doctrine was especially precious to them at that moment, or what book of the Bible they love the most this week, or what good book they are reading, or which one has helped them grow the most, or what authors are the most challenging to them spiritually, or what they think about this or that verse (and I pick the hardest ones to ask about). If they are driving, I take my Bible and read to them some passage I am meditating on and ask them to explain them to me. Most of them are out of their depth within ten seconds. Some of them stare at me with open mouth and shake their head. Most of the IB pastors have never read anything deeper than Rice or Hutson."

In the 1990s, I had a book table set up at a Bible conference, and a missionary proclaimed during his sermon, "We don't need more books; we need more preaching."

I love preaching. I am a preacher. I have preached thousands of sermons in more than 550 churches, on university campuses, in our missionary church planting work, in jails, etc.

I believe in preaching. But I love good books. I need good books. Good books help me preach more effectually.

Paul was a preacher, but he said to Timothy,

"The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments" (2 Timothy 4:13).

This downplaying of the importance of godly education didn't characterize preachers of the past. Consider two examples:

"What has exceedingly hurt you in time past, nay, and I fear to this day, is want of reading. I scarce ever knew a preacher who read so little. And perhaps by neglecting it you have lost the taste for it. Hence your talent in preaching does not increase. It is just the same as it was seven years ago. It is lively, but not deep: there is little variety; there is no compass of thought. Reading only can supply this, with meditation and daily prayer. You wrong yourself greatly by omitting this. You can never be a deep preacher without it any more than a thorough Christian. O begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercises. You may acquire the taste which you have not; what is tedious at first will afterwards be pleasant. Whether you like it or no; read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way; else you will be a trifler all your days, and a petty, superficial prayer" (John Wesley to John Trembeth, August 1760).

"Only Heaven will determine which was the most important in my earthly ministry--my preaching or the distributing of books." (Peter Cartwright, circuit riding preacher).

Countless times I have witnessed pastors, missionaries, and evangelists walk by the book table, take a cursory look, and walk away.

They don't walk away because they are already well educated in the issues facing the churches and already know the things we publish. They don't walk away because they have no money. We find a way to purchase the things we want and the things we hold valuable. Charles Spurgeon counseled his Bible college students to "sell your shirt and buy books." No, these preachers walk away because they have no passion for godly education. They think a little three point sermon outline (marked at appropriate places with "weak point, shout loudly here") backed by some shallow illustrations, many of which are pure fantasy, is enough.

"Just preach," they say.

Yes, preach by all means, but the preaching should have enough substance and content that it can build up the Lord's people in God's Word and protect them from error. Our preaching is to be characterized by reproof, rebuke, exhortation, AND DOCTRINE (2 Tim. 4:2).

The "just preach" (without serious study, without much doctrinal content) philosophy hasn't protected multitudes of churches that were once sound and are now traveling the contemporary road of compromise toward total apostasy.

Some church members put their own pastors to shame. I was told recently about a woman in a church who works six days a week but she has gone through the entire 20 titles in our [*Advanced Bible Studies Series*](#) (totaling more than 6,000 pages).

I know of several church members who have read the entire [*Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible and Christianity*](#). Many people in the congregations educate themselves with materials such as [*O Timothy*](#) magazine even though their own pastors are largely ignorant of the things about which we educate and warn. And these pastors have no interest in educating themselves.

There are exceptions, praise the Lord, but the fundamental Baptist congregation that has an interest in anything more substantive than a little pamphlet is the exception and not the rule, and most of the church members don't even take the time to read pamphlets.

The people aren't encouraged to read substantive publications that would enable them to keep abreast of issues they are facing.

The members of soft separatist churches walk into a Christian bookstore and are unequipped to distinguish between sound and unsound authors and are thus in danger of being influenced in a wrong direction. They are unequipped to discern the compromise represented by the nationally-syndicated personalities on Christian radio. They are unequipped to deal effectively with the error that permeates Internet blogs. They are unequipped to deal with the contemporary worship phenomenon. They don't know Darlene Zschech from Annie Oakley.

A pastor once accompanied me to a LifeWay bookstore, and as I walked through the store and pointed out various authors and the spiritual/doctrinal danger they represent he exclaimed, "I don't know anything about any of these men." But he should know something, because his people are in danger of being influenced by them, either by book or via the Internet.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." (Hosea 4:6).

I try my best to help pastors and to provide information for them. I do research that the average pastor doesn't have time to do, and I provide a large amount of well-documented information on hundreds of topics,

much of it for free, but I can't help a man who isn't willing to take the time and effort to study.

We have published reports such as "Dangers in Christian Bookstores" and "Dangers on Christian Radio," which list the popular authors and speakers and document their errors, but such materials accomplish nothing if they aren't used by pastors who are eager for such education. We have published digests such as the [*Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*](#), a 600-page book that documents the position of most of the popular CCM artists, and we have published it as a free eBook at the Way of Life web site. All a preacher has to do is download it and use it, but few are interested.

I frequently meet preachers who say, "I don't know anything about Darlene Zschech or Hillsong or the Gettys or these other people." There is no excuse for this in a day when these very people are influencing members of Independent Baptist churches throughout the world. Many of these same pastors know a lot about professional sports and conservative politics. It's a matter of priorities.

I thank the Lord for the fundamental Baptist churches that are engaged in training their people properly and educating them in the issues they must face. Consider a couple of examples among many that I could give:

Grace Baptist Church, Oxford, Pennsylvania, is pastored by Steve Rogers. In 2011, I preached for five days on the theme of compromise and biblical separation. I preached on Contemporary Christian Music, Bible Prophecy, the Emerging Church, the Charismatic Movement, and New Evangelicalism. The response was enthusiastic and encouraging. Most of the members were there for every service, which is always a sign of a spiritually healthy church. The book table, which was packed with titles providing the education that church members need today, was well used.

Pembina Valley Baptist Church in Winkler, Manitoba, is a large, evangelistic church that operates a full-time Bible college. While it is typical for Independent Baptist Bible colleges to tone down the message of separation for the sake of drawing from a larger number of congregations, Pembina Valley, under the leadership of Mike Sullivant, is not afraid to fly the flag of separation. In the church and school the leaders educate and warn, not only about spiritual and doctrinal dangers "without," but also about dangers within Independent Baptist

“circles.” Their bookstore carries titles on separation. I have preached at Pembina Valley on the dangers of contemporary worship music, New Evangelicalism, and the emerging church, among other things.

I could describe many churches like this. Though they are now in the extreme minority, I thank the Lord that such churches still exist. They are laying a proper biblical and spiritual foundation against the onslaught of end-time apostasy.

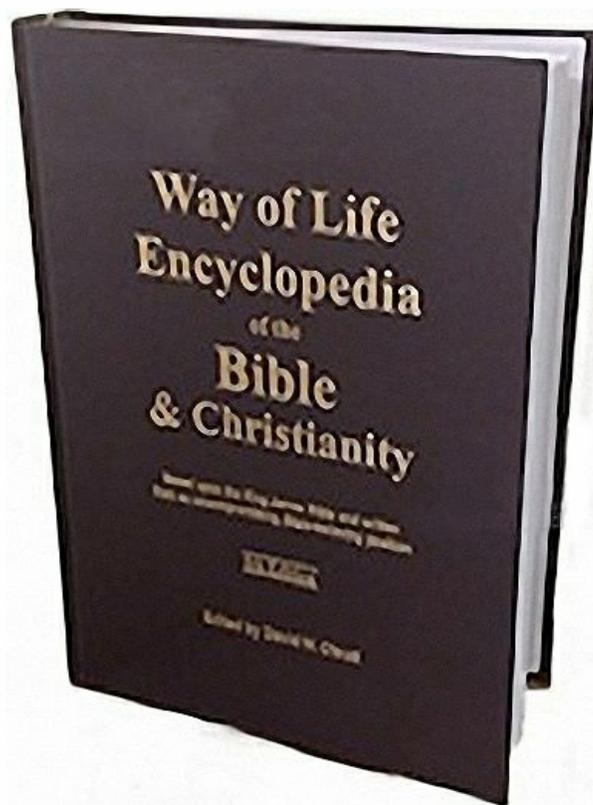
The church being the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15), it is essential for the cause of truth that we establish Christ-exalting, biblically-sound, spiritually-healthy, properly-disciplined, discipline-practicing, well-educated churches for the glory of Christ and the blessing of the people.

The home and church are divinely-ordained institutions, each of which has its own ministry, responsibility, and influence. We need godly families, but godly families should be the pillars of sound churches, and the churches should build godly families.

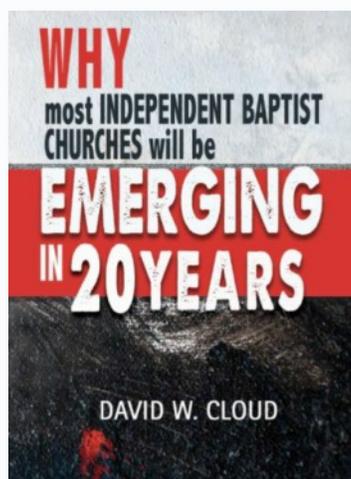
In this day of “soft fundamentalism,” it is refreshing to be associated with men who are willing to fly the flag of godly biblical separation high, men who will speak the truth even if it means marking their own brethren as compromisers, men who don’t buy into the New Evangelical “in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty” heresy, and who do not hesitate to educate their people properly in the face of rapidly-increasing compromise and apostasy.

Way of Life
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 of the
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David W. Cloud



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**WHY most INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCHES
 will be EMERGING in 20 YEARS**

By David W. Cloud

This book documents the collapse of separatism among fundamental Baptists and the reasons why: the maligning of warning and reproof, unquestioning loyalty to man, following the crowd, ignorance about important issues, soft separatism, lack of serious discipleship, carelessness about music, and Quick Prayerism.

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DIGGING IN THE WALLS

God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw. ..." (Ezek. 8:7-10).

Ezekiel was then instructed to preach against the errors of the leaders and to tell the people the things he had witnessed.

"Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. ... Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the Lord had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:4,25).

The hour in which we live is very similar to that of Ezekiel's day. Many of those who profess to be the people of God are apostate. It was prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures that such would be the case in the closing hours of our age. This will culminate in the brief worldwide rule of an utterly apostate Harlot "church" (2 Tim. 3-4; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Pet. 2-3; Jude; Rev. 17).

As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



THE UNITED NATIONS' REBELLION AGAINST GOD

(Friday Church News Notes, December 29, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- It is not often that the nations have an opportunity to vote up or down on the authority of the Bible, but they had that opportunity on December 18 when the United Nations voted on whether to support America's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. On December 6, President Donald Trump announced from the White House, "I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel." In so doing, Trump was simply recognizing the truth of God's Word. The Bible plainly states that the entire land in question belongs to Abraham's seed "for an everlasting possession" (Genesis 17:9), and Jerusalem is Israel's God-given capital (2 Chronicles 6:5-6; 12:13; Psalm 76:1-2; 78:68-69; 132:13). Jerusalem is mentioned repeatedly in Bible prophecy as the capital of the Messianic kingdom. The nations had a clear choice, and they failed the test miserably, and one day it will be clear that this is no small matter. There is a God, and every nation will give account to Him. The audacious vote to declare President Trump's decision "null and void" was 128 in favor, 9 against, with 35 abstaining. Other than America and Israel, the only nations on earth that supported Jerusalem as Israel's capital were

Honduras, Guatemala, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, and Togo. In keeping with a long history of wrongheaded decisions in regard to Israel, Great Britain voted on the wrong side of the issue. You would think that the U.K. would have learned its lesson, but apostasy is blinding. Only a few decades after strangely but persistently doing everything in its power to disallow persecuted European Jews to immigrate to the "British Mandate" and after abstaining from the 1947 UN vote on the establishment of a Jewish homeland in "Palestine" and after refusing to recognize the State of Israel in May 1948 and after doing everything possible to arm the Arabs and disarm the Jews during Israel's War of Independence and after largely refusing to assist Israel in her modern wars, the United Kingdom has no kingdom to speak of. When Great Britain began voting against Israel in the 1930s, it had an empire on which "the sun never set" and the Royal Navy was the pride of the seas. Today every royal naval fighting vessel could dock together at a good sized port. India's overall military strength is many times that of Great Britain's. We are reminded of God's promise to Abraham, later affirmed to Isaac and Jacob: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee" (Genesis 12:3). We are witnessing a dramatic fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of Psalm 2. See the next report.

GOD WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH

(Friday Church News Notes, December 29, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

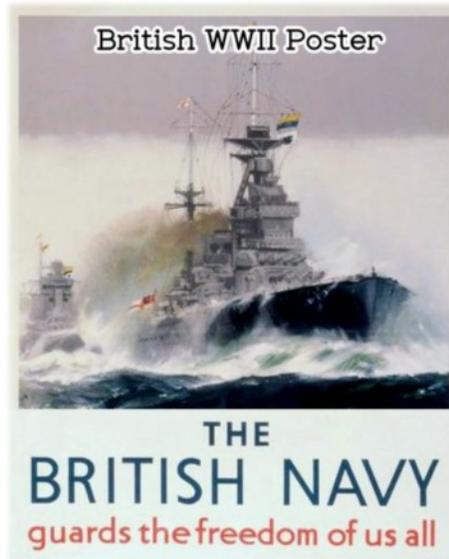
- "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,



against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (Psalm 2:1-12).

THE DECLINE OF THE BRITISH NAVY (Friday Church News Notes, December 29, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The British Royal Navy was once the most powerful navy on earth, but that is no longer true. Following is an excerpt from "The Decline of the Royal Navy" by David Axe, *Maritime Executive*, Aug. 10, 2016: "Traditionally, Britain's Royal Navy has been the U.S. Navy's closest partner. The two have fought together

against most every foe. So any weakening of the Royal Navy also erodes Washington's naval power. Today, however, the Royal Navy is a shadow of its former self. ... It can barely patrol the United Kingdom's own waters, much less project British influence abroad. Though London officials now vow to reverse the decline, it might be too late. With morale plummeting, and its few remaining ships frequently malfunctioning at sea, the Royal Navy's suffering might be terminal. ... During World War Two, the British fleet was still dominant. On D-Day in 1944, it was able to send more than 900 British warships across the English Channel to escort the Allied troops who would liberate Europe from Nazi Germany. As recently as 1982, the Royal Navy could quickly muster no fewer than 115 ships--including two aircraft carriers carrying jet fighters, plus 23 destroyers and frigates--to retake the Falkland Islands from Argentina. Today, the British navy doesn't even *have* jet fighters. It mothballed its last Harriers in 2010. It possesses just 89 ships. ... Only the six destroyers, 13 frigates and seven attack submarines can be considered true frontline vessels. ... [In 2012]



Islamic State fighters swept through northwestern Iraq. The world mobilized air and sea power to help Baghdad push them back. The U.S. and French navies deployed aircraft carriers to launch air strikes on the militant forces. ... But for the first time in a century, Britain could do little to help. ... The two new *Queen Elizabeth*-class aircraft carriers ... are the biggest warships Britain has produced. [But they] were planned for a larger fleet. An aircraft carrier requires more planes and escorts than Britain can provide. ... The Royal Navy expects to deploy just one carrier at a time and keep the second at home. It projects that its new carriers will deploy between 12 and 24 F-35s--too few to use the ships to their full potential."

OHIO PASSES DOWN SYNDROME ABORTION BAN (Friday Church News Notes, December 29, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In Iceland and Denmark nearly 100% of babies determined by prenatal testing to be Down Syndrome are aborted. But the state of Ohio has taken steps to protect these children. "Pro-life advocates are applauding the Ohio legislature's passage of a bill to ban abortions of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome. They expect a signature from Gov. John Kasich within the next week or so. Last month, the state House passed the bill 64-31, and the Senate passed it 20-12 last week. The legislation prohibits abortions 'because an unborn child has or may have Down syndrome.' Abortionists who violate the law would face a fourth-degree felony

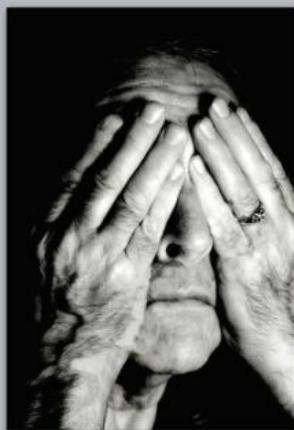


charge, but their patients would not face prosecution. ... Two other states have passed Down syndrome abortion bans with mixed results: North Dakota's 2013 law still stands, while a federal judge blocked Indiana's 2016 ban in September. Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill announced since then he plans to appeal the injunction" ("Ohio Passes," *Christian Headlines*, Dec. 22, 2017).

"I DON'T BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A NATIONAL REVIVAL" (Friday Church News Notes, December 29, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Many people who have communicated with me about praying for the nation have expressed their opinion that there will be no "national revival." I don't believe there will be a national revival, either, but I see this as a red herring, because it seems to keep people from praying at all. Personally, I'm not praying for a national revival, and I have never urged anyone else to pray for such a thing. What I am urging people to do, and I am urging it as forcefully and often as I can, is simply to do what God commands His people to do in 1 Timothy 2:1-2. But in my experience, very, very few individuals and churches are doing this; even half-heartedly, let alone fervently; even monthly, let alone daily. Let me ask some questions. Do you believe that effectual fervent prayer in Christ changes things? Do you believe that

God would tell His people to pray for something specifically and not be ready to answer? Do you believe that if a good number of God's people would pray according to 1 Timothy 2:1-2 that God would do something for the nation that He would not otherwise do?

THE DESIGN ARGUMENT IS SCRIPTURAL (Friday Church News Notes, December 29, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Seeing the Non-existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes*, David Cloud, copyright 2011: "Biologist Michael Behe, though he is not a biblical creationist, calls 'intelligent design' *the elephant in the room* for evolutionists: 'To a person who does not feel obliged to restrict his search to unintelligent causes, the straightforward conclusion is that many biochemical systems were designed. They were designed not by the laws of nature, not by chance and necessity; rather, they were planned' (*Darwin's Black Box*, chapter 9, 'Intelligent Design'). The 'design' argument, in fact, is Scriptural, because the Bible says that the



Seeing the Non-Existent
Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes

creation is evidence for the existence of an Almighty God. 'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened' (Romans 1:18-21). This passage says that the invisible things of God are seen in creation and that this is an evidence that God has given to men. The part of God's character that is witnessed by creation is His 'eternal power and Godhead.' Men are therefore without excuse if they do not believe in God and do not seek God. Verse 21 says that the reason men do not glorify God is that their hearts are darkened by sin. This is why men cannot 'clearly see' God through creation. 'In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them' (2 Corinthians 4:4)."

MORE EVIDENCE UNEARTHED OF ISRAEL'S ANCIENT HISTORY (Friday Church News Notes, January 5, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "2,700-year-old seal impression," *The Times of Israel*, Jan. 1, 2018: "Past and present collided last week when an extremely rare seal impression



discovered in Jerusalem's Western Wall plaza and bearing the inscription 'To the governor of the city' was presented to Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. According to site excavator Dr. Shlomit Weksler-Bdolah, 'This is the first time that such an impression was found in an authorized excavation. It supports the biblical rendering of the existence of a governor of the city in Jerusalem 2,700 years ago.' At the presentation, Barkat said, 'This shows that already 2,700 years ago, Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, was a strong and central city.' The minuscule clay seal impression, or docket, was found while researchers were examining the dust from a First Temple structure 100 meters northwest of the Western Wall at a site the Israel Antiquity Authorities has been excavating since 2005. ... The small (13 x 15 mm and 2–3 mm thick) fired lump of clay bears an image and inscription. On the upper portion of the impression, two figures wearing striped garments face each other. ... Weksler-Bdolah explains that the governor most likely functioned much like today's mayor. The role is referenced in the Hebrew Bible: in 2 Kings 23:8, Joshua is listed as the governor of the city in the days of Hezekiah, and in 2 Chronicles 34:8, Maaseiah is noted as governor of the city in the days of Josiah."

IMPORTANT FREEDOM OF RELIGION CASE BEFORE SUPREME COURT - A MATTER CALLING FOR PRAYER (Friday

Church News Notes, January 5, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Supreme Court Hears Landmark Religious Liberty Case," ChristianHeadlines.com, Dec. 6, 2017: "Yesterday, the Supreme Court heard what Eric Metaxas calls 'perhaps the most important free speech and religious freedom case in our lifetime.' Eric explains the case succinctly: Jack Phillips is an artist who designs cakes. His business, Masterpiece Cakeshop, is an expression of his faith. He has refused business in the past that conflicted with his faith--for instance, he won't design Halloween cakes or cakes that celebrate divorce. The Satanic Temple recently asked him to create a cake for Satan's birthday, but he refused. When a same-sex couple asked him to design a cake for their same-sex wedding, he declined. He offered them any cake or other product in his store. But the couple was infuriated and brought him before the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. It fined Phillips and ordered him and his employees to go through a 're-education' program. He has since stopped making custom wedding cakes, a decision that has cost him 40 percent of his business. The Supreme Court has previously ruled that government cannot force citizens to make, say, or do something that carries a message they reject. For example, the Court has ruled that the government cannot



compel Jehovah's Witnesses to salute the flag. Now the Court is being asked to extend this religious freedom to the rest of us. Can businesses 'discriminate' against customers? Writing for *The Hill*, Emilie Kao states, 'At stake is whether the First Amendment to the Constitution protects all Americans at all times.'"

SELFITIS, A NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL ADDICTION (Friday Church News Notes, January 5, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- A new addictive behaviour that has been coined "selfitis" is the object of a study that was published in the *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction* (Nov. 2017). Janarthanan Balakrishnan of Madura, India, and Mark Griffiths of Nottingham Trent University in the U.K. authored "An Exploratory Study of 'Selfitis' and the Development of the Selfitis Behaviour Scale." The scale divides selfie takers into categories of *borderline*, *acute*, and *chronic*, and a study of 225 students from India universities found that 57% fell into the highest categories. (India has the most users on *Facebook*.) Six things were found to be the driving factors in obsessive selfie taking: Environmental enhancement (taking selfies to better enjoy my environment), social competition, attention seeking, mood modification, self-confidence, and subjective conformity. Men "were

found to exhibit selfitis at a higher rate than women.” Oh yes, and selfie-stick users “were perceived as less socially attractive, moderately narcissistic, and moderately inconsiderate.”

THOUSANDS PRAY AT WESTERN WALL FOR RAIN (Friday Church News Notes, January 5, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In the midst of a long and serious drought in Israel, thousands gathered at the Western Wall in Jerusalem to pray for rain. The event was organized by the Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel. Prominent rabbis led the prayers. In February, the Sea of Galilee reached its lowest level in nearly 100 years (“Thousands pray,” *The Times of Israel*, Dec. 28, 2017). This is the fifth time in the last eight years that the chief rabbis have led prayer rallies for rain, but the drought continues. Deuteronomy 28, which explains Israel’s situation over the past 2,500 years, says, “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day ... all these blessings shall come on thee ... The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season ... But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes ... that all these curses



shall come upon thee ... thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass ... The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust” (Deut. 28:1, 2, 12, 15, 23, 24).

BONO SAYS PAUL WAS WRONG (Friday Church News Notes, January 5, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

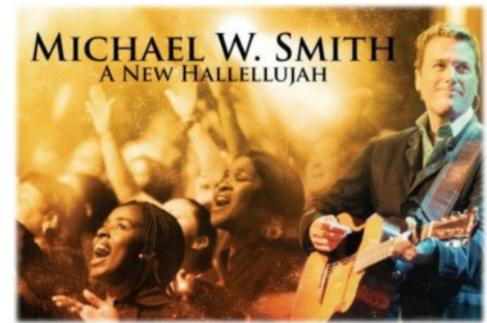


- Bono, frontman for the rock band U2, stated his view of the Bible in a recent interview as follows: “The person who wrote best about love in the Christian era was Paul of Tarsus, who became Saint Paul. He was a tough -----. He is a superintellectual guy, but he is fierce and he has, of course, the Damascene experience. ... Now, it doesn’t cure him of all, of what he thinks of women or gay people or whatever else, but within his context he has an amazingly transcendent view of love” (“Bono: The Rolling Stone Interview” with Jann Wenner, Dec. 27, 2017). So according to Bono, the apostle Paul needs to be cured of his views of women and gay people and other things. Doubtless a modern, supercool guy like Bono can straighten out poor misguided Paul. U2 is much more than a popular rock band. U2 and Bono are praised almost universally among contemporary and emerging Christians. Bono has been applauded by Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, Brian McLaren, Tony Campolo, Bill Hybels, Rick Warren,

Rob Bell, and many others. *Christianity Today* almost worships U2. But Bono’s Christ is not the Christ of Scripture and his rock & roll lifestyle is a reproach to biblical holiness, which he readily admits. (For more about U2 and Bono see the [Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](http://www.wayoflife.org), which is available for free viewing or downloading from www.wayoflife.org.)

MICHAEL W. SMITH CONTINUES TO CALL FOR ECUMENICAL UNITY (Friday Church News Notes, January 5, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- One of the great dangers of using contemporary worship music is that it builds bridges to the one-world church. To my knowledge, 100% of the popular contemporary worship musicians are radical ecumenists, including Stuart Townend and the Gettys. They have non-critical association with “Christians” of every stripe, including Roman Catholics. To them, “separation” is almost a dirty word. Michael W. Smith is one of the most prominent and influential names in contemporary worship, and he continues to call for ecumenical unity. The goal of his new live album *Surrounded* is “to unify the Church’s diverse expressions into one passionate, joyful cry of worship.” He says, “I feel God moving through His Church and He is calling us together to be one voice and one heart. One bride. Every nation, every tribe and



every tongue. Every social class, EVERY DENOMINATION” (“Michael W. Smith Releases Two Albums,” louderthanthemusic.com, Dec. 2017). It is impossible to reconcile the Bible’s clear and forceful warnings about false teaching and apostasy (e.g., Romans 16:17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 11:1-4, 14-15; 1 Timothy 1:3; 4:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:5; 4:3-4; 1 John 4:1; Jude 3; Revelation 2:14-16) with contemporary praise music’s call for ecumenical unity. For those who love the Bible, interpret it literally, and hold it to be the sole and final authority for faith and practice, it is clear that the voice Michael W. Smith is hearing is not God’s. “Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way” (Psalm 119:128). Bible-believing churches that are messing around with contemporary music and are not properly educating their people about this issue are playing with spiritual fire, but most of the pastors are *terribly* and *carelessly* and *willfully* ignorant of such things.

EVOLUTIONIST RETRACTS KEY STUDY ON ORIGIN OF LIFE (Friday Church News Notes, January 5, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Evolutionist Retracts,” *Christian Headlines*, Dec. 22, 2017: “A secular scientist who attempted to explain the origins of life has made a bold admission that bolsters arguments against Darwinian evolution. Jack Szostak of Harvard University published a 2016 paper in *Nature Chemistry* claiming he and his colleagues had figured out a way to get RNA to replicate itself. Darwinian evolutionists believe RNA, a nucleic acid present in all living cells, were some of the first

molecules to form on the Earth and give rise to living things. But for that to happen, the RNA would have had to somehow reproduce on its own without requisite enzymes that would not have evolved yet. Szostak claimed to have facilitated RNA self-replication in his lab, but earlier this month, he said one of his colleagues, Tivoli Olsen, realized they had misinterpreted the data when she could not reproduce the original experiment’s results. ‘In retrospect, we were totally blinded by our belief [in our findings] ... we were not as careful or rigorous as we should have been (and as Tivoli was) in interpreting these experiments,’ Szostak told *Retraction Watch*. In his 2009 book *Signature in the Cell*, the Discovery Institute’s Stephen Meyer noted the inadequacy of using RNA to explain how life spontaneously appeared on earth. That inadequacy continues to stymie evolutionists today. ‘As I have investigated various models that combined chance and necessity, I have noted an increasing sense of futility and frustration arising amongst scientists who work on the origin of life,’ Meyer wrote, referencing some of Szostak’s earlier work on the subject.” [Concluding note: There is *zero* scientific evidence that life arose from non-life or that higher life evolved from lower life. In fact, such a thing is contrary to every known scientific fact. The defense of Darwinian evolution has always depended on smoke and mirrors.]



Jack Szostak



UNITED NATIONS FUNDS RESURRECTION OF ANCIENT IDOLS (Friday Church News Notes, January 12, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Since 2016, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been funding the restoration or recreation of ancient idols, particularly goddesses. In April 2016, a replica of a Roman arch that once stood in front of a Baal temple was erected in London’s Trafalgar Square to celebrate UNESCO’s World Heritage Week. A few months later the Baal arch greeted attendees of the World Government Summit in Dubai. In November 2017, a statue of the Greek goddess Athena was featured in an exhibit “The Spirit in the Stone” at UN headquarters in New York City. Most recently, UNESCO funded the reconstruction of an image of a lion associated with the goddess al-Lat. “It is believed al-Lat was the continuation of the earlier Mesopotamian goddess Ishtar Inanna; the goddess of sex and, in particular, extra-marital relations” (“UNESCO Produces Lion Idol,” *BreakingIsraelNews.com*, Jan. 2, 2018). The United Nations is a hotbed of New Age mysticism. (See “*The United Nations and the New Age*,” www.wayoflife.org.) With its one-world ambition, humanistic philosophy, syncretistic agenda, and anti-Semitism, it is unwittingly making preparations for the coming

of the Antichrist. The United Nations is an end-time Tower of Babel which seeks to unite mankind in rebellion to the Creator God and His holy Word, and like the first Tower of Babel, it is doomed to failure. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" (Psalm 2:1-6).

ABORTION CLINICS DISAPPEARING IN SOME U.S. STATES

(Friday Church News Notes, January 12, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Pro-life Win on Horizon," Dailywire.com, Jan. 2, 2018: "Thanks to the tireless effort from brave pro-life advocates, voters, and politicians, there are a total of seven states that have only one abortion clinic left: Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Missouri, West Virginia, and Kentucky. In Kentucky, the pro-life movement and mothers and their babies are on the cusp of another major victory: ridding the state entirely of the death



clinics. In a matter of weeks, the last abortion clinic in the state, EMW Women's Clinic in Louisville, could be forced to pack up their sopher clamps and close their doors, thanks to Republican Governor Matt Bevin. According to Bevin, EMW--which was caught performing abortions without a license in 2016--'is not in compliance with a state law that requires it to have hospital and ambulance service agreements for patient emergencies,' reported *Life News* in September. When Bevin moved to revoke the facility's license until compliance, EMW sued the state. ... A decision in the case could be made as early as this month."

THE WAR ON DRIVING TO COME

(Friday Church News Notes, January 12, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "The War on Driving to Come," *National Review*, Dec. 30, 2017: "At some point in the future, be it years, decades, or a century hence, the federal government will seek to ban driving. This, I'm afraid, is an inevitability. It is inexorably heading our way. The dot sits now on the horizon. As is common, the measure will be sold in the name of public health. 'Now that robots can do the work,' its bloodless advocates will explain, 'there's no need for human involvement.' And from then on, the snowball will roll. ... For a century, the automobile has been a bastion of liberty, freeing up almost everybody from the tyranny of other people's schedules. Trains, planes, and even taxis are run to their owners' clocks: I cannot tell Amtrak to pick me up at 9; Delta won't stop in Fayetteville if I ask nicely; yellow taxis have a habit of disappearing in the rain. But the car--oh, the car. The car is mine. I can



get in my car when I want, and get out when I want. I can oversleep or undersleep, and still it sits there waiting, as might a Labrador or a loyal slipper. My car has no luggage restrictions, and I know exactly what it'll fit. In my car, I may play what I want on the radio. And, best of all, I may choose the other passengers. Crucially, I need no special permission to drive my car--at least not beyond a basic license and a plate screwed into the back. At my choosing, I can go around the block, or I can go to California. Nobody cares. There are no tickets, no inspectors, no medallions to subsidize. ... Will it remain these things if I am no longer allowed to drive it? The answer, of course, is 'No.' ... Any network of self-driving cars would, by definition, necessitate total and unceasing tracking of their occupants. ... At a stroke, my autonomy would be gone."

HOW ALCOHOL DAMAGES DNA AND INCREASES CANCER RISK

(Friday Church News Notes, January 12, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "How alcohol damages," Reuters, Jan. 3, 2018: "Drinking alcohol produces a harmful chemical in the body which can lead to permanent genetic damage in the DNA of stem cells, increasing the risk of cancer developing, according to research published on Wednesday. Working with mice in a



laboratory, British scientists used chromosome analysis and DNA sequencing to examine the genetic damage caused by acetaldehyde, a harmful chemical produced when the body processes alcohol. Their findings offered more detail about how alcohol increases the risk of developing seven types of cancer, including common forms such as breast and bowel cancer. It also showed how the body seeks to defend against the damage alcohol can do. ... The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies alcohol as a Group 1 carcinogen, citing 'convincing evidence' it causes cancer in humans. A study published in 2011 found that alcohol is responsible for around 4 percent of all cancer in Britain--equating to around 12,800 cases a year." Proverbs 23:29-32 - "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder."

KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE (Friday Church News Notes, January 12, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - About 2,500 years ago, during the Persian Empire, an angel told the

prophet Daniel, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). We are seeing a dramatic fulfillment of this in our day. Recent inventions include the following: **Scientists at the University of Nottingham, England, have used ultrasound to image the inside of a cell.** The shorter-than-optical sound wavelengths produce an image at nanoscale. "The resolution of optical images is limited by the wavelength of light being used. Details smaller than the wavelength of light can't be imaged. ... Sound waves don't carry intense amounts of energy, and thus shorter wavelengths can be used to image biological processes without causing cell damage" ("New ultrasound technique," UPI, Dec. 21, 2016). **Scientists have developed a new class of ingestible devices that derive power from stomach acid** ("New ingestible devices," UPI, Feb. 6, 2017). The electronic capsule prototypes, developed by researchers from MIT and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, can measure temperature and other biological properties and stream the data wirelessly to a remote receiver. C. Giovanni Traverso says, "Our work helps pave the way toward a new era of pill-sized electronics, which can operate over the course of weeks or even months in the gastrointestinal tract--changing the way we think about disease diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment." **A brain implant allows a paralyzed man to feed himself using his thoughts** ("Brain Implant," *Fox News*, Mar. 29, 2017). "A paralyzed man in Cleveland fed himself mashed potatoes for the first time in eight years, aided by a computer-brain interface that reads



his thoughts and sends signals to move muscles in his arm, U.S. researchers said on Tuesday. The research, published in the journal *Lancet*, is the latest from BrainGate, a consortium of researchers testing brain-computer interface technology designed to give paralyzed individuals more mobility. Prior tests of the technology allowed paralyzed people to move a robotic arm or a cursor on a keyboard just by using their thoughts. ... The sensors record brain signals created when Kochevar imagines moving his arm, and relay them to a computer. The computer sends the signals to the electrical stimulation system, which directs impulses through about 30 wires implanted in muscles in Kochevar's arm and hand to produce specific movements."

SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS (Friday Church News Notes, January 12, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 2, 2018: "British comedian Milton Jones tells this one-liner: 'It's difficult to say what my wife does for a living. She sells sea shells on the sea shore.' However, the famous tongue-twister actually refers to a young woman who never married. Mary Anning was born in 1799 to Richard, an impoverished furniture maker, and his wife, Molly, in Lyme Regis, England. This coastal town is now famous for its discoveries of



dinosaur fossils, discoveries that began with Mary. Richard would take the young Mary and her older brother Joseph out on to the cliffs and the beach looking for fossils, and they would sell these to visitors. The teenagers discovered what would later be named the *ichthyosaur*, and this was the first of many discoveries made by Mary. One biographer of Anning has stated that her many discoveries of so-called prehistoric animals paved the way for Darwinism. Mary was mostly self-taught, having learned to read and write only in Sunday School. Nevertheless, her extensive knowledge of her finds did not cause her to lose her faith, despite her many hardships. She was not allowed to join the Geological Society because she was a woman and also because she and her family were members of a Dissenting Chapel, not the Church of England. It is of note that her most prized possession was a volume of the *Dissenters' Theological Magazine and Review*. Her pastor, James Wheaton, had contributed two articles to this journal. One urged his flock to get interested in geology. The other emphatically taught the biblical truth that God had made the world in six literal 24-hour days."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTOR WINS AZUSA AWARD (Friday Church News Notes, January 19, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Southern Baptist pastor William

Dwight McKissic, Sr., has been awarded the annual William Seymour Award for 2018. The award is named for the pastor of the so-called Azusa Street Revival of 1906 that is typically credited as the birth of Pentecostalism. The award is to be presented in April at the Azusafest celebration that will feature "a prophetic conference" with "Apostles" Ron and Tyda Harvey. If McKissic actually accepts this award, it will demonstrate either grave ignorance or apostasy. Azusa was a heretical, nutty stew! The services were characterized by confusion, contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture: dancing, jumping, falling, trances, spirit slaying, gibberish "tongues," jerking, shaking, hysteria, animal noises, "holy laughter," "spiritual muteness," etc. The seekers would be "seized with a strange spell and commence a gibberish of sounds." "At times men would fall all over the house, like an army slain on the battle field..." (Larry Martin, *The Life and Ministry of William J. Seymour*, p. 179). There was no order of service, and usually no one was leading. People sang out at the same time but "with completely different syllables, rhythms, and melodies" (Ted Olsen, "American Pentecost," *Christian History*, Issue 58, 1998). "Whoever was anointed with the message would stand and deliver it. It might be a man, woman, or child" (Martin, p. 186). At times the meetings would become so rowdy that the police were called. One man shook so violently under Seymour's ministry that an ambulance was called. When the man who was shaking told the doctor, "Don't touch me, this is the power of God," the doctor wisely replied, "If that is the power of God it is giving you a devil of a shaking" (Martin, p. 306). Seymour claimed that physical



healing is guaranteed in Christ's atonement and taught the people to cry out to God and demand "the baptism of the Holy Ghost and divine healing" (Synan, *The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition*, p. 99). But Seymour died at age fifty-two, and before his death he was described as "worn, tired, and decrepit" (John Matthews, *Speaking in Tongues*, 1925, p. 14). That doesn't sound like divine healing to me! In truth, the poor man's life and death reflected the same unscriptural confusion that reigned in his services. No wonder G. Campbell Morgan called Azusa Street "the last vomit of Satan." (For more about the history and doctrine of Pentecostalism, see [The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements](http://www.wayoflife.org), available from Way of Life Literature, www.wayoflife.org.)

MUSLIM SCHOLAR QUOTES THE QURAN SAYING THAT GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, January 19, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "The Quran Says That Allah Gave the Land of Israel to the Jews," Shaykh Prof. Abdul Hadi Palazzi, templemount.org. Palazzi is the secretary general of the Italian Muslim Assembly and the Khalifah of the Qadiri Sufi Order in Europe. "The Qur'an recognizes the Land of Israel as the heritage of the Jews and it explains that, before the Last

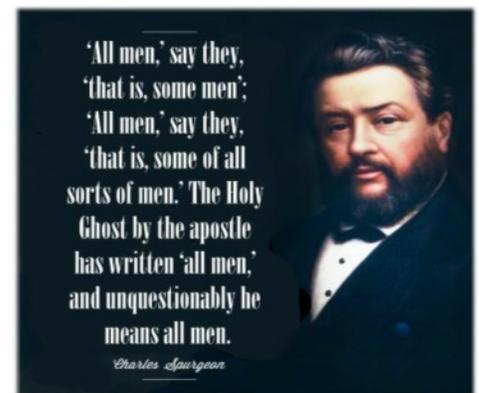


Judgment, Jews will return to dwell there. This prophecy has already been fulfilled. ... Viewing the Jewish return to Israel as a Western invasion and Zionists as recent colonizers is new. It has no basis in authentic Islamic faith. ... Such a false transformation of Islam was in fact made by the late Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin el-Husseini. He is the one person most responsible, both morally and materially, for the repeated Arab defeats in their conflict with the Jews in Israel. Husseni not only incited Arabs against Jews. He also encouraged the torture and murder of all Arabs who correctly understood that Arab cooperation with Jews was a precious opportunity for the development of the Land of Israel. Husseini ended his woeful life by putting his perverted religious teachings at the service of the evil and pagan Nazis. ... After Husseini came Jamal al-Din 'Abd al-Nasser. Nasser based his policy on Pan-Arabism, hatred and contempt for Jews, and an alliance with the atheistic Soviet Union. Nasser's terrible choices were critical factors in maintaining Arab backwardness. ... Both the Jewish and Islamic Scriptures teach that God, through His chosen servant Moses, decided to free the offspring of Jacob from slavery in Egypt and to constitute them as heirs of the Promised Land. ... The Qur'an relates the words by which Moses ordered the Israelites to conquer the Land: 'And [remember] when Moses said to his people: O my people, call in

remembrance the favour of God unto you, when he produced prophets among you, made you kings, and gave to you what He had not given to any other among the peoples. O my people, enter the Holy Land which God has assigned unto you, and turn not back ignominiously, for then will ye be overthrown, to your own ruin.' [Qur'an 5:20-21] Moreover--and those who try to use Islam as a weapon against Israel always conveniently ignore this point--the Holy Qur'an explicitly refers to the return of the Jews to the Land of Israel before the Last Judgment, where it says: 'And thereafter We [Allah] said to the Children of Israel: Dwell securely in the Promised Land. And when the last warning will come to pass, we will gather you together in a mingled crowd.' [Qur'an 17:104] Therefore, from an Islamic point of view, there is NO fundamental reason which prohibits Muslims from recognizing Israel as a friendly State."

C.H. SPURGEON AND 1 TIMOTHY 2:4 (Friday Church News Notes, January 19, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Ti. 2:4). C.H. Spurgeon called himself a Calvinist, and we have no doubt that he was, but *he was his own kind of Calvinist*. He was disliked by the stronger Calvinists of his day because he called on all men to be saved. (See the book *Spurgeon vs. Hyper-Calvinism* by Iain Murray.) Spurgeon interpreted 1 Timothy 2:4 literally and didn't try to explain it by Calvinist theology. He preached, "Shall we try to put another meaning into the text than that which it fairly bears? I say not. You must, most of you, be acquainted with the general method in which our older Calvinistic

friends deal with this text. 'All men,' say they, 'that is, some men'; 'All men,' say they, 'that is, some of all sorts of men.' The Holy Ghost by the apostle has written 'all men,' and unquestionably he means all men. ... I was reading just now the exposition of a very able doctor who explains the text so as to explain it away; he applies grammatical gunpowder to it, and explodes it by way of expounding it. ... My love of consistency with my own doctrinal views is not great enough to allow me knowingly to alter a single text of Scripture. I would sooner a hundred times over appear to be inconsistent with myself than be inconsistent with the word of God. ... God forbid that I should cut or shape, even in the least degree, any divine expression. So runs the text, and so we must read it, 'God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth'" (C.H. Spurgeon, "Salvation by Knowing the Truth," *Park Street and Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*). The Metropolitan Tabernacle during Charles Spurgeon's day was a mighty evangelistic enterprise. Thousands were saved with changed lives as evidence (as documented in *Wonders of Grace: Original testimonies of converts during Spurgeon's early years*). The church operated 27 Sunday Schools and Ragged Schools, with some 600 teachers ministering to over 8,000 children.



THE 10,000 RULE AND STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

(Friday Church News Notes, January 19, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - God's people should always be striving for excellence. The born again child of God is a son of the King of kings. He has been spiritually translated into the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13). He is a king and priest and will reign with Christ forever (Re. 5:10). He is instructed to "approve things that are excellent" (Php. 1:10). Like Daniel, he is indwelt with God's Spirit of excellent wisdom (Da. 5:14; 1 Jo. 2:20), and he possesses God's excellent counsels in Scripture (Pr. 22:20). He is exhorted to "do all to the glory of God" (1 Co. 10:31) and to "do it heartily" (Col. 3:23). David appointed Levite musicians who would *excel* in the temple (1 Ch. 15:21). These were not men who prefaced sabbath worship with the words, "Folks, we didn't have time to practice this week, but you pray for us." No! How much more should New Testament priests seek to excel in the church, which is Christ's very body and bride! In his 2008 book *Outliers: The Story of Success*, Malcolm Gladwell proposed that 10,000 hours of practice is required to achieve an expert level of performance. The theory was loosely based on a 1993 study of violinists at a music academy in Berlin, but in a 2016 book *Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise*, Anders Ericsson, one of the authors of the 1993 study, says that Gladwell overly simplified the lessons. For one, 10,000 hours is not even half of the practice time required to achieve a world class expert level of performance. Second, practice itself isn't enough. It has to be "deliberate practice which involves constantly

pushing oneself beyond one's comfort zone, following training activities designed by an expert to develop specific abilities, and using feedback to identify weaknesses and work on them." Ericsson and co-author Robert Pool summarize the results of their research on a practical level as follows: "In pretty much any area of human endeavor, people have a tremendous capacity to improve their performance, as long as they train in the right way. If you practice something for a few hundred hours, you will almost certainly see great improvement ... BUT YOU HAVE ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE. YOU CAN KEEP GOING AND GOING AND GOING, GETTING BETTER AND BETTER AND BETTER. How much you improve is up to you." If the world cares about striving for excellence and studies how to do it, how much more should God's people? Pastors should be striving for excellence in Bible study and sermon preparation and prayer and discipling and every other aspect of the ministry. Bible teachers should be striving for excellence by studying both the Bible and the art of teaching. Song leaders and musicians should be striving for excellence by studying music and learning new hymns and improving in every way. Ambassadors for Christ should be striving for excellence in evangelism, studying the business of the gospel, learning, improving. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

HILLSONG AT THOMAS ROAD

(Friday Church News Notes, January 26, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, founded by the late



Jerry Falwell, is hosting a Hillsong rock "worship" concert on April 20. Decades of disobedience and compromise have produced the frightful level of spiritual blindness required to accept Hillsong's apostasy. Hillsong worship music began at Hillsong Church of Sydney, Australia, where the pastors are a husband-wife team, Brian and Bobby Houston, and where the worship leader was Darlene Zschech. Some years ago, Bobby published the video series "Kingdom Women Love Sex." That was about the same time that Brian published his "You Need More Money" series on the subject of prosperity giving. Today Hillsong Church has branches in many parts of the world, and all of them are producing "worship" music. In 2014, the *New York Times* reported that Hillsong is "without a doubt the most influential producers of worship music in Christendom" ("Megachurch with a Beat Lures Young Flock," Sept. 9, 2014). Hillsong is radically ecumenical, incredibly worldly, and totally committed to Pentecostal Latter Rain heresy (e.g., gibberish as "tongues," spirit slaying, prophesying, word of faith, women pastors, ecumenical unity as a sign of end-time revival). In July 2015, Hillsong joined hands with Pope Frances at the Convocation of the Renewal of the Holy Spirit at the Vatican. Hillsong worship leader Darlene Zschech said on her Facebook page, "This is a celebration of unity and peace in the Renewal of the Holy Spirit. Amazing days for the Body of Christ." Anyone who thinks that people who believe in baptismal regeneration and venerate Mary as the Queen of Heaven are in "the body of Christ," doesn't know the ABC's of biblical truth. In May 2016, Hillsong

New York City hosted a Women’s Conference that featured, among other things, scantily-dressed ‘cheerleaders,’ an Elvis impersonator, and a naked cowboy wearing only underwear, a cowboy hat, boots, and a guitar. The cowboy was Hillsong New York City’s own youth pastor, Diego Simla. Thomas Road Baptist Church, which is hosting Hillsong in April, is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and was long affiliated with Baptist Bible Fellowship International. Its founding pastor, Jerry Falwell, broke ecumenical ground among Independent Baptists by his affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church, beginning in the 1970s. In 1986, he stated that Roman Catholics made up the largest constituency of his Moral Majority political organization. Falwell praised Pope John Paul II and endorsed Chuck Colson’s 1992 book, *The Body*, which considered the Catholic Church a part of “the body of Christ.” Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University are on the slippery slide of compromise that began under Jerry Falwell’s direction. His compromise started with small steps, as it always does, but the Word of God warns that “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9). (For more on this see “Darlene Zschech and Hillsong” in the [The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#), a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.)

THE DWARFS OF AUSCHWITZ (Friday Church News Notes, January 26, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

Giants: The Dwarfs of Auschwitz by Yehuda Koren and Eilat Negev is the fascinating account of the Ovitz family, the largest family of dwarfs ever recorded. A Jewish dwarf named Shimson Eizik (Samson Isaac) Ovitz (1889-1980) fathered 10 children, seven of which were dwarfs (five girls and two boys). The seven formed an entertainment group called the *Lilliputs* and made a living at this in Romania prior to World War II. In May 1944, the entire family was sent to the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz, and all of the dwarfs survived due to being singled out for research by the cruel Nazi eugenic doctor Josef Mengele. He is infamous for performing horrible and deadly experiments on his subjects, particularly twins, but his experiments on the Ovitz dwarfs, though painful and dehumanizing, were not ultimately deadly. Among other things, Mengele extracted bone marrow, drew dangerous amounts of blood, pulled out teeth and hair, poured hot and cold water in their ears, and temporarily blinded them with chemicals. Surrounded by unspeakable pain and death, they lived in abject fear until they were liberated by the Russian Army in January 1945. (Of the 3,500 Jews who arrived at Auschwitz on the evening of May 19, 1944, with the Ovitz family, 3,100 were dead by morning.) In May 1949, they immigrated to the one-year-old state of Israel. Perla, the



youngest of the dwarfs, died in 2001. At a young age, she came to terms with her deformity. “Like every child, I expected to add a few centimetres every year and grow like a flower. But ... I’ve never fantasised about a good fairy coming to double my height. Being a dwarf is no punishment. The difference in height does not diminish my pleasure. Our life is as worthwhile as anyone else’s. ... Naturally we’d like to be no different than you, but if this is the shape God destined for us, we have no complaints against Him” (*Giants: The Dwarfs of Auschwitz*, Kindle loc. 299, 2972). Shimson Ovitz was a rabbi, and it is sad that his children remained committed to rabbinic Judaism with its dependency on the Talmud (Pharisaical tradition) and mystical Kabbalah. For example, they justified performing worldly pop tunes by the Kabbala’s teaching that “nizozoth, or divine sparks, fall down from the Spheres of Holiness and were scattered throughout the entire universe—even into non-Jewish music. Through singing, the sparks are released, to be lifted up and purified.”

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
- Standing for the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures, the Authorized Version in the English Language, and sound translations of the TR in the languages of the world. (Ps. 12:6-7)



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