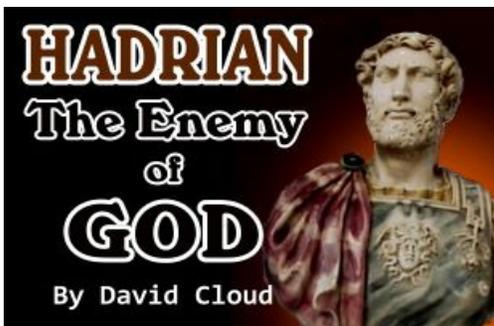


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“Hadrian had every opportunity to pursue the truth of God’s Word. Instead he demanded that Jews and Christians worship the Caesars, killed those who refused, burned the Scriptures, erected a statue of himself over the place of Jehovah’s Holy of Holies, constructed a pagan temple over Christ’s empty tomb, tried to obliterate the memory of Israel, and died in his vile idolatry.” Page 4.

Digging in the Walls: A month’s worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 13.**

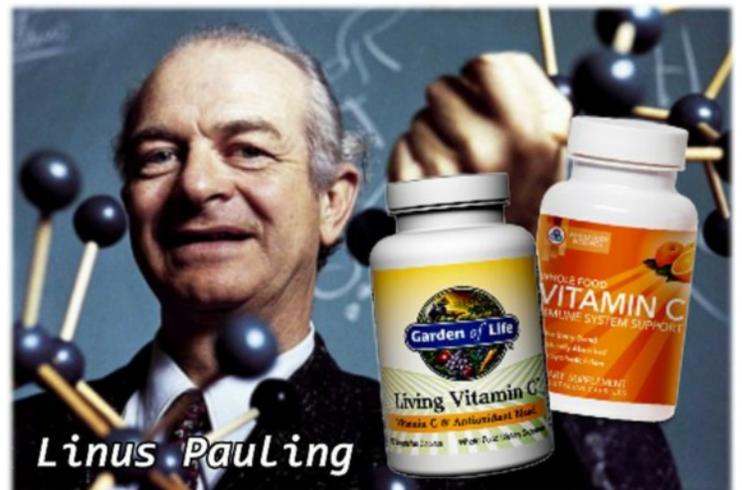


LINUS PAULING: FATHER OF THE MEGAVITAMIN CRAZE ~ By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from the new book [The Bible, Diet, and Alternative Health Care](#), available in print as well as in free eBook formats from [Way of Life Literature](#).

Linus Pauling (1901-1994) was both a great scientist and a great quack, which is a loud warning that anyone can fall to the siren call of quackery.

Pauling taught at the California Institute of Technology for more than 40 years and was the first person to be the recipient of two unshared Nobel prizes. He also won the National Medal of Science, the Medal for Merit, awarded by the U.S. president, and received honorary degrees from Cambridge, the University of London, and the University of Paris. He appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine and was “hailed as one of the greatest scientists who had ever lived.”



In 1954, Pauling won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research into chemical bonds. The same year he received the Langmuir Prize for the most outstanding young chemist in the United States, became the youngest person elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and was

made a full professor at Caltech. When asked to comment on Pauling's findings, Albert Einstein shrugged his shoulders and said it was too complicated for him.

In 1962, Pauling won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in promoting the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

But at age 65, at a time when men typically begin to consider their mortality with greater seriousness, Pauling became the proponent of taking mega doses of vitamin C for health and longevity. It marked his conversion to quackery, and his descent into the depths thereof continued until his death.

He was influenced by Irwin Stone, a man who called himself a doctor but was credentialed only through a non-accredited correspondence school. Stone recommended that Pauling take 3,000 milligrams of vitamin C a day for longevity.

In pursuit of longevity and health, which is the common desire of mankind, Pauling tried the routine and testified that he felt much better and no longer suffered colds. He eventually increased his daily intake of vitamin C to 18,000 milligrams.

In his 1970 book *Vitamin C and the Common Cold*, Pauling recommended 3,000 milligrams daily and

claimed that the cold would be eradicated. He saw vitamin C usage as "a step toward a better world."

The sale of vitamin C exploded. By the mid-1970s 50 million Americans were taking the supplement. It was the dawn of the vitamin/supplement industry as a multi-billion dollar behemoth.

But multiple medical studies have failed to find correlation between vitamin C and the prevention or cure of the common cold.

"In a July 2007 study, researchers wanted to discover whether taking 200 milligrams or more of vitamin C daily could reduce the frequency, duration, or severity of a cold. After reviewing 60 years of clinical research, they found that when taken after a cold starts, vitamin C supplements do not make a cold shorter or less severe. When taken daily, vitamin C very slightly shortened cold duration--by 8% in adults and by 14% in children. ...

"According to this research, the average adult who suffers with a cold for 12 days a year would still suffer for about 11 days a year if that person took a high dose of vitamin C every day during that year. For the average child who suffers about 28 days of cold illness a year, taking daily high-dose vitamin C would still likely mean about 24 days of cold illness.

"When vitamin C was tested for treatment of colds in 7 separate studies, it was found to be no more effective than placebo at shortening the duration of cold symptoms" ("Vitamin C for the Common Cold," WebMD).

Pauling claimed that the the colds he had previously suffered several times a year "no longer occurred," but this was a myth. Though he continued to experience cold symptoms, he attributed these to "allergies" ("The Vitamin Myth," *The Atlantic*, Jul. 19, 2013). Quack, quack.

Pauling did not stop with vitamin C being a cure for the common cold. He went on to claim that it can cure 75% of cancer cases. Cancer patients began to demand high doses of vitamin C, citing the "Nobel Prize winner" as the authority.

Pauling predicted that vitamin C would usher in a new age of longevity. "[L]ife expectancy will be 100 to 110 years, and in the course of time, the maximum age might be 150 years."

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But extensive medical tests found no benefit from vitamin C for cancer patients. Charles Moertel of the Mayo Clinic, who performed two different tests, said, “We were unable to show a therapeutic benefit of high-dose vitamin C.”

Pauling absolutely refused to accept the results of the tests, but “subsequent studies have consistently shown that vitamin C doesn’t treat cancer” (Ibid., “The Vitamin Myth”).

Next, Pauling claimed that mega doses of vitamin C, vitamin A, vitamin E, plus selenium and beta-carotene, could treat most diseases, including heart disease, mental illness, hepatitis, polio, tuberculosis, mumps, measles, chickenpox, meningitis, arthritis, diabetes, strokes, tetanus, typhoid, leprosy, rabies, heat prostration, altitude sickness, radiation poisoning, warts, shingles, glaucoma, kidney failure, influenza, bladder ailments, stress, snakebites, AIDS. even aging.

The secret, Pauling claimed, was the property of *antioxidants*, which has since become a byword in the vitamin/supplement industry. Antioxidants are produced by the body to counteract the negative effects of free radicals that are a byproduct of oxidation (the process whereby the mitochondria within cells convert food to energy). Antioxidants are found in fruits and vegetables (specifically, selenium, beta-carotene, and vitamins A, C, and E), and studies have shown that people who eat more of these have a lower incidence of cancer and heart disease and live longer.

It is really just a matter of a common-sense balanced diet and avoidance of unhealthy “junk food” consisting of *massive amounts* of fats, carbohydrates, sugar, and salt.

The proponents of megadoses of vitamins reason that since the natural supply of antioxidants in fruits and vegetables has proven to be effectual for good health, *supplemental antioxidants should be even more effective.*

That does sound reasonable on its face. In fact, though, *dozens of scientific studies have shown that megadoses of vitamins have the potential to be detrimental to good health.*

This actually makes good sense to me, since *megadoses of vitamins are not natural!* It makes sense to me that in

God’s good plan, man’s needs are satisfied through the normal intake of a simple healthy diet.

Multiple, extensive studies have shown that those taking vitamins and supplements, particularly in mega doses, were “more likely to die from lung cancer or heart disease than those who didn’t take them.”

This was the conclusion of a 1994 study of 29,000 Finnish men, a 1996 study by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center of 18,000 people, a 2004 study by the University of Copenhagen of 170,000 people, a 2005 study by Johns Hopkins School of Medicine of 136,000 people, a 2007 study by the National Cancer Institute of 11,000 men, a 2011 study by the University of Minnesota of 39,000 older women, and a 2011 study by the Cleveland Clinic of 36,000 men. In the latter study, those who took vitamin E had a 17 percent greater risk of prostate cancer.

These were large studies all reached the same conclusion.

“We could not find evidence that antioxidant supplements can prevent gastrointestinal cancers; on the contrary, *they seem to increase overall mortality*” (University of Copenhagen, 2004).

A 2005 study examined 9,000 people who took high-dose vitamin E to prevent cancer. The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that those who took the supplement were “more likely to develop heart failure than those who didn’t.”

The National Cancer Institute study found that those who took multivitamins were twice as likely to die from advanced prostate cancer.

The University of Minnesota study found that those who took multivitamins and supplements “died at rates higher than those who didn’t.”

A 2008 review of all existing studies involving more than 230,000 people “found that vitamins increased the risk of cancer and heart disease.”

“How could this be? Given that free radicals clearly damage cells--and given that people who eat diets rich in substances that neutralize free radicals are healthier--why did studies of supplemental antioxidants show they were harmful? The most likely explanation is that free radicals

aren't as evil as advertised. Although it's clear that free radicals can damage DNA and disrupt cell membranes, that's not always a bad thing. People need free radicals to kill bacteria and eliminate new cancer cells. But when people take large doses of antioxidants, the balance between free radical production and destruction might tip too much in one direction, causing an unnatural state in which the immune system is less able to kill harmful invaders. Researchers have called this 'the antioxidant paradox.' Whatever the reason, the data are clear: high doses of vitamins and supplements increase the risk of heart disease and cancer; for this reason, not a single national or international organization responsible for the public's health recommends them" ("The Vitamin Myth," *The Atlantic*, Jul. 19, 2013).

It is instructive to learn that the multiplication of the scientific evidence against the use of megavitamin consumption has not harmed vitamin sales.

In 2017, the nutritional supplement industry in the United States grossed an estimated \$36 billion, a massive 63% increase over the \$23.8 billion grossed in 2007 (www.statista.com).

Joseph Fortunato, chief executive of General Nutrition Centers, said, "The thing to do with [these reports] is just ride them out. We see no impact on our business."

One reason that scientific evidence has no affect on the vitamin business is that the population is rapidly aging (the Boomer generation) and senior citizens are searching for cures and elixirs to stave off the effects of old age.

Linus Pauling was raised Lutheran, but he died an atheist.

Pauling's wife died in 1981 of stomach cancer, and he died in 1994 of prostate cancer.



the BIBLE, DIET
& *Alternative*
MEDICINE
DAVID W. CLOUD

The BIBLE, DIET & *Alternative* MEDICINE

Previously titled: "[The Bible and Diet](#)" this new edition has been greatly updated and enlarged. Our intention with this book is not to tell God's people what to eat; it is to help them think biblically about diet. The book begins with an extensive study of the Bible's teaching on the subject of diet by examining 31 passages of Scripture.

The book warns about quack diets, describing 14 marks of quackery, including bogus science, unsubstantiated testimonials, heretical interpretations of the Bible. and the tendency to become an "evangelist" for one's chosen type of quackery. It also warns about the occultic influence that has crept into the dietary field through "alternative health" practices.

Free eBook From: [Way of Life Online Store](#)



Israel is irrefutable evidence of the existence of God and of the divine inspiration of the Bible, which was written by Hebrew prophets.

When Frederick the Great, the atheist king of Prussia, asked, “Can you give me one single irrefutable proof of God?” Jean-Baptiste de Boyer (Marquis d’Argens) replied, “Yes, your Majesty, the Jews.”

Bible faith is not blind religious faith; it is faith based on the Word of a God who cannot lie, and that Word is supported by “many infallible proofs” (Acts 1:3). Israel’s history, continued existence, return to the land, geography, and archaeology are among the chief of these.

In 1754, Thomas Newton wrote of the Jews:

“Their preservation is really one of the most illustrious acts of Divine Providence. They are dispersed among all nations, yet not founded with any. ... They can produce their pedigree from the beginning of the world. ... After wars, massacres and persecutions they still subsist; they are still quite numerous. What but a supernatural power could have preserved them in such a manner as no other nation on earth has been preserved?” (*Dissertation on the Prophecies*, VIII, section 2).

Just one of the Bible’s many prophecies is sufficient to demonstrate this, and that is Deuteronomy 28. This was written by Moses in about 1450 BC while Israel was in the wilderness on the way from Egypt to the land of Canaan. This great prophecy describes Israel’s entire history in clear words and in great detail.

God promised great blessings on Israel if she loved Him and obeyed His Word (De. 28:1-14). But God promised judgment on Israel if she turned from Him (De. 28:15).

Consider some examples of the precision of this ancient prophecy:

“And thy heaven that *is* over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that *is* under thee *shall be* iron. The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed” (De. 28:23-24).

“The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them” (De. 28:25)

“thou ... shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth” (De. 28:25).

“thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save *thee*” (De. 28:29).

“Thy sons and thy daughters *shall be* given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail *with longing* for them all the day long” (De. 28:32).

“*there shall be* no might in thine hand” (De. 28:32).

“The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed away” (De. 28:33).

“And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee. (De 28:37)

“The stranger that *is* within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low” (De. 28:43).

“The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, *as swift* as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance, which shall

not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which *also* shall not leave thee *either* corn, wine, or oil, *or* the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee. And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee” (De. 28:49-52).

“And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other” (De. 28:64).

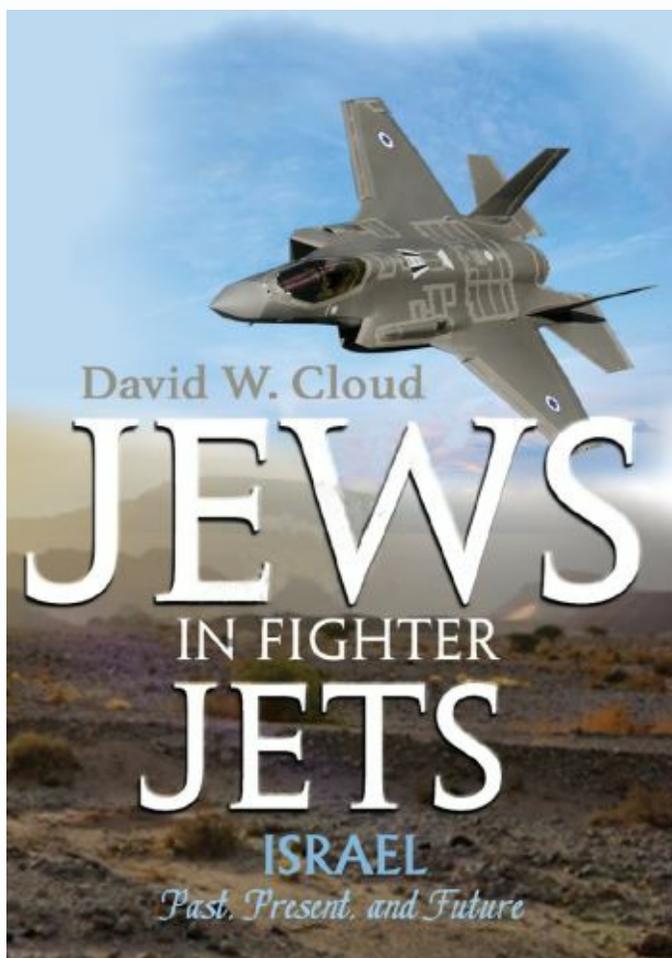
“And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the

LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life” (De. 28:65-66).

Reading this prophecy is like reading the pages of Israel’s history. In fact, we have documented all of these things in [*Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel Past, Present, and Future*](#), and the Deuteronomy prophecy contains a great many other details.

Only God could describe a nation’s entire future at the dawn of its history.

Israel’s history proves that the Bible is a supernatural book.



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).

[*Jews in Fighter Jets*](#) is a package consisting of a 555 page book and a series of 16 PowerPoint presentations packed with more than 2,670 high quality color photos, drawings, historic recreations, and video clips. Keynote presentations (for Mac and iOS) are also available.

Available From: [Way of Life Online Store](#)



The following is excerpted from [*Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel Past, Present, and Future*](#), 600 pages, available from Way of Life Literature.

Sixty years after the destruction of the second temple under the leadership of Titus, there was a final Jewish revolt (AD 132-135).

Called the Bar Kokhba revolt, it was led by Simon ben Kosiba.

The occasion of the Bar Kokhba revolt was **Emperor Hadrian's** (Publius Aelius Hadrianus) (r. 117-138) plan to build a Roman city over the ruins of Jerusalem. After its destruction in AD 70, it had not been rebuilt.

“This was typical Roman behavior: in previous ages Carthage had been razed and years passed before reoccupancy of the site was allowed. A similar fate had befallen Corinth” (Anthony Everitt, *Hadrian and the Triumph of Rome*).

Hadrian became emperor in AD 117, following Trajan. A gold coin struck to celebrate the occasion depicts Trajan handing a globe to Hadrian, “signifying the transfer of the rulership of the world.” Here we see that the ancient Romans knew that the world is round and not flat!

In AD 130, Hadrian visited Judea on his way to Egypt and announced his decision to erase the memory of Israel and Jehovah God from Jerusalem and make it an idolatrous Roman city in his own honor.

He renamed Jerusalem *Aelia Capitolina*. *Aelia* is derived from Hadrian's family name Aelius, and *Capitolina* refers to the idolatrous cult of the Capitoline Triad in Rome (Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva).

Hadrian erected a temple of the filthy god Jupiter on the Temple Mount. (Earlier he built the famous Olympian Jupiter temple in Athens.) The Roman Jupiter was the Greek Zeus. According to Greek mythology, Zeus was married to his sister Hera and he was an infamous adulterer. Many of the myths pertain to Hera's attempt to get revenge against Jupiter for his infidelities. He also joined his brother Poseidon and Hades to commit the fratricide of their father Cronus.

Hadrian also raised up a blasphemous memorial to his own deification in the form of an equestrian statue which he placed over the former location of the Jewish temple's Holy of Holies.

Hadrian built a temple of Venus (Aphrodite), the “goddess of love,” over Christ's empty tomb. Since this was only about 40 years after the death of the Apostle John, it seems certain that the site of the original tomb site was then known. (About two hundred years later, the emperor Constantine razed the pagan temple and built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher over the same site, which is why we believe that this church is located on Christ's burial site. For a pictorial study of this see *Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms*, PowerPoint # 24, “Christ's Passion Week,” available from Way of Life Literature.)

Hadrian loved participating in orgies at idolatrous festivals and was deeply involved in witchcraft and occultic ceremonies. He traveled to Greece to be initiated into the secret Mysteries of Eleusis, which was supposed to bring great blessing and “ensure a prosperous posthumous future.” The mysteries were founded on the myth of the death and rebirth of Persephone, daughter of the fertility goddess Demeter. The process began with the sacrifice of a pig to Demeter. During the ensuing ceremonies, a crowd of initiates danced themselves “into a state of euphoria.” The finale was conducted in a dark, windowless temple called Telesterion, or hall of

mysteries. It ended with the opening of the door and the shining of a great light, signifying the new birth and the entrance into spiritual wisdom. Like the Egyptian myth of Osiris and Isis, the Greek Mysteries of Eleusis were a cheap demonic substitute for the incarnation, atonement, and resurrection of Christ and the gospel of salvation by faith in Him. The ancient pagan mysteries were available only to select initiates, who were sworn to perpetual secrecy, on pain of death, but the gospel of Jesus Christ is available to all who believe and is to be preached to all nations.

Hadrian infamously lived with a young male partner named Antinous. In his extensive travels, he made a point of attending idolatrous orgies, such as the festival of Erotidia in Boeotia in Greece. Dedicated to the god Eros, son of Aphrodite, it celebrated every form of moral perversion. When Antinous drowned under suspicious circumstances in the river Nile during Hadrian's visit to Egypt (after he left Judea), Hadrian had him deified as a god and erected statues of him throughout the empire. (Trajan, who preceded Hadrian, was also a homosexual.)

“One of the remarkable features of this period is that for nearly fifty years the imperial government was headed by two men who engaged predominantly, if not exclusively, in homosexual behavior,” Everitt, *Hadrian and the Triumph of Rome*).

Hadrian had multitudes of people tortured and killed and cruelly sold as slaves, such as the more than half million Jews that were slaughtered during the Bar Kokhba revolt, but he loved his pet animals. He built elaborate tombs for his horses and dogs. When his favorite horse, Borysthene, died, he wrote a poem as an epitaph.

Hadrian built one of the largest and most elaborate private palace complexes in history. The 250-acre villa, located at Tibur, a short distance from Rome, could house 2,000 guests and attendants. It was garishly colorful, decorated with “frescoes and marble of every hue, and bright mosaics covering the floor.” The ever-present statues were painted in brilliant colors. The buildings were constructed with the rarest and most beautiful marble and wood. Water flowed throughout the huge villa.

“It spurted, fell, or flowed in monumental fountains, ran along sluices, or stood still and glassy in rectangular pools” (Everitt). The villa was reached by a 250-yard chariot road skirted by a colonnaded terrace.

Returning to Hadrian's rebuilding of Jerusalem as Aelia Capitolina, the city featured a 40-foot-wide colonnaded *Maximus Cardo* (a main north-south boulevard) running from the Damascus Gate to the Zion Gate. (An east-west boulevard was called a *Decumanus*.)

A Roman cardo usually had covered walkways and shops along the sides. A portion of Jerusalem's cardo was excavated in 1969 and can be seen today in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City.

Shrines were built at Caesarea and Tiberius in praise of Hadrian, and a Hadrianic festival was founded at Gaza.

Hadrian minted a coin in about 130-132 that depicts him driving a team of bulls to plow up Jerusalem. The inscription reads, “Colonia Aelia Capitolina Conditā” (“the founding of Colonia Aelia Capitolina”).

How dramatically was the prophecy of Micah fulfilled!

“Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest” (Mic. 3:12).

In 2014, the Israel Antiquities Authority found a stone fragment engraved with an inscription to Hadrian by the Roman 10th legion. Dating to his visit in AD 130, it reads,

“To the Emperor Caesar Traianus Hadrianus Augustus, son of the deified Traianus Parthicus, grandson of the deified Nerva, high priest, invested with tribunician power for the 14th time, consul for the third time, father of the country [dedicated by] the Tenth Legion Freten-sis Antoniniana.”

A couple of years after Hadrian's visit to Judea and his decision to build Aelia Capitolina, **SIMON BAR KOSIBA** announced himself as the prince and Messiah to restore Israel's temple and kingdom.

He signed his letters “prince of Israel” (Anthony Everitt, *Hadrian and the Triumph of Rome*).

Bar Kosiba was pronounced the Messiah by prominent rabbi Akiva ben Yosef, a major contributor to the Talmud. Believing that Simon would defeat Rome and restore the temple in Jerusalem, Akiva declared him **Simon bar Kochba or Son of the Star**, referring to the Messianic prophecy of Numbers 24:17.

“... there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall arise out of Israel...”

Bar Kosiba raised a ragtag Jewish army of 200,000. For concealment, they built hundreds of cave and tunnel complexes with ventilation shafts, water and food supplies. Archaeologists have found more than 300 of these.

According to the Talmud, Bar Kosiba required recruits to prove their valor and devotion by chopping off a finger. Before going into battle, he reportedly said, “O Master of the universe, there is no need for you to assist us, but do not embarrass us either!” (*Palestinian Talmud*, Ta’anit 4:5).

Bar Kosiba was thus a worthy fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy of a “foolish shepherd” (Zec. 11:15). After describing Israel’s rejection of Christ and betrayal for 30 pieces of silver, the prophet mentions a foolish shepherd who will be received by blind Israel.

Christ prophesied of one “who shall come in his own name, him ye will receive” (Joh. 5:43).

Bar Kosiba is one of many foolish shepherds that Israel has followed since she rejected the Good Shepherd. The ultimate foolish shepherd will be the Antichrist of the last days.

The Bar Kokhba revolt was successful initially. They defeated two Roman legions and captured 50 strongholds. Many thought that the liberation of Israel was at hand.

Coins were inscribed with the words “to the freedom of Jerusalem.”

The coins featured images pertaining to the temple, as there were Jews still living who had seen the Second Temple with their own eyes.

Some images depicted the facade of Herod’s Temple with its four pillars and arched door.

Others depicted the silver trumpets.

“Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps” (Numbers 10:2).

The Jews hoped that the trumpets would soon sound from a Third Temple.

Other Bar Kokhba coins depicted the harp or lyre.

“Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings” (Psalm 33:2).

This harp has been called the Davidic harp. Its body is shaped to fit comfortably into the crook of the arm. It has been reconstructed by people associated with the Temple Institute who are preparing to build the Third Temple.

Some Bar Kokhba coins featured a star above the temple, depicting the coming of the Messiah as the “Star of Jacob.”

As we will see in the sections “Israel Present” and “Israel Future,” Israel is still looking for a temple builder, whether prophet or messiah, and the Temple Institute is preparing articles for the Third Temple. These include the menorah (made from three million dollars worth of gold), the garments for the priests and the high priest, the table of shewbread, the laver, and the table of incense.

The problem is that they have already rejected the Messiah in the person of Jesus!

Justin Martyr and Jerome stated that Bar Kokhba required that Christians deny Jesus as the Messiah and blaspheme Him, and those who refused were severely punished. They were “murdered with every sort of torture.” Christian writers referred to Bar Kokhba as “a butcher, a bandit, and a con man.”

The Emperor Hadrian was enraged at the rebellion and sent some of his best generals (Julius Severus and Tineius Rufus) with 12 legions (one-third of the Roman army) to put it down. In fact, it appears that Hadrian returned to Judea and led the campaign himself for a short period (Anthony Everitt, *Hadrian and the Triumph of Rome*, Kindle Loc. 5213).

In AD 135, the Bar Kokhba insurrection was finished. It ended with the fall of Bethar (Beitar), the Jewish rebel capital and the last fortress to hold out against the legions. It was located about seven miles southwest of Jerusalem in the Judean mountains. The Roman legions besieged the fortress and built a wall around it to trap its defenders. Bethar was captured on the 9th of Av, the same day that

the first and second temples had fallen. Thousands of Jews had fled to Bethar and every one was slaughtered. The Romans did not allow the burial of the bodies for six days. Archaeological excavations found remnants of a defensive curtain wall and nine towers, Roman camps, sling stones, arrowheads, and a Latin inscription describing the participation of two legions in the siege: V Macedonica and XI Claudia.

During and after the insurrection, hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed. The Roman historian Cassius Dio gave the figure of 580,000. Many starved to death. Tens of thousands were sold as slaves and carried away to other nations. "So many Jews were sold as slaves that the price of a slave was the same as the price of one day's supply of hay for a horse" ("Aelia Capitolina," www.biu.ac.il).

Judea was reduced to rubble, with 50 fortified towns and nearly 1,000 villages razed.

Hadrian executed most of the Sanhedrin leaders and Torah scholars, including Rabbi Akiva, Simon ben Kosiba's most prominent supporter. According to the historian Eusebius, Akiva was skinned alive.

Embittered Jewish survivors of this holocaust renamed Simon bar Kokhba *Simon bar Kozeba (Son of the Lie)*.

Hadrian tried to erase the very memory of Israel. He made decrees against Torah study, the possession of Scripture, Sabbath keeping, circumcision, and synagogue worship. Scripture scrolls were burned. Synagogues were wrecked. Jews were forbidden to visit Jerusalem except once a year on the day of the destruction of the Temple.

In addition to renaming Jerusalem, Hadrian renamed the land of Judea "Syria Palestina."

Hadrian was so thrilled with the destruction of Judea that he bestowed Severus and two other generals triumphal honors (*ornamenta triumphalia*), Rome's highest military award.

Hadrian died in the summer of 138, only six years after the Bar Kokhba revolt, after a long and painful illness. His idolatrous rituals and witchcraft could not save him. His suffering was so great that he tried to commit suicide, though unsuccessfully, and begged to be euthanized.

Hadrian's body was interred in a splendid tomb and an effigy was cremated on a "tall, richly decorated multistory pyre." When the fire was started a caged eagle at the top was released, "which signified Hadrian's spirit flying up through the flames to join the immortal gods."

But there is evidence that Hadrian knew that he was not going to join "the immortal gods." During his final illness, he wrote a poem to his own soul:

Little soul, you charming little wanderer,
my body's guest and partner,
where are you off to now?
Somewhere without color, savage and bare;
you'll crack no more of your jokes
once you're there.
(Anthony Everitt, *Hadrian and the Triumph of Rome*,
Kindle Loc. 5529).

It seems that Hadrian knew that his soul was going to hell, in spite of the promise of the Mysteries of Eleusis, though he didn't know the true horror of the place. Savage and bare and humorless, indeed!

Hadrian had no excuse for his idolatry and blasphemy. He had the light of creation and conscience, and he had ready access to the light of Scripture. He was the only Roman emperor to visit Israel during office, and he could have read the Old Testament Scriptures in a Greek translation or had someone translate it into Latin. Perhaps he did.

Better, he could have read the New Testament Scriptures. Hadrian knew of Jesus Christ and the resurrection claims and could have interviewed men and women *who personally knew eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ*.

For example, Polycarp lived from AD 69-155 and wrote in defense of Christ's resurrection, and *Polycarp personally knew the apostle John*.

Hadrian had every opportunity to pursue the truth of God's Word. Instead he demanded that Jews and Christians worship the Caesars, killed those who refused, burned the Scriptures, erected a statue of himself over the place of Jehovah's Holy of Holies, constructed a pagan temple over Christ's empty tomb, tried to obliterate the memory of Israel, and died in his vile idolatry.

Rome was the powerful kingdom of iron of Daniel 2 and the "exceeding dreadful" fourth kingdom of Daniel 7:19.

The latter prophecy describes Rome as a beast with teeth of iron and nails of brass, “which devoured, and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet.” What a perfect description of Rome’s attempt to destroy Israel as a people and to erase her very memory from her own land and capital city!

Rome did her best to destroy both Israel and Christianity but was singularly unsuccessful in both cases.

The proud Caesars are long gone and their splendor lies in the dust, but Israel still exists, and this is in fulfillment of Bible prophecy!

The past 2,500 years of Israel’s history is irrefutable evidence of the divine inspiration of the Bible, because the history of these times was recorded plainly in Bible prophecy in Deuteronomy 28-30 a millennium before the Babylonian Captivity of 586 BC.



The partridge that is mentioned in the Bible is of the pheasant family (*phasiandae*). There are two varieties in Israel today, the see-see partridge (*Ammoperdix griseopularis* or *Ammoperdix heyi*) and the chukar (*Alectoris chukar*). They are similar in appearance, and both are similar to the rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca*). In this study, we will focus on the chukar, which is the most beautiful of these partridges.

We must understand that modern taxonomy is based on evolutionary thinking. The Bible says that God divided the animals and plants into “kinds” (Ge. 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25). God built into the general kinds genetic diversity so that they can produce a wide variety of plant and animal life (e.g., the dozens of breeds of dogs, endless varieties of corn and wheat). Modern taxonomy focuses on minute differences, such as that between various types of partridges, whereas the Hebrew lumps all of them into one category (*qore*).

When Noah took the “kinds” of animals into the ark, he didn’t take several varieties of partridges and dogs and sheep but took one basic kind (Ge. 6:20; 7:14).

The Hebrew word for partridge, *qore*, means “a caller.” It refers to the male’s intensive cry, especially in the mating season. In modern Israel, *qore* is only applied to the see-see partridge, but its meaning is appropriate to

both types of partridges. The modern name *chukar* also comes from the male’s call, which is a loud repeated “chuck” or “chuker.”

Partridges are found throughout Israel, particularly in rocky mountainous slopes, valleys, and cultivated farm land, from the Negev in the south to Galilee and the Golan in the north. They thrive in a wide variety of altitudes, from 1,400 feet (430m) *below* sea level (the Dead Sea) to 11,800 feet (3600m) *above* sea level.

The chukar is called *hajel* in Arabic, which is *Hoglah* in Numbers 26:23, the name of one of Zelophehad’s daughters (“Partridge,” Jewish Virtual Library). It is also the name of the Judean town Bethhoglah (Joshua 15:6).

In the Talmud, the chukar is mentioned with the pheasant and the quail as kosher game birds, the chukar being the most desirable of the three for taste.

The chukar is a large bird, 13-14 inches (32-35 cm) long, and is beautifully colored. It has a light brown or brownish-gray back with gray and buff breast and belly. Its face and the front of its neck are white, with the white set apart by and highlighted by a black band (a *gorget*). The gorget runs across its eyes so that it appears to be wearing a mask. Its side has a large rectangular white patch decorated with black stripes. Its legs and beak are

bright orange, and its striking black eyes are surrounded with bright orange rings.

Partridges are “highly social birds” and in non-breeding season, they congregate in *coveys* of 10 to 50 birds consisting of two or more broods (breeding pairs and their offspring).

They roost on the ground under shrubs or small trees such as the juniper or even on open ground. Often they will roost in a tight circle with their heads pointed outwards to conserve heat and to keep a look out for predators (*Grouse and Quails of North America*).

They do not migrate and seldom move far from where they hatched.

When disturbed, they tend to run rather than fly, though they sometimes fly for short distances.

In breeding season, beginning in February to March, depending on the latitude, they separate into monogamous pairs and remain together until autumn.

The nests are shallow scraped-out areas on the ground, thinly lined with nesting material. Usually they are built under small shrubs or overhanging rocks and are well camouflaged.

The female lays 7-20 eggs, one per day, which are called a *clutch* and which hatch together in 23-25 days. The female incubates the eggs, and the male stays nearby. He often abandons the brood after the chicks hatch and rejoins them when they congregate as coveys.

The young chukars can fly in about three weeks, but before that they run down slopes with their wings out. It is called “wing-assisted incline running,” and evolutionists have studied this, thinking it might be “a model to explain the evolution of avian flight” (“Chukar partridge,” *Wikipedia*). By evolutionary thinking, little dinosaurs learned to fly by growing wings and running around with the wings spread. It is a ridiculous fairy tale. Wings and flying feathers are incredibly complex organs that are products of biological programming, and the ability to use them to fly is complex behavior of a mind-boggling level, and none of this came to be in a happenstance way by “natural selection” or “genetic mutations.”

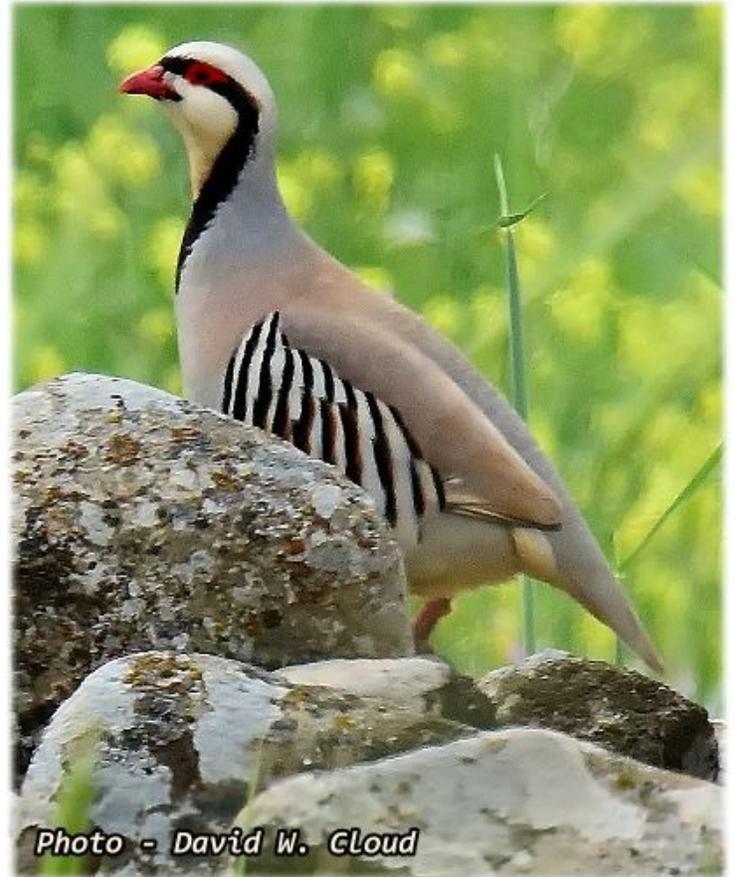


Photo - David W. Cloud

Jeremiah 17:11 says, “As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.” This is explained by the fact that the partridge loses her eggs in a variety of ways. The tasty eggs are often taken for food by man and animals. Being on the ground, the eggs are often spoiled by inclement weather. Further, sometimes two females lay eggs in the same nest. The dominant one will drive the other away, but many of the eggs will not be properly incubated and will not hatch (“Partridge,” Jewish Virtual Library). The Bible is saying that as partridges tend to lose many of their eggs, so those who seek riches in unlawful, unrighteous ways lose their riches. Even if the riches do not “fly away” (Pr. 23:5), the rich man himself will “fly away” to his eternal destiny and leave all of his riches behind. We think of Christ’s parable of the rich man in Luke 12. He planned to build many barns for his great produce and then retire to “eat, drink, and be merry.” “But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” (Lu. 12:20). This is what the Word of God says to every rich man who “layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Lu. 12:21).

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?



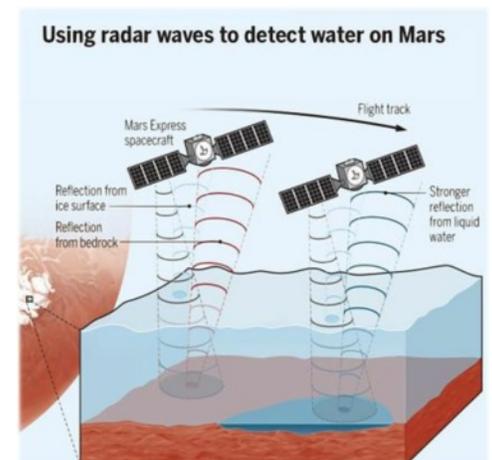
CHARISMATIC CHURCH PURCHASES HIGHLAND PARK'S OLD PROPERTY (Friday Church News Notes, August 3, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- My wife and I graduated in the 1970s from Tennessee Temple, which was operated by Highland Park Baptist Church. It went defunct after pursuing a contemporary path, and today the property is owned by Redemption to the Nations Church pastored by husband-wife team Kevin and Deven Wallace. One of the upcoming events at this charismatic church is Redemption Kids Talent Night, at which kids are encouraged to "show the gifts God has given you with a song, dance, magic show or other talents." The church's objective is to "impart a Kingdom mandate," which refers to the heresy of building the kingdom of God in this present world. The church's Redemption School of Ministry is "where you can be yourself." Somehow, I don't recall that being on the apostle Paul's training curriculum. I could find no gospel message at the church's web site. The closest thing is a section on baptism, which says that baptism is for "anyone who commits his or her life to following Jesus," which is not a biblical definition of born again salvation. There is no hint of Holy Spirit conviction, acknowledgment of sin, repentance toward God, or faith in the blood of Jesus Christ and in His resurrection. We document the

sad downfall of Highland Park Baptist Church in the book [Biblical Separatism and Its Collapse](#), which is available in print or as a free eBook from Way of Life Literature.

BODY OF WATER FOUND ON MARS (Friday Church News Notes, August 3, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Evolutionary scientists have been trying to find life on Mars ever since Percival Lowell thought he saw canals and an advanced alien civilization with his 24-inch telescope at the turn of the 20th century. Now the Italian Space Agency has announced that it has "detected signs of a large, stable body of liquid water locked away beneath a mile of ice near Mars' south pole" ("Scientists Discover Evidence of the First Large Body of Liquid Water on Mars," *Wired*, Jul. 25, 2018). We are told that the findings "raise tantalizing questions about the planet's ... potential for harboring life." There is only one little thing that is missing from this "potential," and that is a Creator. Evolutionists have never demonstrated a scientifically feasible path from non-life to life. Darwinian evolution has no creative mechanism. Natural selection is not creative; it is selective of pre-existing genetic material. Mutations are not creative; in fact, they are



overwhelmingly destructive. (For more on this we recommend [Seeing the Non-Existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes](#), which is available from www.wayoflife.org.)

PENTECOSTALS CELEBRATE WOMEN PREACHERS (Friday Church News Notes, August 3, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - At its 100th International Assembly, the Church of God of Prophecy (COGOP) celebrated women preachers. The Assembly opened with a sermon by Cathy Payne and later appointed Kathryn Creasy as executive director of Leadership Development. Sam Clements, General Overseer, said, "Let me say to women, I appreciate your ministry, whether a speaking ministry or a serving ministry." He said that "Jesus broke with Jewish tradition by allowing women to be a part of His ministry" ("Pentecostal Denomination Celebrates, Reaffirms Women in Ministry," *Charisma*, Jul. 29, 2018). Jesus most definitely *did* value and exalt women beyond Jewish tradition, but He *did not* appoint any female leaders. There were no female apostles. The New Testament plainly and unequivocally disqualifies women from teaching men or from assuming leadership positions. Paul said, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor usurp authority over the man" (1 Ti. 2:12). The qualification for an elder/bishop is that he be "the



husband of one wife." This is repeated twice by way of emphasis (1 Ti. 3:2; Tit. 1:6). From their inception in the early 20th century, most Pentecostal denominations, including the Church of God of Prophecy, have disobeyed this clear teaching by appointing women preachers. The COGOP also holds to the following heresies: tongues speaking is "the initial evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit"; sanctification is "an instantaneous work" subsequent to regeneration that "crucifies and cleanses the old nature"; the apostolic sign gifts are operating today; healing is guaranteed by Christ's atonement "without the aid of medicine." (For more on this see the teaching courses [The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements: The History and the Error](#) and [The Woman and Her Service to God](#), both of which are available from www.wayoflife.org.)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S ADMISSION THAT THEY LIED ABOUT THE STARVING POLAR BEAR (Friday Church News Notes, August 3, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A *National Geographic* video in 2017 featured a starving polar bear with the caption "This is what climate change looks like." The estimated 2.5 billion people who viewed the video were given the distinct impression that climate change was the cause of the bear's condition. Now the editor admits that they "went too far in drawing a definitive connection between climate change and a particular starving polar bear" ("Starving Polar Bear Photographer Recalls What Went Wrong," *National Geographic*, Aug. 2018). The photographer Cristina



Mittermeir, an environmental activist, says, "With this image, we thought we had found a way to help people imagine what the future of climate change might look like. We were, perhaps, naive. The picture went viral—and people took it literally." The updated version of the video says, simply, "This is what a starving polar bear looks like," but the narration of the sad scenes of the dying bear still leaves the impression that climate change will wipe out polar bears. It is nothing more than propaganda. Yet again, *National Geographic's* zeal to promote a pet narrative has led them to promote a myth under the guise of science, and they won't be able to undo the influence of the misleading video, even if they wanted to. (See also *Seeing the Non-Existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes*, available from www.wayoflife.org.)

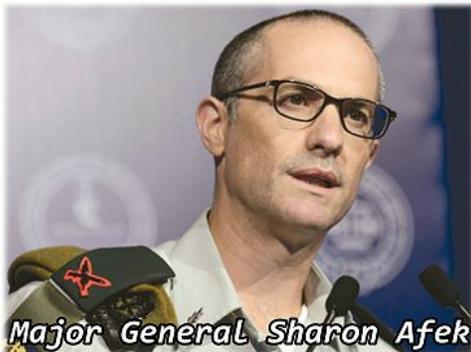
MARIJUANA ENTHUSIASTS CLAIM THAT JESUS HEALED BY MEANS OF THE DRUG (Friday Church News Notes, August 3, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - There is no end to the nonsense that comes from the world of marijuana (cannabis) activism. David Bienenstock, a "cannabis historian," claims that Jesus healed the blind and the epileptic with marijuana oil. *Canna Magazine* said the same thing in 2003. "Though many have interpreted these stories [of Jesus' miracles] as testimony of God's



*“Cannabis Historian”
David Bienenstock*

intervention, researchers now offer a different interpretation ... that Jesus used cannabis to heal the sick.” We would like to know how many blind and deaf these people have healed by means of marijuana. But many would rather believe such nonsense than take the Bible at face value and believe on Jesus as the Son of God. The name of Israeli cannabis research company Tikun Olam means “amending the world,” as if marijuana is a saviour. I was a heavy marijuana user before I was saved at age 23, and I can testify that it is no innocent plaything and certainly no saviour.

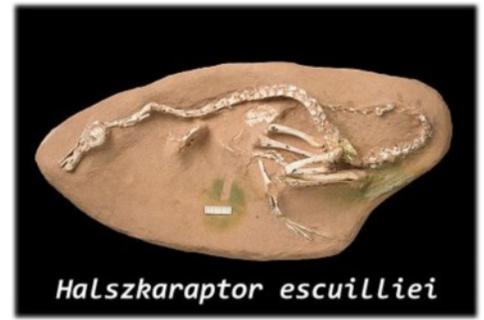
ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES APPOINTS FIRST OPENLY GAY GENERAL (Friday Church News Notes, August 3, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “IDF promotes its first openly gay major general,” *The Times of Israel*,



Major General Sharon Afek

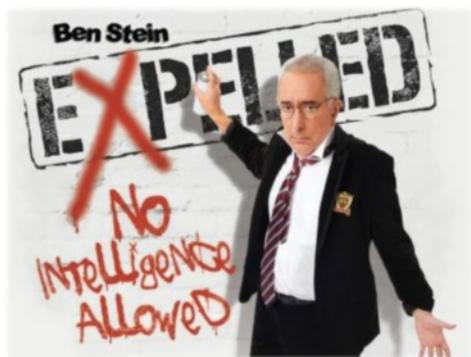
Jul. 12, 2018: “The Israel Defense Forces promoted its top lawyer, Sharon Afek, to major general on Thursday, making him the country’s first openly gay person to hold that rank and reinforcing the significance of his position in the military. ‘The rank promotion expresses the great responsibility of the military advocate general to act, shoulder to shoulder with commanders, in order to ensure that the IDF is able to fulfill its goal and win, without giving up on the rule of law,’ Afek said during the ceremony. ... In an interview with the Israeli Bar Association last year, Afek said it was an important step in showing members of the LGBT community that the army would accept them. ‘It’s important for me to act as a role model,’ he said. ‘Even today, in the year 2017, we still encounter manifestations of ignorance and hatred of others. It’s important to me that young men and women know that there are no glass ceilings in the IDF that limit them.’”

BEWARE OF PRIDE OF SCHOLARSHIP (Friday Church News Notes, August 3, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Education is, therefore, a fearful gift, bringing tremendous accountability; it should lead to humility, thanksgiving, activity, and devotion. When these are wanting, a godless prostitution of the powers is the result ... The Christian scholar should pray with every breath, that he be not high-minded, but fear. In proportion as he rises in attainment, he should sink in veneration, and dissolve in love; striving to increase his simple devotions as he increases his mental discoveries” (J.W. Alexander, *Thoughts on Preaching*, 1864, p 85).



DINOGOOSE (Friday Church News Notes, August 3, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 10, 2018: “An article in the *Los Angeles Times* about a recent fossil find began: ‘If it walks like a duck and swims like a duck, it might be a dinosaur.’ The writer was referring to a fossil called *Halszkaraptor escuilliei*, which the paleontologists think shows traits of both theropod and aquatic bird—a sort of dinogoose. These scientists did not discover the fossil. They purchased it from Mongolia in an area where certain other fossil purchases have proved controversial. Scientists claim that the bird has a beak-like structure, which, they say, cannot be a beak because it contains teeth. It should be noted that there are other dinosaurs that have beak-like structures, and, indeed, other animals such as the platypus. The *LA Times* article states that the creature ‘probably sported plumage.’ Their reason for this statement can only be question-begging because the article admits that ‘no feathers survived on this specimen.’ Even the phrase ‘no feathers survived’ is a biased statement. The specimen featured no feathers, but this can only mean that feathers had not ‘survived,’ if it was known for sure that feathers originally existed. There is no such evidence, so once again we see that

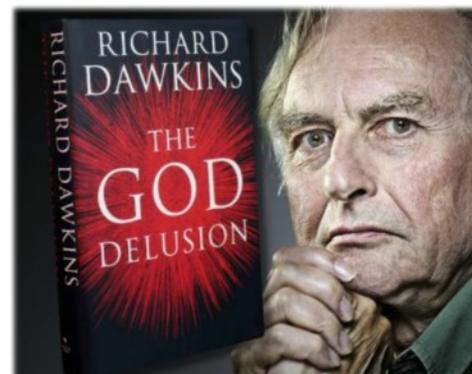
statements are made from an evolutionary starting point with no justification for that starting point being given. God made such a wide variety of creatures in the world that, as Bible-believing Christians, we have no trouble accepting that here, perhaps, is a new type of dinosaur that we have not previously known. We are not obliged to attribute qualities to the creature just because of any a priori commitment.”



DAWKINS TARGETING TEENS AND CHILDREN WITH ATHEISM (Friday Church News Notes, August 10, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Richard Dawkins, one of the leaders of the “new atheist” movement, is targeting teens and children with atheist propaganda. Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion*, said the book for teens will be titled *Outgrowing God*, while the one for children is yet to be named. The man is on a ridiculous rampage against the Creator, while admitting that he has no clue how life began. In an interview with Ben Stein that was published in the documentary *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, Dawkins said that life might have been “seeded on to this planet” by aliens. This is not science; it is science fiction; it is “Never-Never land.” The glorious gospel according to Richard Dawkins is that man is the product of

blind chance, he has no ultimate purpose, he is bound by no absolute laws, and when he is dead he is dead. In Dawkins’ sad world, man is alone in a meaningless, dying universe; alone, without help and without hope. The gospel according to Richard Dawkins is a recipe for despair and suicide, and if it were true, the very act of writing and publishing books would be a meaningless exercise. If what Dawkins believes is true, nothing in life means anything, ultimately, and it does not matter what one believes. He has no dogmatic basis for saying that anything is true or that anything is wrong. As a mere animal, his opinion is no more significant than that of a worm. But Richard Dawkins is wrong. He is willfully blind. There is *overwhelming* evidence of an Almighty, all-wise Creator, and *overwhelming* evidence that the Bible is God’s compassionate revelation to man. Bible-believing homes and churches need to wake up and prepare their children to face the fierce skepticism of this age. I personally know of a pastor’s son who professed atheism by reading the deceitful musings of the “new atheists” online. The Bible twice says, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...” (Psalm 14:1; 53:1). (We recommend [An Unshakeable Faith: A Christian Apologetics Course](#) and [The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church: A Youth Discipleship Course](#), both of which are available from www.wayoflife.org.)

POOR RICHARD DAWKINS (Friday Church News Notes, August 10, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - I feel sorry for Richard Dawkins. He is whistling in the dark. His



conscience tells him there is a God. Creation tells him there is a God. And the Bible tells him there is a God. But he has willfully shut his eyes to the light and hardened his heart against the Creator. Now he has painted himself into a corner before the whole world. God loves him and would save him, but he must come on God’s terms, which is repentance and faith in Christ’s cross, and it is all too likely that he will continue to harden his neck until it is too late. This happened to his friend and co-conspirator in “the new atheism,” Christopher Hitchens. Dawkins has called God a “capriciously malevolent bully,” but in truth God is the most compassionate Person in existence, the source of all true love. God *is* love. At great cost God provided salvation for rebels. The Son of God suffered and died for rebels. I am thankful for the day when I came to my senses and humbled myself before this God and repented of my wicked sins against Him and put my faith 100% in Jesus as the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

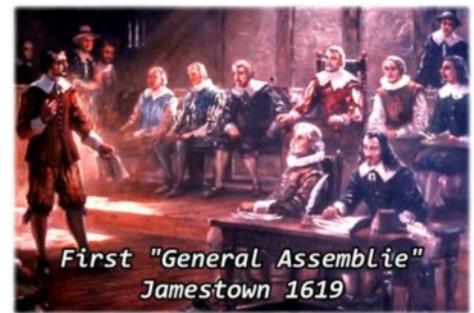
THE NEVER-ENDING PUSH FOR UNITY (Friday Church News Notes, August 10, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - This is the era of the never-ending



push for Christian unity. It is evident everywhere: in the World Council of Churches, in national councils, in global and national and regional “evangelical” organizations, in city clergy associations. Unity is promoted by parachurch organizations and is a major focus of evangelistic crusades. Unity is pushed by the Roman Catholic Church, by Protestants, by Pentecostals, by Charismatics, and by most Baptists. It is a major theme of contemporary worship music. It is the focus of global missions organizations. It is a principle held by most Bible colleges and seminaries. Separation has become a foreign concept to the vast, vast majority of professing Christians. Division is instinctively despised. Preachers who cause disunity by doctrinal dogmatism are considered enemies of Jesus Christ, who allegedly prayed for ecumenical unity in John 17. The latest ecumenical thrust, as if another were needed, is the formation of the Congress of Christian Leaders (CCL), a new “interdenominational body that will seek to foster unity.” Founded by “evangelical leaders” Samuel Rodriguez and Johnnie Moore, the inaugural board includes megachurch pastors Greg Laurie, Jack Graham, and Jentezen Franklin (“Greg Laurie, Jack Graham among Global Pastors Named to Board,” *Christian Post*, Aug. 5, 2018). The 16 leaders on the board “have collective influence exceeding many millions

of Christians on six continents.” The founders state that a “key defining factor” of the CCL is that it “will not be exclusively for evangelicals.” Regardless of its popularity, ecumenical unity is contrary to the teaching of God’s Word, which forbids the unity of truth and error, light and darkness. God’s Word warns loudly and plainly of false gospels, false christs, and false spirits. It warns of end-time apostasy and spiritual deception. The unity of all denominations is heresy. It is disobedience to God and will produce a one-world “church” of the Antichrist. Those leading the unity are the blind leading the blind. It is impossible to obey the Bible and pursue Christian unity today. A clear choice must be made. Obedience to the Bible’s command to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints single-handedly destroys every type of interdenominational unity. One cannot pursue ecumenical unity while fighting enthusiastically for doctrinal purity. “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

**R E P R E S E N T A T I V E
G O V E R N M E N T B E G A N I N
A M E R I C A 3 9 9 Y E A R S A G O**
(Friday Church News Notes, August 10, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Representative Government,” *Fox News*, Aug. 7, 2018: “If you were at Jamestown—the tiny English settlement on the banks of the James River in Virginia—399 years ago this week, you probably would have been aware that something unusual was



happening. Over in the rough-hewn, thatch-roofed church building, 22 duly elected settlers, six councilors, and their newly arrived governor, all white males, were braving the intense summer heat to attend the first meeting of the ‘general Assemblée.’ A new English charter a year earlier had authorized formation of this first representative assembly in the dozen-year-old colony, and the new governor, Sir George Yeardley, had seen to the charter’s implementation. It was the beginning of representative democracy in America, the forerunner of our Congress, state legislatures, and other representative bodies. Planted in Virginia a year before the Mayflower arrived from England, representative government would take root firmly, blossom in 13 largely self-governing colonies, and after independence grow into the great tree of American liberty, inspiring similar plantings in much of the world. ... Next year will mark the 400th anniversary of this hugely important, if rudimentary and tragedy-laced, beginning. It will present an opportunity to reflect on how far representative democracy has come and how far it still has to go.”

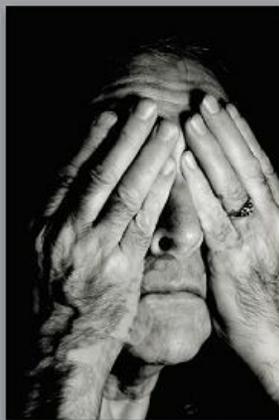
**DRONE FOOD DELIVERY IN
ICELAND’S CAPITAL** (Friday Church News Notes, August 10, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Israel’s Flytrex,” *The Times of*



Israel, Aug. 7, 2018: “The Israeli technology firm Flytrex, which is using drones to deliver sushi, hamburgers and beer to hungry Icelanders, said it is expanding its supply routes in the capital Reykjavik to a total of 13, from one. This will allow the Tel Aviv-based startup to service almost half of the Icelandic city with its autonomous on-demand urban drone delivery service, the firm said on Tuesday. The delivery will continue to be in partnership with Aha.is, Iceland’s largest on-demand supplier of restaurant food, with which the Israeli startup launched its first delivery route. ... The upgraded service will also include an advanced ‘InAir’ wire-drop system that will safely lower packages directly to consumers’ backyards, beginning with a limited number of addresses and expanding pending approval by property owners. ... Each unmanned aerial vehicle is approved to fly up to 700 meters off its path to make backyard deliveries in select, approved neighborhoods, the statement said, and Flytrex aims to extend home deliveries to every resident in Reykjavik in the coming months.”

DNA EDITING MACHINERY AND CHEMICAL PATHWAYS AND BARRIERS ARE NECESSARY FOR LIFE (Friday Church News Notes, August 10, 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: “The DNA copying and reading process has complex editing ability. Dr. Jonathan Sarfati writes, ‘The copying is far more precise than pure chemistry could manage--only about 1 mistake in 10 billion letters, because there is editing (proof-reading and error-checking) machinery, again encoded in the DNA. But how would the information for editing machinery be transmitted accurately before this machinery was in place? Lest it be argued that the accuracy could be achieved stepwise through selection, note that a high degree of accuracy is needed to prevent *error catastrophe*--the accumulation of ‘noise’ in the form of junk proteins. Again there is a vicious circle, a ‘Catch-22’ (more irreducible complexity)’ (*By Design*, p. 163). Chemical pathways and barriers are also necessary for life. Walt Brown, Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from MIT, observes: ‘Living cells contain thousands of



Seeing the Non-Existent
Evolution’s Myths and Hoaxes

different chemicals, some acidic, others basic. Many chemicals would react with others were it not for an intricate system of chemical barriers and buffers. If living things evolved, these barriers and buffers must also have evolved--but at just the right time to prevent harmful chemical reactions. How could such precise, seemingly coordinated, virtually miraculous events have happened for each of millions of species?’ (*In the Beginning*, p. 15). These are just a few of the terribly complex features of the living cell which point directly to an Almighty God.”

NETFLIX TWISTS ANNE OF GREEN GABLES INTO A “QUEER SOIRÉE” (Friday Church News Notes, August 17, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Netflix Twists,” *CBN News*, Jul. 21, 2018: “The new Netflix adaptation of the 1908 novel *Anne of Green Gables* has been revised to include multiple homosexual characters, according to the series creator, Moira Walley-Beckett. In the Northwood Entertainment-produced series, ‘Anne with an E,’ the beloved character Great Aunt Josephine Barry is the first of many LGBT characters in the series. ... Aunt Jo revealed in Season 1 that she was grieving over the loss of a character known as Aunt Gertrude, Josephine’s partner. IndieWire reports their relationship is what’s called a ‘Boston marriage,’ when two women live together without being supported financially by a man. The term didn’t exist during the time period of the show. ‘And so we touch on that in Season 1, and in Season 2 we get to expand upon it in a way that allows her to provide a forum of acceptance,’

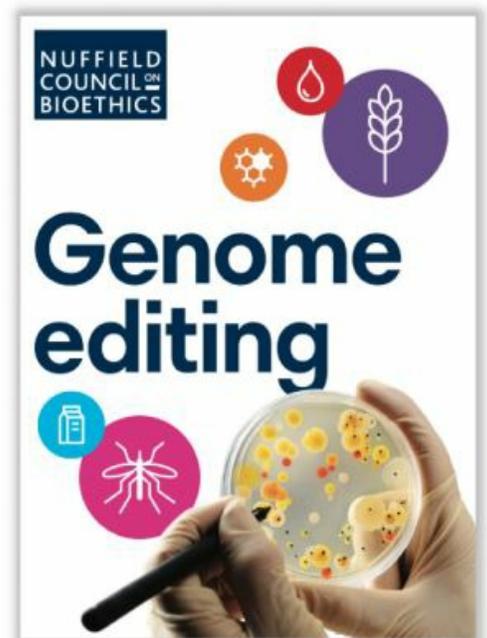


Walley-Beckett continued. That ‘forum of acceptance’ is known as a ‘queer soirée.’ In Season 2, Aunt Jo holds her first queer soirée since the passing of her partner. ... IndieWire goes on to say that one of the artists attending the soirée is the show’s creation of the real-life pianist and composer, Cécile Chaminade. ... The media outlet reports the show also features two homosexual male characters. One is Anne’s good friend, ‘Cole.’ ... And it doesn’t end there. IndieWire goes on to report that the series creator also pictured the children’s teacher, Mr. Phillips, as gay. ... A contributing writer for *Movieguide*, *The Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment*, spoke out against all the prominent homosexual story lines depicted in ‘Anne With an E.’ ‘The creators of the series have carefully manipulated the classic story with an agenda that fits their worldview,’ wrote Tess Farrand. ‘ANNE WITH AN E’s attempt to

also push LGBT in programming that would normally attract more faith-based audiences is utterly unnecessary. Moreover, focusing attention on the sexuality subplot of the series detracts from the moral redemptive nature of the story. Obviously, the minds behind the series are jumping onto the ideological bandwagon that already has concerned parents even more worried. The discussion of gender and sexuality are in fact discussed ad nauseam. People in 2018 don’t need or want to see political/social debates take place on ‘family’ TV shows; they see enough of it on social media or see it on the 5 ‘o clock news. Rather, we should be turning to the ultimate resource for clarification on these pressing topics: the Bible.”

UK ETHICS COUNCIL SAYS GENETIC ENGINEERING OF CHILDREN PERMISSIBLE (Friday Church News Notes, August 17, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “UK Ethics Council,” *Science Trends*, Jul. 30, 2018: “The Nuffield Council on Bioethics, a UK-based independent charitable body located in London, has seen fit to grant a green light to the use of gene-editing technology to alter the characteristics of unborn children. The bioethics council stated that there was nothing objectionable about the use of DNA altering technology that enables parents to give their child certain characteristics, with a few

major caveats. The council says that the DNA is only ‘morally permissible’ if it doesn’t exacerbate already existing social inequalities. The report released by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, titled ‘Genome Editing and Human Reproduction: Social and Ethical Issues’, says only that the use of [DNA editing](#) technology could be ‘morally permissible’ and urges a larger conversation on the issue along with much more research into the effectiveness and safety of the technology, as well as the potential social impact of the technology. The report does not call for any changes to current UK law that would make the altering of a child’s DNA legal, merely stating that the use of such technology is not inherently immoral. Currently, any modified embryo has to be destroyed by the time the embryo is two weeks of age, and similar restrictions are found in the US. ... Karen Yeung, the chair of the NCB ... [explains] that the first uses of genome



editing technology will likely be used to eliminate the risk of certain diseases and genetic disorders. However, in time the technology will become more sophisticated and likely become available for use to parents who want to achieve a wider range of goals. The NCB report makes direct reference to germline modifications. Germline modifications are those that can alter the characteristics displayed in future generations. Germline modifications are distinct from somatic gene therapies, which are administered to an organism after birth. The germline modifications are given to a parent, but they can be passed down to offspring. The alterations are permanent, so it's very important that genetic engineers get the alterations correct."

EZEKIEL 4:9 BREAD (Friday Church News Notes, August 17, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *Ezekiel 4:9 Bread* is a commercial product "inspired by" its namesake Bible verse, which



says, "Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof, according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon thy side, three hundred and ninety days shalt thou eat thereof." The producer of the bread states, "We discovered when these six grains and legumes are sprouted and combined, an amazing thing happens. A complete protein is created that closely parallels the protein found in milk and eggs." I don't have any reason to doubt that *Ezekiel 4:9 Bread* is healthy. It is rich in proteins, vitamins, minerals, natural fiber, and has no added sugar or fat. **The problem is its claim to have a biblical basis.** The diet that God commanded Ezekiel to eat *was not for health; it was a siege diet.* Consider the context: "And thy meat which thou shalt eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day: from time to time shalt thou eat it. Thou shalt drink also water by measure, the sixth part of an hin: from time to time shalt thou drink. And thou shalt eat it as barley cakes, and thou shalt bake it with dung that cometh out of man, in their sight. ... I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem: and they shall eat bread by weight, and with care; and they shall drink water by measure, and with astonishment: That they may want bread and water, and be astonished one with another, and consume away for their iniquity" (Eze. 4:10-12, 16-17). Ezekiel was to use various kinds of grain and lentils to make his bread, because in the

Babylonian siege of Jerusalem the people had to scrape together whatever was available. It was a famine diet. Twenty shekels of bread was about eight ounces, and a sixth of a hin of water was about two-thirds of a quart. Jeremiah, an eyewitness, described the horror of the famine during the year and a half siege. Elderly people died of starvation (La. 1:19). The people gave their most valuable things for food (La. 1:11). Children fainted in the streets (La. 2:11-12). The wealthy dug through dunghills and trash heaps in search of food (La. 4:5). The people were reduced to skin and bones (La. 4:8). The pain of hunger was so great that death was to be preferred (La. 4:9). Some ate their own children (La. 4:10). **For *Ezekiel 4:9 Bread* to be a "biblical food," it should be eaten at a rate of no more than eight ounces a day and be cooked with human dung fuel!** Many quack diets claim to be based on the Bible. There is the God Diet, the Maker's Diet, the Genesis Diet, the Daniel Diet, the Edenic Diet, the Hallelujah Diet, the Seventh-Day Adventist diet, and others, but in truth there is no such thing as a Bible diet beyond some basic principles that can be gathered from various passages, which we have set out extensively in the new book *The Bible, Diet, and Alternative Health Care*. But if we are going to aim for a Bible diet, why not the milk and honey diet? Forty-eight times the land of Israel is called a land "flowing with milk and honey." That sounds like vanilla ice cream to me! (It's a joke, folks!)

THE TRILOBITE'S AMAZING EYE

(Friday Church News Notes, August 17, 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:

“The trilobite is an extinct arthropod, a hard-shelled, segmented sea creature. The name ‘trilobite’ means ‘three lobed’ and refers to the creature’s three *longitudinal* lobes. It existed in a bewildering number of varieties, with fifteen to twenty thousand known species, ranging in size from one millimeter to over two feet in length. Evolutionists place the trilobite in the earliest stages of life, in the so-called Cambrian layer. The earliest trilobites supposedly lived 570 million years ago and the creature is thought to have gone extinct 240 million years ago. It is considered one of the signature creatures of the Paleozoic Era. Evolutionary writings are filled with accounts of the trilobite, of how it ‘evolved,’ ‘modified,’ ‘developed eyes,’ and such, but there is no evidence for this. The scientific evidence that it evolved from some other creature or that its complex eyes and other organs evolved is non-existent. This proposition is based upon evolutionary assumptions and wishful thinking and not on the actual evidence. Consider the trilobite’s compound eye, which gives every evidence of being a marvelous design. Clarkson and Levi-Setti (1975) of the University of Chicago did spectacular work on the optics of the trilobite eye lenses. “It turns out that each



lens is a doublet, that is, made up of two lenses, while the shape of the boundary between the two lenses is unlike any now in use--either by animals or humans (Shawver 1974). However, the lens shape and the interface curvature are nearly identical to designs published independently by Descartes and Huygens in the seventeenth century. Their design had the purpose of avoiding spherical aberration and was known as the aplanatic lens. Levi-Setti pointed out that the second lens in the doublet of the trilobite eye was necessary in order that the lens system could work under water where the trilobites lived. Thus, these creatures living at the earliest stages of life used an optimal lens design that would require very sophisticated optical engineering procedures to develop today’ (Ian Taylor, *In the Minds of Men*, p. 164). Some of the trilobites had 15,000 lenses per eye, and all of these worked together in perfect harmony to provide exceptional vision for this ‘simple’ creature. In spite of evolutionary claims that ‘trilobites developed one of the first sophisticated visual systems in the animal kingdom,’ there is no evidence that the trilobite eye or any other eye evolved. The eye is found intact on countless fossilized creatures reaching back to the supposed earliest stages of the fossil record, and the eye appears fully formed in countless varieties, with absolutely no evidence that one type of eye evolved from another. To lay out a display of eyes from ‘simple’ to more complex is not evidence for evolution. That could just as well prove that each particular eye was designed by God for that particular creature.”



Woman And Her Service To God

MARY MAGDALENE

By David Cloud



The following is from [Woman and Her Service to God](#), a new course published by Way of Life Literature:



Mary is named “Magdalene” because she was from the town of Magdala on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee north of Tiberius.

- It is also called Migdal or Migdalel (Jos. 19:38). The peaceful little town was beautifully situated on the lake. A short distance to the west is the eastern slope of Mt. Arbel.
- Magdala had a nice fishing harbor, and the ancient sardine industry was centered there. The Greek name of the town, “Tarichaea,” means “place where fish are salted.” The Greek word used in John 6:9 for fish is *opsarion*, which is a different word from the one normally used for fish in the New Testament (*ichthus*). *Opsarion* refers to salted fish used as a relish with bread.
- Recent archaeological work found a large synagogue dating to the first century. Christ would have preached here (Mt. 4:23). The synagogue had mosaic floors, and one of the surviving mosaic images depicts a Galilee fishing boat with a sail and three oars. Also found in the synagogue was a carved stone inscribed with the image of the menorah from Herod’s Temple. Since this is a first century synagogue, some of the priests who attended would have seen the actual menorahs in the Temple.
- In 1986, a first century fishing boat was discovered under the mud in the ancient harbor at Magdala. It was 27 feet long by 7.5 feet wide, had a mast and sail and two large oars, and could accommodate 14 or 15 people. This was probably the typical fishing boat of

Jesus’ day. It is housed in the Yigal Allon Museum in Kibbutz Ginosar.

We don’t know anything about Mary’s marital status, except that a husband is never mentioned.

Mary had been demon possessed and afflicted with sickness, and Jesus cast seven devils out of her (Lu. 8:2).

Mary became a fervent disciple of Christ and was one of the women who ministered to Jesus and the disciples during His ministry in the region of Galilee (Lu. 8:1-3). The Bible emphasizes the prominence of women in helping Christ during His earthly ministry.

Mary stayed at the cross and witnessed Jesus’ death (Mt. 27:55-56). All of the male disciples fled, it appears, except for John. But many female disciples from Galilee remained with Christ in His suffering, including Mary of Magdalene.

Mary visited Christ’s tomb after His death and observed the preparation of His body and its placement in the tomb (Mt. 27:58-61). The “other Mary” was the wife of Cleophas and the mother of James and Joses.

- Their great love for Christ would not allow them to abandon Him even in His death. They sat and watched and planned to return after the sabbath to anoint Him with sweet spices (Lu. 23:55-56; Mr. 16:1). “Carefully watching where they laid the Lord’s body, that they might not leave off their kindness to him living or dead, as she said of Boaz, Ru. 2:20. Heavy they were as heart could hold: yet not hindered thereby from doing their duty to Christ. So Daniel, though sick, yet did the king’s business. Even sorrow for sin, if it so exceed as to disable us for duty, is a sinful sorrow, and must be sorrowed for” (John Trapp).

It was to Mary, a woman, that Jesus first appeared that morning (Mark 16:9). John 20 describes the scene in more detail. She saw the stone rolled away and ran and told Peter and John (Joh. 20:1-2). She returned after they left and was weeping at the tomb when she saw Jesus and thought he was a gardener, and He revealed Himself to her in such a touching and intimate manner.

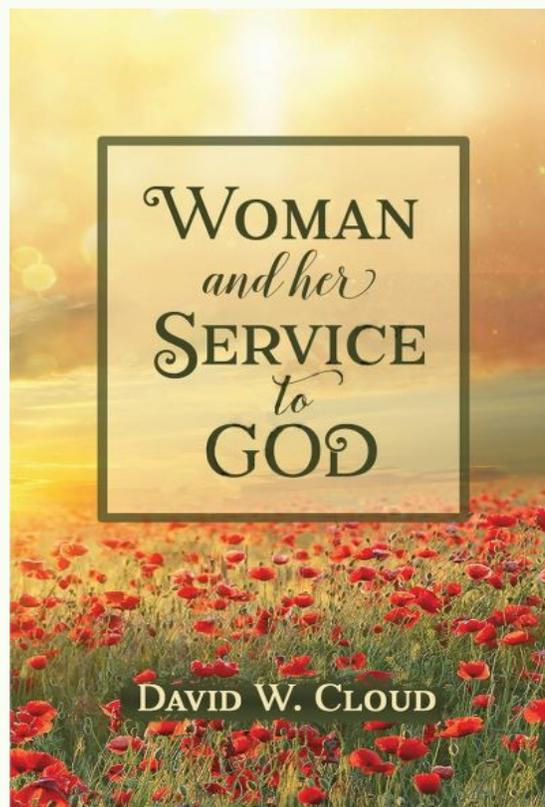
“Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master” (Joh. 20:10-16).

Jesus simply said, “Mary,” and she immediately knew who He was.

“She did not know this supposed gardener who talked to her was the Lord Himself. Then this seeming gardener said just one word: ‘Mary.’ O the music of it. And mark how she answered: ‘Rabboni; which is to say, Master.’ All He put into that word, ‘Mary,’ she put back into that word, ‘Master.’ All the love that said, ‘Mary,’ from His lips, from her lips replied in ‘Master.’ But she said more than just ‘Master.’ ‘Rabboni’ is a noun, in the possessive it means: ‘My Master.’ Just as David said, ‘My shepherd.’ With that same intense accent of personal appropriation she said, ‘My Master.’ In that supreme moment she forgot everybody, everything else but Him and herself” (I.M. Haldeman).

WOMAN and her SERVICE to GOD

By David Cloud



This course deals with the woman in creation, the woman in the fall, the woman in redemption, the woman who loves God (a study of Deuteronomy 6:5), the woman formed in the womb, women saints in the Old Testament, the woman in Christ’s service, the older woman and the younger, the woman as wife, and the virtuous woman.

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