

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“Dan Kimball says the term ‘missional’ means that ‘we don’t ‘bring Jesus’ to people but that we realize Jesus is active in culture and we join him in what he is doing,’ and, ‘we serve our communities, and that we build relationships with people in them, rather than seeing them as evangelistic targets’” **Page 7.**

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



TREES IN ANCIENT ISRAEL ~ By David Cloud

The following is from the new book [Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel Past, Present, and Future](#), available from Way of Life Literature in print and eBook editions.



In ancient times, the land of Israel was heavily forested. The Bible is a clear witness to this.

In Joshua’s day, the hills in Israel’s heartland (the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh) were called “the wood country” because of the forests (Joshua 17:15, 18).

Absalom was killed in the forest of Ephraim (2 Sa. 18:6, 8). Apparently it was an oak forest, because his head was caught in the branches of a “great oak” (2 Sa. 18:9).

The Gibeonites were made hewers of wood for the tribes of Israel, which would indicate that there were plenty of trees (Joshua 9:21, 23, 27).



There was a forest east of Bethel in Bethaven (1 Sa. 14:25).

There was a forest in the wilderness of Ziph, southeast of Hebron and a few miles west of the Dead Sea (1 Sa. 23:15,

19). There was a forest in Hareth (1 Sa. 22:5), which was south of Bethlehem. These places were in the Judean wilderness, which is largely barren wilderness except for the areas developed by the state of Israel since the 20th century.

In Elisha's day, the prophets cut beams from a forest at the Jordan (2 Ki. 6:1-2).

Carmel was forested (2 Ki. 19:23).

In Solomon's day, sycamore trees were abundant (2 Ch. 1:15).

In Jotham's day, there were forests in Judah (2 Ch. 27:4).

In Ezekiel's day in the sixth century BC, at the beginning of the Babylonian captivity, southern Israel was forested.

"Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face toward the south, and drop *thy word* toward the south, and prophesy against the forest of the south field" (Eze. 20:45-46).

In Nehemiah's day, there was a king's forest in Judah that was sufficient to supply wood for the second temple and the walls and gates of Jerusalem (Ne. 2:8).

Life in Biblical Israel describes extensive ancient forests. There were forests of Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*),

evergreen oak (*Quercus calliprinos*), terebinth (*Pistacia palaestina*), and sycamore fig (*Ficus sycomorus*).

Isaiah prophesied that God would "consume the glory of his forest" (Isa. 10:18). This means there *were* forests in Israel in ancient times. There were plenty of trees.

According to Josephus, in the first century AD the plain of Gennesareth on the east shore of the Sea of Galilee was famed for the "amazing variety and luxuriance of its trees and shrubs."

According to the late Bill Mollison's research, part of the Negev "was once forested with oak, myrtle, and pines" ("*Desert Ways*," Permaculture Research Institute, Sep. 19, 2008).

Archaeologists researching ancient pigeon towers in the Negev have also concluded that the Negev even as late as the Byzantine period "was green and blooming" ("Haifa U. Reveals Role of Pigeons in Turning the Negev Green 1,500 Years Ago," Jewish Press, Mar. 21, 218).

Because of Israel's sin and idolatry, God closed the heavens and the land became a desolation.

Isaiah prophesied that God would consume the glory of his forest "and the rest of the trees of his forest shall be few, that a child may write them" (Isa. 10:18-19).

This is exactly what happened.

I remember looking at black and white photos of the Holy Land in old family Bibles when I was a kid and how impressed I was at Israel's barrenness!

Following is a description of the land at the time of the coming of the first immigrants from the Russian Zionist societies in the 1880s:

"Centuries of war, neglect, and destruction had left ugly scars on the land once so lavishly praised by biblical scribes. The coastal plain and other lowlands were filled with swamps. A combination of blazing sun and heavy rains had eroded the hillsides, long since stripped of their soil and thick woodlands" (Michael Bar-Zohar, *Ben-Gurion: A Biography*).

The plain of Gennesareth became entirely denuded of trees. When Andrew Bonar and his companions from the Church of Scotland visited there in 1838, he said it was

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“now only a wilderness of reeds and bushes” (*Narrative of a Visit to the Holy Land*, p. 277).

The Jezreel Valley, which in biblical times was a beautiful, fertile region, had become a treeless, thistle-covered, malarial-infested wilderness.

“The land in question, which had been neglected over many generations, was for the most part barren. It was remote, strewn with rocks, covered with weeds and thistles and rife with snakes and scorpions. The lower parts ... were swamp-infested. During the way, there were few, if any, trees to provide shade and at night, the sound of howling jackals...” (Leslie Stein, *The Hope Fulfilled*, Kindle loc. 2797).

When the famous American author Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) visited the land of Israel in 1867, he said that he “hardly saw a tree anywhere.”

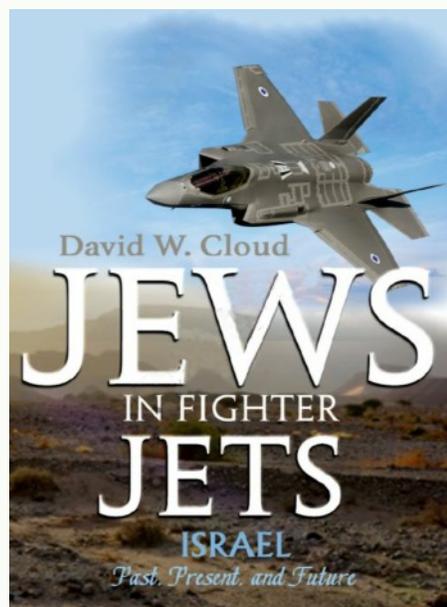
“Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince. The hills are barren, they are dull of color, they are unpicturesque in shape. The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation that has an expression about it of being sorrowful and despondent. ... It is a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land. Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes. Over it broods the spell of a curse that has withered its fields and fettered its energies. ... Palestine is desolate and unlovely” (Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad*).

The land of “Palestine” was called “the country that had died” (“Kibbutz,” *Wikipedia*).

Jews In Fighter Jets

Israel, Past, Present and Future

By David Cloud



[Jews in Fighter Jets](#) covers the past 2,500 years of the history of the most important and amazing nation on earth, the only nation directly created by God and called by God “my people,” the nation to whom “were committed the oracles of God” and “of whom, as concerning the flesh Christ came” (Romans 3:2; 9:5).

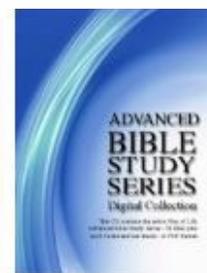
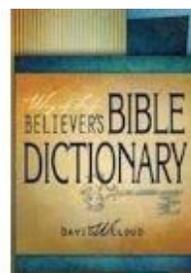
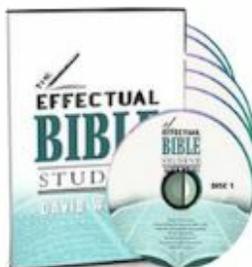
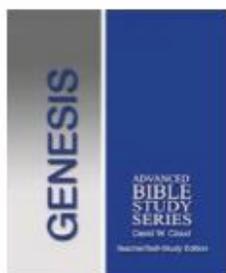
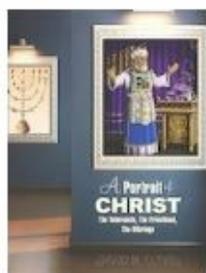
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THE EMERGING CHURCH

the 21st Century Face Of

NEW EVANGELICALISM

By
David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [*WHAT IS THE EMERGING CHURCH?*](#), available from Way of Life Literature in print and eBook editions. This is a thorough examination of the *emerging church*, a name that describes a new approach to missions and church life among some “evangelicals” for these present times. Nothing has made us more conscious of the vicious battle that is raging for the very life and soul of Bible-believing churches than our research into the emergent church. It is frightful, because so many are falling into devil’s trap and so many more will doubtless fall in the coming days. At the same time, it is exciting, because it reminds us that the hour is very, very late and we need to be busy in the Lord’s service and always “looking up.” I have made a great effort to understand the emerging church. I have read more than 80 books and a great many articles by emerging church leaders, and I have attended emerging congregations as well as a large emerging church conference with media credentials. OUTLINE: I. What Is the Emerging Church? II. A Great Blending and Merging. It is difficult to draw a strict line between the two streams of the emerging church, because there is a blending and merging going on that will cause all lines to be blurred eventually. III. The Liberal Emerging Church and Its Errors. IV. The Conservative Emerging Church and Its Errors. V. Cain the First Emerging Church Worshiper. VI. Charles Spurgeon Exposed the Emerging Church. VII. Index. 489 pages.

The emerging church is simply the twenty-first century face of New Evangelicalism.

Andy Crouch calls the emerging church “post-evangelicalism.” He says:

“The emerging movement is a protest against much of evangelicalism as currently practiced. It is post-evangelical in the way that neo-evangelicalism (in the 1950s) was post-fundamentalist. It would not be unfair to call it post-modern evangelicalism” (“The Emergent Mystique,” *Christianity Today*, Nov. 2004).

The late Robert Webber also observed the association between the emerging church and the neo-evangelicalism of the 1940s and 1950s. He taught that the emerging church is the latest of four movements that have occurred within evangelicalism since 1946, the first being neo-evangelicalism.

“The new or neo-evangelicalism, as it was first called, broke away from its roots in the fundamentalism of the first half of the century. The new evangelicalism regarded fundamentalism as ‘anti-intellectual, anti-social action, and anti-ecumenical.’ Influential leaders called for engagement with philosophy and the intellectual ideas of the day, to the recovery of a robust involvement with social issues, and to a new form of ecumenical cooperation, especially in evangelism. ... The new evangelical theology distanced itself from fundamentalist biblicism ... They wanted to spar with the best, engage secularists and liberals on their own turf, and create institutions of higher learning that would command respect” (*Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches*, p. 11).

The intimate association between New Evangelicalism and the emerging church is witnessed by *Christianity Today*. This magazine was founded by Billy Graham and his friends in 1956 as a mouthpiece for the New Evangelical movement. Today it is a mouthpiece for the emerging church. A section of their web site, called “The Emergence of Emergent,” is dedicated to it, and they have published many positive articles dealing with it, including several by Brian McLaren. Marshall Shelley, vice president of *Christianity Today*, said of Spencer Burke’s *An Heretic’s Guide to Eternity*, which is foreworded by McLaren: “Spencer is a winsome walking companion for those who find traditional dogma too narrow. It’s a thoughtful conversation” (<http://www.spencerburke.com/pdf/presskit.pdf>).

The emerging church is the natural progression of New Evangelicalism. Let’s go back a half century and consider some of its history.

The founders of New Evangelicalism grew up in fundamentalist homes as the fundamentalist-modernist controversy of the first half of the twentieth century was

winding down. They were the proverbial new generation. “And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10).

In the first half of the 20th century, evangelicalism in America was largely synonymous with fundamentalism. George Marsden (*Reforming Fundamentalism*) says, “There was not a practical distinction between fundamentalist and evangelical: the words were interchangeable” (p. 48). When the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) was formed in 1942, for example, participants included such fundamentalist leaders as Bob Jones, Sr., John R. Rice, Charles Woodbridge, Harry Ironside, and David Otis Fuller.

By the mid-1950s, though, a clear break between separatist fundamentalists and non-separatist evangelicals occurred. This was occasioned largely by the ecumenical evangelism of Billy Graham. The separatists dropped out of the NAE. The terms *evangelicalism* and *fundamentalism* began “to refer to two different movements” (William Martin, *A Prophet with Honor*, p. 224).

The sons and grandsons of the old-time evangelical-fundamentalist preachers determined to create a “New Evangelicalism.” They would not be fighters; they would be diplomats, positive in their emphasis rather than militant. They would not be restricted by a separationist mentality.

The very influential Harold Ockenga claimed to have coined the term “new evangelical” in 1948. He was pastor of Park Street Church in Boston, founder of the National Association of Evangelicals, co-founder and first president of Fuller Seminary, first president of the World Evangelical Fellowship, president of Gordon College, on the board of directors for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, chairman of the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and one-time editor of *Christianity Today*.

Following is how Ockenga defined New Evangelicalism:

“Neo-evangelicalism was born in 1948 in connection with a convocation address which I gave in the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena. While reaffirming the theological view of fundamentalism, this address REPUDIATED ITS ECCLESIOLOGY AND ITS SOCIAL THEORY. The ringing call

for A REPUDIATION OF SEPARATISM AND THE SUMMONS TO SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT received a hearty response from many evangelicals. The name caught on and spokesmen such as Drs. Harold Lindsell, Carl F.H. Henry, Edward Carnell, and Gleason Archer supported this viewpoint. We had no intention of launching a movement, but found that the emphasis attracted widespread support and exercised great influence. Neo-evangelicalism... DIFFERENT FROM FUNDAMENTALISM IN ITS REPUDIATION OF SEPARATISM AND ITS DETERMINATION TO ENGAGE ITSELF IN THE THEOLOGICAL DIALOGUE OF THE DAY. IT HAD A NEW EMPHASIS UPON THE APPLICATION OF THE GOSPEL TO THE SOCIOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC AREAS OF LIFE. Neo-evangelicals emphasized the restatement of Christian theology in accordance with the need of the times, the REENGAGEMENT IN THE THEOLOGICAL DEBATE, THE RECAPTURE OF DENOMINATIONAL LEADERSHIP, AND THE REEXAMINATION OF THEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN, THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE FLOOD, GOD'S METHOD OF CREATION, AND OTHERS.” (Harold J. Ockenga, foreword to *The Battle for the Bible* by Harold Lindsell).

Regardless of who coined the term “New Evangelical,” it is certain that it described the mood of positivism and non-militancy that characterized that generation.

Ockenga and the new generation of evangelicals determined to abandon a militant Bible stance. Instead, they would pursue dialogue, intellectualism, non-judgmentalism, and appeasement. They refused to leave the denominations, even though they were permeated with theological modernism, determining to change things from within. The New Evangelical would dialogue with those who teach error. The New Evangelical would meet the proud humanist and the haughty liberal on their own turf with human scholarship rather than follow the humble path of being counted a fool for Christ’s sake by standing simply upon the Bible.

New Evangelical leaders also determined to start a “rethinking process” whereby the old paths were to be continually reassessed in light of new goals, methods, and ideology.

New Evangelicalism further called for a social aspect to the gospel -- “a new emphasis upon the application of the gospel to the sociological, political, and economic areas of life” (Ockenga, foreword to *The Battle for the Bible*).

New Evangelicalism rejected the old traditional standards of separation from the world, and the result has been the strange rock & roll Christian culture.

In 1978, Richard Quebedeux wrote *The Worldly Evangelicals*, documenting the dramatic changes that were already occurring within evangelicalism a mere thirty years after the onslaught of the spirit of “Newism.” He said:

“Evolutionary theory, in a theistic context, is now taken for granted by many evangelical scientists. ... Biblical criticism has now made inroads in almost all evangelical colleges and seminaries. In fact, a few evangelical biblical scholars actually stand to the left of their liberal counterparts on some points. ... it is becoming more and more difficult to recruit young pastors who have not been deeply influenced both by biblical criticism and by the behavioral sciences. ... Prior to the 60s, virtually all the seminaries and colleges associated with the neo-evangelicals and their descendants adhered to the total inerrancy understanding of biblical authority (at least they did not vocally express opposition to it). But it is a well-known fact that a large number, if not most, of the colleges and seminaries in question now have faculty who no longer believe in total inerrancy. ... The position affirming that Scripture is inerrant or infallible in its teaching on matters of faith and conduct, but not necessarily in all its assertions concerning history and the cosmos, is gradually becoming ascendant among the most highly respected evangelical theologians. ... Indeed, the new theological heroes of the evangelical left are Karl Barth, Emil Brunner, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer... Clearly and undisputedly, the evangelical left is far closer to Bonhoeffer, Brunner, and Barth than to Hodges and Warfield on the inspiration and authority of Scripture” (*The Worldly Evangelicals*, pp. 15, 30, 88, 100).

Quebedeux observed that “the wider culture has had a profound impact on the evangelical movement as a whole” (p. 115). Though Quebedeux didn’t make the connection, this is a direct result of the repudiation of separation. He said:

“In the course of establishing their respectability in the eyes of the wider society, the evangelicals have become harder and harder to distinguish from other people. Upward social mobility has made the old revivalistic taboos dysfunctional. ... the COCKTAILS became increasingly difficult to refuse. Evangelical young people LEARNED HOW TO DANCE AND OPENLY ‘GROOVED’ ON ROCK MUSIC. ... And evangelical magazines and newspapers began REVIEWING PLAYS AND MOVIES. ... The Gallup Poll is correct in asserting that born-again Christians ‘believe in a strict moral code.’ BUT THAT STRICTNESS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY MODIFIED DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS ... DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE are becoming more frequent and acceptable among evangelicals of all ages, even in some of their more conservative churches. ... Some evangelical women are taking advantage of ABORTION on demand. Many younger evangelicals occasionally use PROFANITY in their speech and writing . . . Some of the recent evangelical sex-technique books assume that their readers peruse and view PORNOGRAPHY on occasion, and they do. Finally, in 1976 there emerged a fellowship and information organization for practicing evangelical LESBIANS

AND GAY MEN and their sympathizers. There is probably just as high a percentage of gays in the evangelical movement as in the wider society. Some of them are now coming out of the closet, distributing well-articulated literature, and demanding to be recognized and affirmed by the evangelical community at large. ... It is profoundly significant that evangelicals, even the more conservative among them, have ACCEPTED THE ROCK MODE. This acceptance, obviously, indicates a further chapter in the death of self-denial and world rejection among them. ... When young people were converted in the Jesus movement, many of them simply did not give up their former habits, practices, and cultural attitudes--DRINKING, SMOKING, AND CHARACTERISTIC DRESS AND LANGUAGE. ... Young evangelicals drink, but so do conservative evangelicals like Hal Lindsey and John Warwick Montgomery (who is a member of the International Wine and Food Society). ... But EVEN MARIJUANA, now virtually legal in some areas of the United States, is not as forbidden among young evangelicals as it once was. A few of them, particularly the intellectuals, do smoke it on occasion...” (*The Worldly Evangelicals*, pp. 14, 16, 17, 118, 119).

When light associates with darkness, when truth associates with error, the result is always the corruption of light and truth. “*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners*” (1 Cor. 15:33), and, “*A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*” (1 Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9).

Quebedeux observed that evangelicals were fluid in their doctrinal convictions, moving toward “the left”:

“In the present ‘identity confusion’ among evangelicals, MANY ARE IN TRANSITION, moving from one stance to another (GENERALLY FROM RIGHT TO CENTER OR LEFT)” (*The Worldly Evangelicals*, p. 27).

Over the past 30 years since Quebedeux published *The Worldly Evangelicals*, the apostasy within evangelicalism has continued to spread and exercise its corrupt leaven in countless ways.

It is obvious that the emerging church is not something new. It is just another wrinkle in New Evangelicalism’s deeply compromised history and the latest wrinkle of end-time apostasy.

Those who reject “separatism” feel that they are only rejecting “extremism,” but in reality they are rejecting the God-ordained means of protection from spiritual pollution.

(For more about this see [What Is the Emerging Church](#) and [New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit](#), available from [Way of Life Literature](#).)



The following is excerpted from the [WHAT IS THE EMERGING CHURCH?](#) This book is available from Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143 (toll free phone), www.wayoflife.org (online catalog), fbns@wayoflife.org (e-mail).

The emerging church uses the term “missional” rather than “missionary.” Missional is trying to build the kingdom of God in the world.

Dan Kimball says the term “missional” means that “we don’t ‘bring Jesus’ to people but that we realize Jesus is active in culture and we join him in what he is doing,” and, “we serve our communities, and that we build relationships with people in them, rather than seeing them as evangelistic targets” (*They Like Jesus*, p. 20).

Missional is building close relationships with the unsaved but not for the gospel’s sake.

Mars Hill Church in Seattle used to operate a secular rock club called Paradox which hosted hundreds of rock concerts. Senior pastor Mark Driscoll said the focus of this operation was simply to show hospitality. “So we welcomed kids into a safe place where we could build relationships of grace on Jesus’ behalf RATHER THAN PREACHING AT THE KIDS OR DOING GOOFY THINGS LIKE HANDING OUT TRACTS” (*Confessions of a Reformission Rev.*, pp. 126, 127).

Thus, in the eyes of emerging church leaders, distributing gospel tracts is “goofy.”

In *They Like Jesus but Not the Church*, Dan Kimball begins by relating a talk he gave to a group of pastors. He told them that he spends a considerable part of his time as a pastor developing relationships with

unbelievers. He said that he gets invited to [rock & roll drinking] clubs to hang out and see bands, and said that “this also is a way to hang out with and build trust and credibility with those I’m befriending” (p. 12). He said, “I shared how incredibly refreshing it is to be friends with people outside of church circles” (p. 13).

When one of the pastors asked him if he had won them to Christ, he replied, “No, I’M JUST TRYING TO BE THEIR FRIEND and get to know them” (p. 14).

When another pastor commented that the emerging generation of people are “pagans” and “they just need to hear solid preaching, which will cause them to repent of their ways,” Kimball strongly disagreed.

Kimball says the term “missional” means that “we don’t ‘bring Jesus’ to people but that we realize Jesus is active in culture and we join him in what he is doing,” and, “we serve our communities, and that we build relationships with people in them, rather than seeing them as evangelistic targets” (*They Like Jesus*, p. 20).

Kimball quotes from many unsaved people that he has befriended, giving their opinions about Christ and the church, and he says: “I DIDN’T SET OUT TO PROSELYTIZE THEM; I SIMPLY MET THEM TO BEFRIEND THEM, enjoy their company, and ask their opinions. ... I see them as friends, not as evangelistic targets” (p. 61).

Kimball says he thinks Christians have done more harm than good by witnessing to unbelievers using “traditional” methods of confronting them with their sin and need for Christ (p. 38). He says that instead of street witnessing we should develop “relationships in which we dialogue and build trust with people” (p. 43).

We agree that believers should be friendly to the unsaved, but this friendship must be pursued very carefully in the

context of holiness. The Bible warns that there are spiritual and moral dangers in evil communications (1 Co. 15:33). The believer has no true fellowship with darkness (2 Co. 6:14-18).

It is better to invite the sinner to spend time with us than for us to spend time with them on their own turf (bars, rock concerts, drinking parties, and such).

And there should always be the objective of reaching the unsaved for Christ. Yes, we have an agenda, because we are commanded by our Master to preach the gospel to every person (Mark 16:15). That is the “agenda” Jesus Himself has given us.

The most important way a believer can be a friend to the unsaved is to confront him with the gospel. Assuming that hell is real and that salvation is only through faith in Christ, *nothing* is friendlier or more compassionate than this!

In his book *The Peril of Islam*, Gene Gurganus, who was a missionary to Muslims in Bangladesh for 17 years, gives a proper biblical philosophy of befriending unbelievers in the context of evangelism. The first of his nine suggestions for winning Muslims to Christ is the following:

“If we are going to evangelize Muslims, the first thing we have to do is to cultivate a friendship. Saying, ‘Hello. How are you?’ is not enough. We need to come along side and get to know him, know his problems, his frustrations, his ambitions, and his fears” (p. 61).

Gurganus is saying we should befriend the unsaved, but he is not saying what the emerging church is saying. Gurganus is saying that the objective is not merely to befriend the unsaved but to win them to Christ!

Consider Jesus Christ

He was the friend of sinners *par excellence* and He spent time with sinners, but He never sinned in any way with sinners.

Jesus was not a rock & roll “party animal.” And He most definitely had the “agenda” of saving those He befriended. He said, “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19:10). Jesus did not come to earth just to make friends, to give people a sympathetic ear, and to help them in some vague sense.

The context of Jesus’ statement in Luke 19:10 was his visit to Zacchaeus’ house, and Jesus didn’t go home with the tax collector to hang out and party; he went home with him specifically to lead him to repentance. Jesus was guilty of being “a guest with a man that is a sinner” (Luke 19:7), but this simply means that he loved sinners and sought to win them to God. Jesus didn’t spend his time with sinners partying to rap music; He spent His time teaching spiritual truth.

Christ preached very plainly to people; He was not afraid of offending them with direct truth. He demanded repentance (Matthew 18:8-9; Luke 13:3-5). He instructed sinners to “sin no more” (John 8:11). He warned often of hell, at least 14 times in the Gospels, describing it as a place of fire and eternal torment (i.e., Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 11:23; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 12:5; 16:23). He warned men to cut off their hands and pluck out their eyes rather than go to hell. This type of preaching would put an end to any party! Jesus’ preaching was so plain and uncompromising that most of his own followers eventually turned away from Him because they were offended at His words and His powerful call to discipleship (John 6:60-66).

Consider the book of Acts

The book of Acts is the record of true N.T. churches and Christianity.

In Acts, is no kingdom building; no attempt to change the moral character of the Roman Empire.

In Acts, there is aggressive confrontational evangelism (Ac. 8:4).

Consider Paul

Paul is our example (1 Co. 11:1; Php. 4:9).

Paul was devoted to preaching the gospel; he was very focused; we don’t see him making friends for the sake of making friends; we don’t see Paul spending his time partying with sinners.

Ambassadors for Christ

God has made us ambassadors for Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Co. 5:17-21). The believer’s chief job in this world is to urge sinners to be

reconciled to Christ. This is not a peripheral part of our purpose in this present world; it is the very heart of it!

A sense of urgency

Further, our ministry to the unsaved must have a great sense of urgency to it. To preach the gospel to “every creature” necessitates this. There is not time to build an intimate relationship with every unbeliever in the world.

Further, the Bible says that today is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2). It warns against banking on tomorrow (James 4:13-14). “*The night is far spent, the day is at hand*” (Romans 13:12). We are the Lord’s ambassadors who are left in this world to proclaim this solemn message while there is still opportunity.

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come” (Matthew 24:42).

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:44).

“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 25:13).

“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober” (1 Thessalonians 5:6).

Evangelist D. L. Moody, though not one of my spiritual heroes, had it right when he said, “I look upon this world as a wrecked vessel. God has given me a lifeboat and said to me, ‘Moody, save all you can.’”

The best way to be a friend of sinners is to preach the gospel to them. And we back up the gospel preaching with a good Christian testimony of holiness and Christlike kindness.

“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain” (Philippians 2:14-16).



The woodpecker is a bird that has the ability to drill holes in wood to search for food, store food, and build nests.

Some woodpeckers work together to stash acorns into trees. One such “granary” tree created by some very busy birds contained *50,000 acorns*.

More than 180 species of these amazing pecking machines are found throughout the world (except Australia, New Zealand, and Madagascar).

Some types of woodpeckers, called sapsuckers, extract sap and eat insects attracted by sap.

The largest extant woodpecker is the great slaty of South and Southeast Asia, which can reach 23 inches in length.

It is various shades of gray set off by bright orange coloring on its cheek and neck.

The smallest woodpecker in North America is the downy, which is five to seven inches long. The downy is the most common backyard woodpecker in North America. It has a white body, black wings with white splotches, and a black and white head set off with a bright red spot on the back of the head.

The smallest woodpecker in the world is the piculet, which is a minuscule 2 to 4 inches in length. It lives mainly in tropical South America, though there are some in Southeast Asia. They have a very small tail. Many woodpeckers are beautifully colored. Several have bright red heads. These include the gorgeous red-headed

woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). With its brilliant red head, snowy white body and inky black wings, it has been called a “flying checkerboard.” It is adept at catching insects on the wing.

Another red-headed beauty is the pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). Its bright red head feathers form a noble pointed crown. It has a black body with white stripes on its throat, cheek, and neck.

The pileated is the largest woodpecker in North America, 16-19 inches in length. Its pecking is a very loud drumming that can sound like a hammer.

The most famous woodpecker is the animated Woody Woodpecker, created by Ben Hardaway in 1940. Hardaway also created Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck.

Woodpeckers do not sing, though they can make “chirps, chatters, and other alarm calls.” They seem to use drumming as a communication tool.

The woodpecker has “zygodactyl” feet, with two toes facing forward and two facing backward that allow it to grip tight to a tree. (The exception is the three-toed woodpecker.) This is unlike the songbird which has “anisodactyl” feet, with three toes pointing forward and one pointing backward. The woodpecker’s feet are especially tough and strong.

The tail of most woodpeckers has specialized sharp spikes that dig into the tree’s bark. In combination with its feet, the tail spikes form a tripod for stability.

This “tripod,” together with its perfectly distributed body and feather weight, means it can stand comfortably in an upright position while hammering away at the tree.

The woodpecker has a specialized tongue that is up to four inches long and wraps around the skull when retracted. Many have barbed tongues to better extract bugs from holes.

The woodpecker is monogamous, mating for life.

Most woodpeckers fly in an undulating manner, flapping a few times with its wings, then gliding.

Though the woodpecker has many other wonderful features, we want to focus on its pecking.

It is able to peck 20 times *per second* and can do this *12,000 times* in a day. These are not gentle pecks. The creature’s beak strikes the tree at a speed of 15 miles per hour and produces an incredible G-force of 1,200. This “is the equivalent of going from 26,000 miles per hour to a complete stop every second” (“Bird Brains,” *Forbes*, Jan. 6, 2016). A human, on the other hand, can sustain a *maximum* G-force of 100, and brain injury and death often occur at much lower forces. So the little bird can sustain G-forces on its brain of more than 100 times that of a human.

In recent decades, the woodpecker has been the object of much scientific study, and it turns out that it has the following design features ideally suited to its business:

First, its brain is much smaller than a human brain. Dr. Lorna Gibson, a materials science professor at MIT who has studied woodpeckers, says, “A human brain has a mass of 1,400 grams. A woodpecker’s brain is only 2 grams. That’s the mass of two paperclips. It is a scaling phenomenon. While this might seem like a highfalutin concept, this is something that we instinctually understand. If you dropped your cellphone from your nightstand, it would survive. But if you dropped your laptop from the same height, you might have to take a trip to the Apple store. The same goes for brains: The smaller the brain, the better its chance of surviving an impact” (“Why Don’t Woodpeckers Get Concussions?” *Huffington Post*, Nov. 25, 2013).

Second, its skull is made of plate-like bones with a “spongy” structure at strategic locations to protect the brain. “At a microscopic level, woodpeckers have a large number of trabeculae, tiny beamlike projections of bone that form the mineral ‘mesh’ that makes up this spongy bone plate. These trabeculae are also closer together than they are in the skylark skull, suggesting this microstructure acts as armor protecting the brain” (“Why Don’t Woodpeckers?” *LiveScience*, Apr. 10, 2012).

Third, the woodpecker’s brain fits tightly into the skull (unlike the human brain) so that it doesn’t “slosh” around and cause damage.

Fourth, the woodpecker’s brain is oriented differently than the human brain so that the force is distributed over a greater area. It is “longer top-to-bottom than front-to-back, meaning the force against the skull is spread over a larger brain area.”

Fifth, the woodpecker has a hyoid bone that wraps around the entire brain cage to form a “safety belt.”

*Sixth, the woodpecker’s beak is cleverly built to absorb energy while still allowing the little creature to punch holes in wood. “The upper and lower halves of the birds’ beaks were uneven, and as force was transmitted from the tip of the beak into the bone, this asymmetry lowered the load that made it as far as the brain” (“How Woodpeckers Avoid Head Injury,” *BBC News*, Oct. 27, 2011).*

*Seventh, the woodpecker changes the direction of its pecking attack by moving its head and beak around in just the right way as it hammers. By this means, woodpeckers “minimize the number of times in a row that the brain and skull make contact at the same point” (“Why Woodpeckers Don’t Get Brain Damage?” *Mental Floss*, Nov. 24, 2014). Smart!*

*Eighth, the woodpecker uses its entire body to absorb the energy of the pecking. They “hit their targets in a straight, consistent line” and “with each hit, the entire body of the bird knows what motion will take place, which muscles will be used and any rotation that would cause strain is avoided” (*Forbes*).*

Researchers have found that through these mechanisms, “99.7 percent of the impact energy from striking a tree is absorbed by the body” (*Mental Floss*).

Other design features include a *nictitating membrane* that closes over the eye a fraction of a second before its beak strikes wood, thus protecting the eye from debris, cleaning it, and conveniently keeping it from popping out of the creature’s head!

The woodpecker also has bristles on its nostrils and special air sacs to prevent inhalation of wood particles.

EVOLUTION?

In spite of the discovery of all of these complex biological engineering marvels, evolutionists persist in the delusion that such things were formed by blind evolution. One report says, “In an average day, a woodpecker does this around 12,000 times, and yet they don’t seem to hurt themselves or be the least bit bothered by it. This is because, after millions of years of this type of behavior,

they’ve evolved some specialized headgear to prevent injuries to their heads, brains, and eyes.”

This is a ridiculous statement from every perspective. How could a creature survive to “evolve” something that is necessary for its very existence? And *how* could such things evolve? Evolutionists have proposed zero scientifically-supported evolutionary mechanisms that could *build up the vast and mind-bogglingly complex DNA sequences necessary to create complex organs*. “Natural selection” is not creative. It can only select from existing genetic code. “Mutations” aren’t creative; they are overwhelmingly destructive. Believe me, you don’t want to pass on mutations to your offspring.

I’m glad that I can be my own scientist and weigh the facts for myself. I accept the fascinating true science that has enabled the discovery of these things about the woodpecker (e.g., scanning electron microscopes, CT scanners, force/torque sensors, high-speed cameras, computer simulations, 3D modeling), but I reject the “philosophy pretending to be science” that is haphazardly tossed into these reports.

For those who have eyes to see, the woodpecker is irrefutable evidence of an Almighty, all-wise Creator. To know Him personally, I recommend my favorite book, the Bible, which is the gracious revelation of God’s character and plan of salvation to mankind through Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18).



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?



HISTORIC MEETING BETWEEN KOREAN LEADERS

(Friday Church News Notes, May 4, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

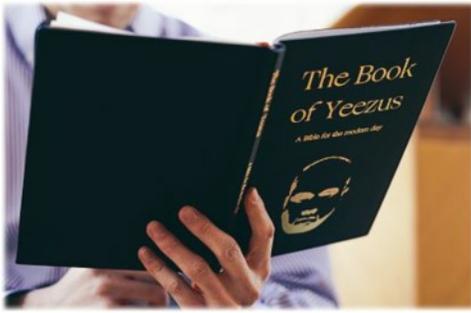
- For the first time since the end of the Korean War in 1953, a North Korean leader has set foot on South Korean soil. This occurred on Friday morning, April 27, when North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un crossed the border at Panmunjom into the South Korean sector to meet with President Moon Jae-in. Kim wrote in the guestbook at the meeting place, "A new history begins now -- at the starting point of history and the era of peace." In May or June, Kim is expected to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump. This will be the first time that a North Korean leader has met with a sitting U.S. President since the Korean War. Nothing might come of this, of course, but if it does lead to a real opening of North Korea and a relaxation of the draconian laws against religious liberty, it will be the answer of the prayers of the many saints who have petitioned the Lord to allow the free preaching of the gospel in that long-enslaved land. Kim Jong Un is the grandson of Kim Il-sung, who founded the Kim dynasty in 1948. In North Korea it is called the Mount Paektu Bloodline. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet

and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

RAPPER CALLS "GOD FEARING" A "DATED MENTALITY" (Friday Church News Notes, May 4, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In a tweet on April 21, rapper Kanye West said, "I don't subscribe to the term and concept of God fearing. That's a dated mentality that was used to control people. We are in the future. If God is love and love it's [sic] the opposite of fear then... to fear God makes no sense." The fear of God is mentioned more than 80 times in Scripture. It is "the beginning of wisdom" (Ps. 111:10). It is "to hate evil" (Pr. 8:13). The fear of God is compatible with, and not contrary to, God's love, because God is also holy and just and righteous. The fear of God is not only an Old Testament concept. The New Testament believer is instructed, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Co. 7:1), and "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and





godly fear” (He. 12:28). West appeared as a thorn-crowned Jesus on the cover of *Rolling Stone* in 2006. His 2013 album was titled *Yeezus*, which is a play on West’s nickname *Yeezy* and the name *Jesus*. The cover art depicts West being crowned king by angels. In the song “I Am a God,” he raps, “I just talked to Jesus, and he said, ‘What’s up, Yeezus?’/ ... I know He the Most High/ But I am a close high/ ... I am a god.” The *Book of Zeezus: A Bible for the Modern Day*, published in 2015, is a version of the book of Genesis that replaces every mention of God with the rapper’s name. West is married to pop icon and former *Playboy* model Kim Kardashian. Their marriage was performed by emerging church pastor Rich Wilkerson Jr. of Vows Church near Miami. Yes, West claims to be a Christian. He is a typical modern “Christian” who is described in the prophecy of 2 Timothy 4:3-4. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE (Friday Church News Notes, May 4, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@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 and discoveries include the following: **In a world first, an Israeli has undergone surgery to regrow a bone.** The procedure, developed by Israeli biotech company Bonus BioGroup, uses fat cells to grow tissue that is transplanted into the patient’s body and regrows the missing parts of the bone.



Dr. Shai Meretzky, CEO of Bonus Biogroup, says, “We created thousands of tiny bone particles, each one of them alive, which enables us to inject them into the missing part where they join together to form a fully functional bone” (*The Times of Israel*, Dec. 20, 2017). Dr. Nimrod Rozen, who conducted the procedure, said, “This surgery is truly science fiction, it changes the entire game in orthopedics. Today I have the ability to grow any bone in a lab.” **Drones are being used to deliver blood in Rwanda.** “Zipline, a Silicon Valley



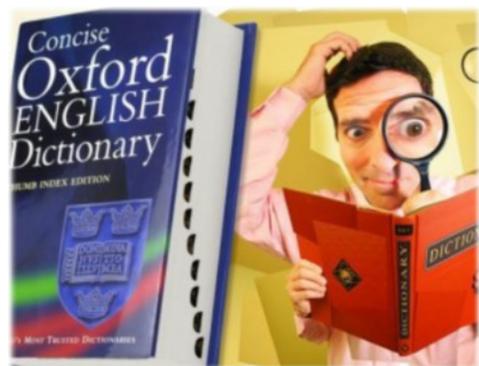
company, has teamed up with Rwanda’s health ministry to deliver more than 5,500 units of blood, according to a report in *The Guardian*. The drones have reportedly cut the average delivery time from four hours to roughly half an hour. The company, which has raised over \$41 million from investors according to Crunchbase, delivers blood to 12 hospitals in the eastern part of the country, covering a total of approximately 6 million people” (“Drones Are Being Used,” *Fox News*, Jan. 2, 2018). **Scientists in Britain and Australia have developed a new technique for speed breeding crops** (“Speed breeding,” UPI, Jan. 2, 2018). The technique yielded a generation of wheat, seed to seed, in just eight weeks, three times faster than standard growth. Not only did the plants grow quicker, but they “look better and are healthier.” “The breakthrough could accelerate the pace of crop research and help



scientists find more productive, resilient and adaptive varieties and hybrids.” **Pancreatic cancer research scientists have made a nanoparticle that can selectively deliver genetic material to a tumor** (“Tel Aviv University Study,” *The Times of Israel*, Jan. 4, 2018). The study was led by Ronit Satchi-Sainaro at Tel Aviv University’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine, who said, “We managed to change the genetic signature of pancreatic cancer cells

and inhibit the cancer gene and increase the survival of mice.”

FUDGING WORDS (Friday Church News Notes, May 4, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - There are a thousand ways to prevaricate, and one of those is to change the definition of a word. This is a common practice with false teachers. For example, as a young Christian I read a Seventh-day Adventist pamphlet entitled “Saved by Grace,” but the pamphlet actually taught saved by grace *plus works!* The beautiful word “grace” was redefined. I think of another example. A couple of years ago a preacher wrote to me to say that he did not agree with my perspective about the compromise at Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California. He said, “From first-hand experience I have found the issue at Lancaster to be not to the degree that you have portrayed it.” When I wrote to him and said that I had clear evidence that I have not “exaggerated” the problem at Lancaster, he said, “I didn’t say that



you exaggerated.” Well, no he didn’t use the word “exaggerated,” but it is obvious that this is exactly what he was saying. To fine tune words in such a manner is obfuscation. It is similar to Bill Clinton saying, “It depends on what the meaning of the word ‘is’ is.”



“MUMMIFIED” TREES MORE PROOF OF THE FLOOD (Friday Church News Notes, May 4, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Mummified Trees,” OneNewsNow.com, Jan. 9, 2018: “It was recently announced that a team of scientists found the fossilized trees on the ice-covered continent. They estimate that the trees are some 280 million years old and were preserved down to the cellular level after being rapidly buried in volcanic ash--preserved so well, in fact, that some of the amino acid building blocks that make up the trees; proteins can still be extracted. But Dr. Tim Clarey with the Institute for Creation Research says a more literal, biblical explanation that fits the science is that this is a result of the Great Flood told in the Old Testament. He explains that the most important thing the scientists noted they had found was that the trees had original protein in them. ‘It isn’t that they were frozen and preserved that way,’ he tells OneNewsNow. ‘These things were buried in rock. Just like the dinosaurs, we’re finding more and more original proteins and blood cells and blood vessels in dinosaurs as well. These things are supposed to be 68 to 150 million years old; in this case, they’re supposed to be around 280 million years old,’ he continues--then asks: ‘How do you have original proteins that survive that long?’ ... ‘This is

another example of Antarctica showing that there was a warmer climate down there at one point,’ he states. ‘It wasn’t always icy--that didn’t happen until after the Flood was over that the Ice Age really kicked in. In our opinion, at ICR, this fits exactly what the biblical story tells us in the Book of Genesis.’ He says to explain this in an ‘old age’ system is very difficult--and argues that the discovery of original proteins is scientific, empirical evidence that shows the world isn’t as old as secular scientists believe.”

THOMAS EDISON ON PERSISTENCE AND HARD WORK: “Opportunity is missed by most people, because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” “Our greatest weakness lies in giving up; the most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.” “Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.”

“Worldliness is a spirit, a temperament, an attitude of soul. It is life without high callings, life devoid of lofty ideals. It is a gaze horizontal, never vertical. Its motto is ‘Forward,’ never ‘Upward’” (John Henry Jowett).

U2 COMES OUT AS PRO-ABORTION (Friday Church News Notes, May 11, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The influential Irish rock band U2





has tweeted support for repealing Ireland's pro-life Eighth Amendment and legalizing abortion on demand. The amendment guarantees pre-born humans the right to life ("U2 Comes Out," LifeSiteNews.com, May 2, 2018). The vote will occur on May 25. Three members of the band claim to be Christians, including the frontman Bono. U2 has a great influence in the contemporary worship movement. Bono is praised almost universally among contemporary and emerging Christians. Phil Johnson observes that "Bono seems to be the chief theologian of the Emerging Church Movement" (*Absolutely Not! Exposing the Post-modern Errors of the Emerging Church*, p. 9). Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, says U2 has a prophetic voice to the world; he claims that Bono is a prophet like John the Baptist (foreword to *Get Up Off Your Knees: Preaching the U2 Catalog*). Yet Bono lives in blatant contradiction to the reality of biblical grace, and not only in the matter of killing unborn babies. He is described in the following passage: "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16). Much of Bono's language cannot be printed in a Christian publication. In 2006 Bono said, "I recently read in one of St. Paul's letters where it describes all of the fruits of the spirit, and I had none of them" ("Enough Rope with

Andrew Denton," March 13, 2006). In October 2008, *Fox News* reported that Bono and rocker friend Simon Carmody partied with teenage girls on a yacht in St. Tropez ("Facebook Pictures Show Married U2 Singer Bono's Rendezvous with Sexy Teens," *Fox News*, Oct. 27, 2008). U2's Christian supporters tout the band's "biblical" lyrics as evidence of the reality of their Christianity. But U2's ambiguous lyrics do not present a clear Christian message, and the few songs that do mention Christ typically do so in a strange, unscriptural manner. "The listener senses something religious is being dealt with but can't be quite sure what" (Steve Turner, *Hungry for Heaven*, p. 172). They never preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in a plain manner so that their listeners could be born again. They pose moral questions in some of their songs, but they give no Bible answers. Bono's view of the Bible was stated in a December 2017 interview with *Rolling Stone* magazine. "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 Damascus 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 view of women and gay people and other things. Doubtless a modern, relevant, supercool guy like Bono can straighten out poor misguided Paul. (For more on this see "[The Rock Group U2](http://www.wayoflife.org)," www.wayoflife.org.)

BOY SCOUTS DROPS "BOY" (Friday Church News Notes, May 11, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In a major sign of the times, the venerable 108-year-old Boy Scouts of America organization is dropping "Boy" from its "Boy Scouts" program to make way for the introduction of girls. Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh said, "We're trying to find the right way to say we're here for both young men and young women" ("Boy Scouts to change name," *Fox News*, May 2, 2018). The unisex movement, which has blossomed throughout society since the 1960s and is a fundamental part of the global pop culture, is a direct affront to the Creator who made them "male and female" and assigned different tasks to each sex. "So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). It is a fulfillment of Psalm 2, which describes a global rebellion against God's laws. "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” (Psalm 2:1-3). As pilgrims in a foreign land, God’s people must refuse to be conformed to the world’s thinking and ways. “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2). “Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11).

THE SCRIPTURES (Friday Church News Notes, May 11, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



Guideless and darkling; Oh, how poor
 Is man! forsaken and impure,
 He cannot for a day, an hour,
 Go safe, without superior power.
 Away, ye false lights of an age,
 When pride enveloped every sage.
 The garden where Platonic lore
 Its honeyed current once did pour;
 The Porch of Zeno, and the walk
 Where once the Stagyrate did talk;
 The haunts of Epicurus--all
 Are desert, and to ruin fall.
 Nor could their lordly patrons show
 The way of life they could not know.
 In vain, bewildered, o’er their page
 I hang, my sorrow to assuage.
 An endless guessing in the best
 They give, to put my doubts at rest.
 A truth, half seen, may twinkle far,
 As murky evenings show a star,
 But in their most meridian light
 There glimmers but a Greenland night.
 The hour-glass notes the noon of day,
 The dial owns the sun away.

From these conjectures, lo! I turn
 To sources which while sceptics spurn,
 I see, I feel, I know, are fraught
 With wisdom, by a Saviour taught.
 I hail thee, sacred volume, then,
 Product of many a burning pen,
 By sage, and seer, and martyr driven,
 To picture forth the charms of heaven.

J.W. Alexander, *Thoughts on Preaching*, 1864, p. 57

LIFE-CHANGING WORDS -

GLORY (Friday Church News Notes, May 11, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - To understand the Bible, the student must understand the Bible’s words. This is fundamental. An effectual Bible student will study his Bible with a good Bible dictionary at hand. I have studied the Bible for 45 years, and I don’t think a day has passed that I haven’t done some type of word study. The following definition is from the [Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity](http://www.wayoflife.org), with a couple of updates that will appear in a future edition. **GLORY** is used in at least seven ways in the Bible: (1) Glory refers to praise (Lk. 2:14; 17:18; Ac. 12:23; 1 Co. 2:7; 10:31; Ep. 1:6). (2) Glory refers to God’s holiness, exalted magnificence, the perfection of His character (Jn. 1:14; Ro. 1:23; 3:23). (3) Glory refers to the splendor and wealth of a king and his kingdom (Mt. 6:29; 19:28; 25:31; Jn. 12:41; 17:5, 22, 24; Ro. 9:23; Col. 3:4). (4) Glory refers to the brilliant light which surrounds the presence of God (Ex. 16:10; 40:34, 35; Le. 9:6, 23; Nu. 14:10; 1 Ki. 8:11; 2 Ch. 7:1-3; Eze. 10:4; Mk. 13:26; 9:29-31; Lk. 2:9; Re. 1:16; 21:11, 23). (5) Glory refers to beauty (Is. 28:1; 63:1). When the Bible says believers will be with Christ in glory, it refers to all of the above—the praise,

splendor, wealth, light, and beauty which are in Christ’s presence and kingdom. (6) Glory refers to boasting (1 Co. 1:29, 31; 3:21; 4:7; 5:6; 2 Co. 5:12; Ga. 6:13). (7) Glory refers to a witness, an evidence (2 Co. 8:23). Faithful messengers of the churches are “the glory of Christ,” meaning they witness to His love and grace, they are testimonies of His gracious character in redemption and sanctification.

INTELLIGENCE IN THE

HUMAN HAND (Friday Church

News Notes, May 11, 2018,

www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from

“Made in His Image: The Connecting

Power of Hands,” R. Guliuzza, M.D.,

Institute for Creation Research:

“Human finger movements excel in

precision and speed. The average time

a person takes to make a common

choice between two things is about

half of a second. But rapid finger

motions are much faster--in fact even

faster than is physically possible using

only the body’s sensor-to-motor

loops. To obtain the highest possible

finger speeds, sensors and conscious

thought are augmented in the brain

with an *anticipatory function* for

individual finger movements called a

forward plan, which is extraordinarily

complex and significantly

subconscious. Evidence shows that

the central nervous system predicts

the best outcome of every finger



movement *several movements ahead* of its current state. Thus, skilled typists will visually process up to eight characters *in advance* and then--in anticipation--the forward plan for muscle movements will commit the finger muscles to an action about three characters in advance of actually striking the keys. Times between keystrokes are commonly as low as 60 milliseconds. Interestingly, speed is fastest if successive keystrokes are between fingers on opposite hands. So imagine the quantity of mental data processed for a skilled pianist who can play 20-30 successive notes with each hand every second--about 40 milliseconds apart--since the nervous system executes a forward plan (prescribing speed, direction, pressure, duration, etc.) for *every* finger *simultaneously* and updates all plans after *every* successive finger movement. The plan is compiled in the cerebellum, which may, if needed, retain memory of the plan (one or several varieties). This becomes an integral part of skilled learning. So far, no limits have been found on the number of plans that can be kept in memory."

U.S. EMBASSY OPENS IN JERUSALEM (Friday Church News Notes, May 18, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - On May 14, the U.S. Embassy formally opened in Jerusalem in practical fulfillment of President



Donald Trump's statement in December 2017 recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The opening ceremony, which was held 70 years to the day after President Harry Truman recognized the new state of Israel in 1948, was attended by Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, and some members of Congress. Ivanka said, "On behalf of the 45th president of the United States of America we welcome you officially and for the first time to the embassy of the United States here in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel." In a video presentation, President Trump said, "Israel is a sovereign nation with the rights like every other sovereign nation to determine its own capital. Yet for many years we failed to acknowledge the obvious, the plain reality that Israel's capital is Jerusalem." Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "What a glorious day. Remember this moment. This is history. President Trump, by recognizing history, you have made history." The embassy is currently housed in a building that was previously used for consular services. A square near the U.S. embassy has been named United States Square by Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. He said, "This is the way in which Jerusalem returns love to the president and residents of the United States who stand by the state of Israel. President Trump decided to

recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish people, stand on the side of historical truth and do the right thing" ("Square Near U.S. Embassy," *The Jerusalem Post*, May 10, 2018). Israel's current return to the land is a fulfillment of the first part of the prophecy of dry bones in Ezekiel 37, which describes Israel's "resurrection" from among the nations in two stages. First, she is raised in a spiritually-dead condition, then she is converted (Eze. 37:7-10). Israel is back in the land to build the Third Temple and to sign a covenant with the Antichrist in fulfillment of the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy (Da. 9:27). When I am in Israel, I feel as if the whole place is vibrating in anticipation of these things, but the reins of the times are in the Lord's hand, and 2 Peter 3:9 says He is waiting for the salvation of souls. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8).

PAULA WHITE "TAKING CARE OF TRUMP'S SOUL" (Friday Church News Notes, May 18, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In an interview with the *Tennessean*, Jonathan Cain of the





rock band Journey says that his wife, Paula White-Cain, is taking care of President Donald Trump's soul ("He Kept Believin': Journey's Jonathan Cain on his wife, her role with Trump, and faith," *Tennessean*, May 7, 2018). Paula was the chairperson of Trump's evangelical advisory board and delivered the invocation at his inauguration. She claims to have had a vision in which God called her to preach and told her "that every time I opened my mouth and declared the Word of the Lord, there was a manifestation of His Spirit where people were either healed, delivered, or saved" (Shanye Lee, *Holy Mavericks*, pp. 107-128). Paula and her second husband, Randy White, were co-pastors of Without Walls International, a multi-location charismatic church in Tampa and Lakeland, Florida, but they divorced in 2007 and the church eventually folded. The couple blamed the divorce on the two different directions their lives were going ("Interruption during Megapastors' Divorce Announcement," *Tampa Tribune*, Aug. 23, 2007). Randy spent months commuting to Malibu, California, where he had a beachfront home, while Paula purchased a home in San Antonio, Texas, and was "oversight pastor" to the Family Praise Center. She also traveled frequently to New York City where she had a Trump Tower condo and conducted services at New Life by Design Empowerment Center as a

motivational speaker. Currently Paula is "senior pastor" of New Destiny Christian Center in Apopka, Florida. In 2015, Paula married Jonathan Cain, the third marriage for both. After the wedding, she tweeted, "We're so excited to share our wedding vows and celebration with our church family tonight." Her "vows" must be something like, "I vow to remain married to you until I don't want to remain married to you." Of their marriage, Jonathan told the *Tennessean*, "What I was missing was the word. Paula brought me back to scripture..." At Unleashed 2016, Jonathan and Paula gave their testimonies and answered questions before Paula laid hands on people. Jonathan advised women that "if he [your husband] likes to watch porn, watch porn with him." At this foolish, unscriptural statement, Paula laughed. We can't fathom how any of this could be characterized as getting "back to Scripture," but one thing is sadly true: Paula White exemplifies American Christianity today and is a fitting spiritual advisor to a president who has lived a very shameful moral life and expressed no public repentance. The grace these people preach is not the true grace of God; it is the "live according to your own lusts" Christianity prophesied in 2 Timothy 4:3-4. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO REMOVE "HUSBAND AND WIFE" FROM MARRIAGE LITURGY (Friday Church News Notes, May 18, 2018,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The ultra-liberal Episcopal Church in the United States is planning to remove from its marriage liturgy terms deemed offensive to homosexuals. The words "union of husband and wife" will be replaced with "the union of two people" and "for the procreation of children" will be changed to "for the gift of children" (reflecting same-sex adoptions). The Episcopal Church, which is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, has been on this path for a long time. The denomination has never been a New Testament church by any biblical standard, and it has been increasingly permeated with theological liberalism since the early part of the 20th century. In 1960, Episcopal Bishop James Pike said the doctrine of the Trinity is "outdated, incomprehensible and nonessential" (*The Christian Century*, Dec. 21, 1960). After heresy charges were brought against Pike in 1967, the Episcopal Church adopted a resolution declaring that all heresy was out of date. In 1976, John Spong was ordained as the bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Newark, New Jersey, even though he denied practically every doctrine of the Christian faith. In 1985, the Jesus Seminar was founded with strong support from Episcopalians, including Marcus Borg of Oregon State University. The Seminar wickedly claimed that Jesus spoke only about 20% of the things attributed to him in the New Testament and that the Jesus described in the Bible is largely fiction. In 1993, a survey of nearly 20,000 Episcopalians showed that seventy percent believed "faithful Christians can be sexually active gays and lesbians" (*Christian News*, Nov.



1, 1993). Seventy-five percent approved of living with someone of the opposite sex without marriage. In his 1991 book *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, Spong said the apostle Paul was “a self hating, repressed homosexual.” In 1998, Spong said, “I would choose to loathe rather than to worship a deity who required the sacrifice of his son” (*Christianity Today*, June 15, 1998). In April 2003, Episcopalian bishop Charles Bennison said that Jesus Christ was a sinner (*Worthy News*, April 14, 2003). Two months later, the Diocese of New Hampshire elected the first openly homosexual bishop in the history of the Episcopal Church (V. Gene Robinson). In June 2006, the national convention of the Episcopal Church in America voted overwhelmingly against a resolution stating “an unchanging commitment to Jesus Christ as the son of God, the only name by which any person may be saved.” In her first sermons after being elected as presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in 2006, Katharine Jefferts Schori referred to “our mother Jesus.”

EVOLUTION BY EUPHEMISM
(Friday Church News Notes, May 18, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Dec. 29, 2017: “In my book *Where Birds Eat Horses*, I talk about the way that evolutionists use, or rather misuse,

language in order to make their case. One type of language much loved by evolutionists is what we call ‘fuzzy words’. Recently, I discovered a subset of fuzzy words known as *weasel words*--an idea that seems to have been invented on Wikipedia (“Weasel Words,” Wikipedia.org/Wiki). Weasel words are designed to convey an element of authority which does not really exist. One such phrase, quoted and criticized on the Wikipedia site, is ‘a growing body of evidence.’ Wikipedia’s weasel word page editor suggests that the phrase should make us ask for the raw data for this growing body of evidence. The implication is that the ‘growing body of evidence’ does not exist and an author using this phrase is trying to shut down discussion. One popular science website containing a lot of evolutionary articles has an abundant supply of pages using this phrase. Consider these: ‘Growing body of evidence supports use of mind-body therapies in breast cancer treatment.’ ‘A growing body of evidence has hinted at this connection [between global cooling and the evolution of *homo sapiens*].’ ‘Although there is a growing body of evidence that there was once water on Mars, it does not rain there today.’ Biblical creationists should not be intimidated by such comments. It would appear that there is a growing body of evidence that many evolutionists are leaving logic behind! The Bible, in contrast, uses phrases which are full of meaning and truth.”

MATT MAHER WORSHIPS CHRIST IN THE MASS WAFER
(Friday Church News Notes, May 25, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- Matt Maher, one of the most

influential contemporary worship musicians, says in an interview that he worships Christ in the consecrated wafer of the Catholic mass. He says, “I lead a college Bible study. It’s a Catholic Church, which kind of surprises a lot of people. The joy that I really feel, as part of my ministry, is that I’ve been kind of going out more and traveling and working with different people breaking down those stereotypes because people have a lot of Catholic stereotypes. ... I do a mass every Sunday night at 6 PM at my church, Saint Tims, and on Tuesday nights we do a thing called XLT. Basically what it is a gathering of high school and college students. It’s consistent with about 40 minutes of worship, 20 to 25 minutes of teaching and about 25 to 30 minutes of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament” (“Matt Maher Interview” Kim Jones, Mar. 6, 2017, Thoughtco.com). Adoration of the blessed sacrament refers to the worship of a consecrated wafer of bread as Jesus Christ. The Vatican II Council declared, “In this sacrament Christ is present in a unique way, whole and entire, God and man, substantially and permanently” (Vatican II, *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, Instruction on the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery, Chap. 1, E, p. 114). During a trip to Canada in November 1998, I had an opportunity to visit a cloistered convent in Montreal. A pastor friend invited me



to meet his great aunt who had been a Catholic nun for 60 years. She was 80 years old and had lived most of her life in this monastery. She could converse with us only from behind metal bars. There are even bars across a section of the convent chapel, separating the nuns from the public. The nuns pray in the chapel by shifts around the clock. As you enter the chapel, there is a sign that says, “You are entering to adore the Jesus-host.” Note how the nuns make a direct connection between Jesus and the Catholic host. The host is the consecrated wafer of the mass. According to Catholic theology, as we have seen, the wafer, when blessed by the priest, becomes the literal body and blood of Jesus. After the mass, the host is placed inside a little box called a tabernacle, and the people worship it and pray to it as if it were Jesus Christ Himself. This is called “adoration of the blessed sacrament.” The Catholic mass is heresy and communion with devils. Matt Maher, who is communing with devils masquerading as angels of light (2 Corinthians 11), is in ministry fellowship with popular contemporary musicians such as Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townsend, Michael W. Smith, Third Day, Chris Tomlin, Jars of Clay, Matt Redman, and Bill Gaither. Maher’s wife is Methodist, and they are raising their son “in the Catholic Church,” while also taking him to Methodist services “so he can experience both traditions” (“Charismatic Catholic Rocker Finds Crossover Appeal with Evangelicals,” *Charisma*, May 20, 2013). God’s people need to understand that association with contemporary worship music is a bridge to the one-world church and doctrines of devils.



HISTORIC SUMMIT BETWEEN U.S. PRESIDENT AND NORTH KOREAN LEADER (Friday Church News Notes, May 25, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Though it could be cancelled at any time, an historic face-to-face meeting between a U.S. President and a North Korean leader is scheduled for June 12 in Singapore. President Trump, whose goal is to curb North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, tweeted, “We will both try to make it a very special moment for World Peace!” (Donald Trump Twitter account, May 10, 2018). Trump also said, “I really think he wants to do something and bring that country into the real world” (“Trump announces June 12 summit,” *Chicago Tribune*, May 10, 2018). Singapore maintains diplomatic relations with North Korea and hosts a N. Korean embassy. In April, in another first, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in the demilitarized zone between the two countries. While Kim’s motives are highly suspect and nothing might come of the negotiations, it could be the beginning of an answer to many prayers for the people of North Korea. “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life

in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (1 Timothy 2:1-6).

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL FERVENT IN SUPPORT OF THE HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA (Friday Church News Notes, May 25, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Twenty-three Major League Baseball (MLB) teams are brazenly promoting the homosexual agenda by hosting “LGBT Pride” Nights this season. MLB Vice President Billy Bean, a homosexual former baseball player, said, “I couldn’t be prouder of baseball--we’re really leading the way.” The “LGBT Pride” nights typically feature the unfurling of a rainbow flag, rainbow-themed merchandise, and the promotion of LGBT organizations. “The stadiums, despite the presence of children, also often use the ‘kiss cams’ to project gays kissing onto a large screen” (“23 Major League Baseball Teams to Promote Homosexuality,” *cnsnews.com*, May 13, 2018). This is another reason why Bible-believing Christians should have nothing to do with the filthy world of pro sports. “And have no fellowship with the



unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*” (Ephesians 5:11).

NEW ZEALAND GOES ALL OUT FOR HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS (Friday Church News Notes, May 25, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Did you know that there is an “intersex flag” and that New Zealand has flown it at its parliament? The intersex flag was created in 2013 by Organisation Intersex International Australia and consists of a purple circle on a yellow background. These are supposed to be “hermaphrodite colors,” as opposed to blue and pink which are traditionally linked to male and female. New Zealand flew the intersex flag, along with the rainbow flag at its parliament building in celebration of the “International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia” (“New Zealand becomes the first country to fly intersex flag at Parliament,” May 18, 2018, www.stuff.co.nz). This is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy and a sign of the lateness of the hour. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,



Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

TURKISH LEADERS CALL FOR ISLAMIC NATIONS TO UNITE AGAINST ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, May 25, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- Turkey’s leaders are urging Islamic nations to unite against Israel over the killing of more than 60 violent Palestinian protestors in Gaza. Turkey’s President Recep Erdogan called for a summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to discuss the matter. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said, “The Islamic world should move as one, with one voice, against this massacre” (“Turkish PM Calls,” *National Review*, May 16, 2018). Yildirim also said that the United States is “a party to this crime against humanity.” In a speech broadcast on Turkish state television, Erdogan irrationally called Israel’s self-defensive action “genocide.” If it weren’t for God’s protecting hand, Israel would long ago have been wiped from the face of the earth, but Israel is God’s nation and He has chastened her for 2,000 years in His sovereign will and will yet convert her as He has so solemnly promised. “Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which

divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever” (Jeremiah 31:35-36).

KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE (Friday Church News Notes, April 27, 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 and discoveries include the following: **NASA’s new X3 rocket thruster uses expelled plasma to generate thrust and can produce eight times the thrust of a chemical rocket and requires less propellant.** It is still in the development and testing stage, but it is intended to take humans to Mars within the next 20 years (“NASA’s New Ion Thruster Engine,” *ScienceAlert.com*, Oct. 14, 2017). In 2018, the engineers plan to test the engine by running it continuously for 100 hours. **Israeli company CorNeat Vision is set to begin clinical trials for a synthetic cornea that could provide sight to millions of blind and visually**



SOME SECRETS OF BUTTERFLY MIGRATION

(Friday Church News Notes, May 25, 2018, 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: "Scientists are beginning to learn some of the biological secrets that enable migration. They have found that the butterfly uses a combination of a sun compass, skylight cues, a circadian clock, and magnetic sensing to maintain its direction ('Brain GPS Illuminated in Migratory Monarch,' *Science Daily*, Jan. 27, 2011; 'Monarch Butterflies Reveal a Novel Way in Which Animals Sense Earth's Magnetic Field,' *Science Daily*, Jan. 27, 2010). Scientists have also learned that the butterfly's antennae play an essential role in migration ('Migrating Monarch Butterflies

Nose Their Way to Mexico,' *Science Daily*, Sept. 24, 2009). Reports such as these sometimes boast that monarch migration is being 'demystified,' but this is patent nonsense. First, only the very rudiments of migration are currently known. Further,

understanding the biological rudiments of migration does nothing to explain such truly mystifying things as how an incredibly complex mechanism could have evolved or how it could be created through the process of metamorphosis or how an insect could know where it happens to be on earth in a migration journey (e.g., the generations that are hatched in the midst of the migration process) and where it needs to go from there. William Pelletier, Ph.D., observes, 'Imagine finding a tiny GPS unit that could navigate 3,000 miles with a



destination accuracy of ten feet. Would you believe someone who claimed it had developed itself by random changes over millions of years? What if this GPS was found, not on a street, but inside the pinhead-sized brain of a monarch butterfly? Does the place where the unit was found, whether street or butterfly brain, alter the obvious conclusion that such an instrument must have been designed by a master intelligence?' (William Pelletier, Ph.D., 'Insect GPS,' *Bible-Science Guy*, Jan. 1, 2010)."

impaired people ("Israeli company unveils revolutionary artificial cornea," Israel21c.org, Oct. 9, 2017). "Corneat KPro uses advanced cell technology to integrate artificial optics within resident ocular tissue. The implant is produced using nanoscale chemical engineering that stimulates cellular growth."

THE LAW WAS GIVEN; GRACE AND TRUTH CAME (Friday Church News Notes, April 27, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from John Phillips commentary on the Gospel of John: "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus

Christ' (John 1:17). The law was given; grace and truth came. The law was impersonal, pealed out from Mount Sinai amid scenes of terrifying grandeur, engraved on cold tablets of stone, mediated by angels, given to Moses. Grace and truth were wrapped up in warm, vibrant human flesh and brought into this world by Jesus (the man) Christ (the Messiah). 'He went about doing good' was Peter's summary--as grand a statement as any to emphasize our Lord's grace. 'Never man spake like this man' said those sent once to arrest him--as great a statement as any to emphasize our Lord's truth. Not grace at the expense of truth, not truth at the expense of grace, but grace and truth in perfect

proportion--demonstrated in the character, conduct, and conversation of the most balanced person who ever lived on earth. Out of hundreds of possible illustrations John selects a few and weaves his gospel around them: the night with Nicodemus, for example; the conversation with the woman at the well; his dealings with the woman taken in adultery and with her accusers. Thus, the law of Moses contained truth--sharp, demanding, penetrating--embodied in the Decalogue, expanded into some 613 edicts of the law. The law of Moses embodied grace. Human failure to keep the moral law necessitated the giving of the ceremonial law so that guilt could be covered until it could

be cancelled at Calvary. But it was not until Jesus came that the truth and grace inherent in the law could be fully implemented in a peerless human life and thus be translated into a language all can understand.”

THE HYDROLOGICAL SYSTEM (Friday Church News Notes, April 27, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- “When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures” (Jeremiah 10:13). In describing God’s power and wisdom, the Bible refers to the great hydrological system. (See also Job 38:25-30, 34-35 and Amos 5:8.) Jeremiah mentions **“the multitude of waters in the heavens”** (referring to the clouds which hold great volumes of water); **“the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth”** (referring to the condensation and evaporation and evapotranspiration



processes where water is carried aloft from the earth); the **“lightnings”** (lightning is an essential part of the hydrological system, though only dimly understood by modern science; it is an element of the electrification of the cloud system whereby “the storm clouds are charged like giant capacitors in the sky”; lightning strikes the earth about 100 times per second; it contains up to one billion volts of electricity, can be five times hotter than the sun, and can travel at 200 million mph); **“with rain”** (referring to the return of water to the earth by precipitation), **“the wind”** (which controls the movement of the

clouds and affects precipitation). By the global hydrological cycle, water, which is essential for life, is purified and redistributed and replenished. At its heart is the mysterious and marvelous element of water itself, which is capable of changing states between liquid, vapor, and ice. Jeremiah says God is in control of these things. “He uttereth ... he causeth ... he maketh .. he bringeth forth.” These processes are not “natural” in the sense of having evolved or having a life of their own. The Creator is not an absentee God. He upholds all things (Heb. 1:3). By him all things consist (Col. 1:17).

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- 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)
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