

O Timothy

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

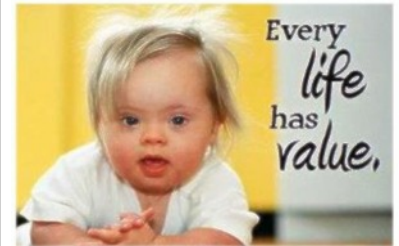
A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“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.” Page 10.

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



STAR-TELEGRAM’S EXPOSÉ ON INDEPENDENT BAPTIST SEX ABUSE COVERUPS

By David Cloud

A series of reports entitled “*Spirit of Fear*” in the *Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas) for December 2018 describes “hundreds of sex abuse allegations in fundamental Baptist churches across U.S.”

“For decades, women and children have faced rampant sexual abuse while worshipping at independent fundamental Baptist churches around the country. The network of churches and schools has often covered up the crimes and helped relocate the offenders, an eight-month *Star-Telegram* investigation has found. More than 200 people—current or former church members, across generations—shared their stories of rape, assault, humiliation and fear in churches where male leadership cannot be questioned. ... The *Star-Telegram* discovered at least 412 allegations of sexual misconduct in 187 independent fundamental Baptist churches and their affiliated institutions, spanning



**Jack Hyles - First Baptist Church
Hammond, Indiana**

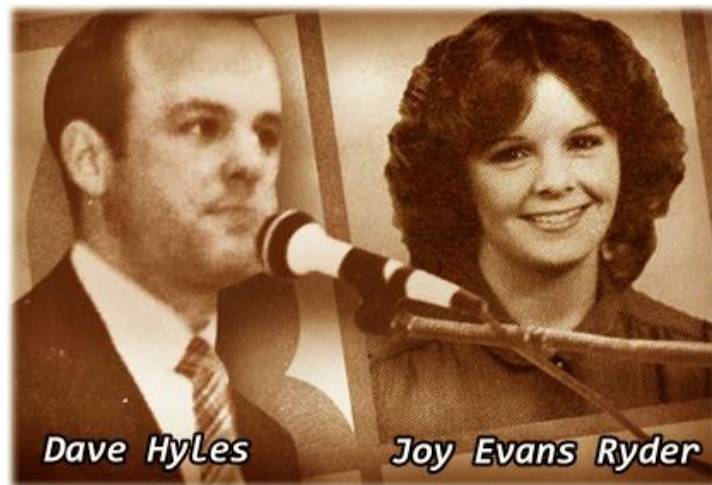
40 states and Canada” (“Hundreds of sex abuse allegations,” *Spirit of Fear*, Part 1, *Star-Telegram*, Dec. 9, 2018).

It is very sad that the world is confronted with such wickedness, chicanery, and hypocrisy in institutions that claim to be churches of Jesus Christ and by men who claim to be men of God.

It is too bad, though, that instead of broad-brushing “Independent Baptists” as a whole, the *Star-Telegram* would have done more extensive research into Independent Baptist churches and their history and to have recognized that it is not “Independent Baptists” as a whole who are guilty of immorality, cultic abuse of the members, and cover up of sin.

These things are limited largely to *one segment of Independent Baptists*, and that is a segment that I would label “the Hyles circles.” The vast majority of the pastors and workers who have been guilty of sexual misconduct with church members and ensuing cover-ups are affiliated with (and staunch supporters of) First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, the home of Hyles-Anderson Baptist College.

This is clear from the *Star-Telegram*’s own reports. The name Hyles appears throughout. The report *begins* with



the account of Joy Evans Ryder, who testifies that as a teenager she was sexually abused by Dave Hyles, the youth pastor at First Baptist Church of Hammond. The senior pastor was Dave’s father, Jack Hyles. Joy’s father, Wendell Evans, was president of Hyles-Anderson College. When, at age 17, Joy told her father of the matter, he went to Jack Hyles, “who dismissed the report.” In a recent interview with the *Star-Telegram*, the 83-year-old former Hyles-Anderson president said that he regrets not calling the police on Dave Hyles. Evans said, “I think it’s remarkable that in 40 years, Dave didn’t find time to ask forgiveness from his victims and their parents.” Dave Hyles’ current pastor and all other Hyles defenders should think the same thing, one would hope to believe.

Jack Hyles was personally informed of other sexual escapades committed by Dave in the capacity of youth pastor under Jack’s senior watch care, but every accusation was covered up. The actions of both father and son were a reproach to the holy name of Jesus Christ and to the honor of the institution which is supposed to be the “church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

A few months after Wendell Evans told Jack Hyles about Dave’s sexual abuse of a prominent teenage girl in the church, Dave became the pastor of Miller Road Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. Though Jack Hyles always claimed that he did not recommend Dave to any church, deacons and staffers of Miller Road testified “that their search committee called Jack Hyles about Dave” and “no one heard any warnings.” Dave had to leave Miller Road in 1984 after a janitor found a briefcase full of pornography featuring Hyles and married female members of the congregation. Obviously this

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church was a man-centered cult no better than a Jim Jones outfit. Such rampant fornication in a church is doubtless the product of what I call “[Quick Prayerism](#),” the practice of which Dave Hyles was an expert. (Quick Prayerism is an evangelistic methodology that is quick to get people to pray a sinner’s prayer after a very shallow gospel presentation and usually without any hint of the necessity of repentance. It is quick to pronounce those people saved and give them “assurance” and to try to baptize them even if they *barely show any interest in Jesus Christ* and even if they give no biblical evidence of having been born again. Quick Prayerism incorporates psychological salesmanship manipulation. In Quick Prayerism, an empty “sinner’s prayer” replaces Holy Spirit conviction and miraculous regeneration. Quick Prayerism is characterized by soul winning reports that are grossly exaggerated, since the number of real conversions, as evidenced by changed lives, are minute compared to the overall statistics.)

Today Dave Hyles “runs a ministry for pastors who have fallen into sin, supported by Family Baptist Church in Columbia, Tennessee, pastored by David Baker.”

Joy Ryder’s brother contacted Baker in 2017 to tell him personally of the sexual abuse of his sister when she was a teenager at First Baptist, but Baker thinks Dave has been unfairly treated! Baker believes that Dave is “someone who made mistakes years ago, and through that brokenness and God restoring him, wants to use what he’s been through to help others.” (Yes, Baker is a Hyles-Anderson College graduate.)

Though the *Star-Telegram* report “[Spir of Fear](#)” is extensive in the number of cases documented, it goes over ground already covered.



The fundamentals of the matter were documented in the *Chicago Magazine* in January 2013. The report “Let Us Prey: Big Trouble at First Baptist Church” featured ten cases of sexual crimes and fornications committed by pastors associated with First Baptist. These are Ted Butler, Christopher Settlemoir, Dave Hyles, Charles Shifflett, Joseph Combs, Chester Mulligan, William Beith, Craig Sission, Kerry Martin, and Jack Schaap, who was the pastor of the church until he was caught having a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old girl. Now he is currently in prison.

The reports by *Chicago Magazine* and the *Star-Telegram* get to the heart of the matter by describing a cultic climate in which church members are required to give “unquestioning loyalty” to the pastor and are not allowed to test anything by God’s Word or to challenge the preacher when he veers from Scripture. This was epitomized by Jack Hyles (d. 2001), who has had wide influence by his college, his annual pastors’ conferences, and his books.

What the *Star-Telegram* doesn’t tell its readers is that many fundamental Baptists have rejected Jack Hyles’ cultic philosophy of ministry.

I, for one, have been publicly exposing this and separating myself from it for decades. I’ve been a member of Independent Baptist churches for 45 years, since I was saved at age 23. I was a student at Tennessee Temple in the 1970s when Hyles was coming into his heyday. I thought the man was a “bag of hot air” the first time I heard him in those days! Since the 1990s, I’ve warned that Hyles was a cult leader. In [The Hyles Effect: A Spreading Blight](#), we documented the sexual abuse and immorality, the cover-ups and the lies, the bragging and the mind control, the ridiculously shallow “soul winning” methodologies, and the gross lack of biblical depth in the preaching. We document these and other things, analyze them by Scripture, and show the biblical way as opposed to man’s way.

Consider an excerpt from *The Hyles Effect*:

“This book has never been just about First Baptist of Hammond. It’s about a large number of independent fundamental Baptist (IFB) churches that have been influenced by the cultic pattern modeled at First Baptist and it’s about large numbers of IFB preachers who have not spoken out against it but rather have chosen to bask

in the glory of ‘bigness’ than take a stand for truth, pastors who have imitated First Baptist in many unscriptural ways.

“With the Bible as my authority, I became convinced long ago that Jack Hyles created a man-centered cult, and this cultic mentality has spread far too widely among Independent Fundamental Baptists.

“A major motivation in writing this report is to challenge young preachers not to be man followers and man pleasers, to walk in the fear of God rather than the fear of man, to be serious Bible students and Bereans (Acts 17:11), to be passionate for Christ and Truth, and to reject pragmatism: whether it be contemporary church growth pragmatism or emerging pragmatism or IFB pragmatism.

“I don’t hesitate to name a cult a cult no matter what it might call itself, and I don’t hesitate to distance myself from such things. I’m just a frail man that the Lord saved. I’m not a mighty anything in myself, but God being my helper I’m not going to follow a crowd in error, I don’t care how big the crowd, and I’m not going to keep quiet when the church of Jesus Christ is turned into a man-centered cult.

“The authority for my Christian life and ministry is not ‘independent Baptist.’ It is not what some famous independent Baptist church or preacher believes or practices. My sole authority is the Bible. I do not intend to follow a man, I care not who or what he is, unless that man follows the Holy Scripture, God being my helper.

“I believe in pastoral authority. I have submitted to pastoral authority all of my Christian life. ... I have taught God’s people to submit to pastoral authority in a godly and biblical fashion. (For example, see the free eBooks ‘[Keys to Fruitful Church Membership](#)’ and ‘[The Pastor’s Authority](#),’ available from www.wayoflife.org.)

“But I also know that a pastor’s authority is limited by the Bible. He has no authority in himself. He has no authority to lead in ways that are contrary to the Word of God. He has no authority to instruct the people to follow him blindly. NO PREACHER IS ABOVE BEING REPROVED FOR HIS ERROR. ‘Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these



things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality’ (1 Timothy 5:19-21). Paul rebuked Peter publicly when he committed hypocrisy and was influencing others in a path that was compromising the gospel. ‘But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *them* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?’ (Galatians 2:11-14).

“We should have godly respect for authority figures, but numbers and prominent positions should not impress God’s people. As Elihu wisely said: ‘Let me not, I pray you, accept any man’s person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away’ (Job 32:21-22).

“I am not impressed with independent Baptist numbers, unless those numbers are in the context of faithfulness to the Word of God. Numbers and prestige in themselves

prove nothing. Faithfulness to Christ and His Word is *everything*” (David Cloud, [The Hyles Effect](#), 2012).



I personally know many Independent Baptist pastors in many parts of the world who agree with these sentiments and who reject Jack Hyles-style cultism without reservation.

What the *Star-Telegram* doesn't tell its readers is that the business of covering up sexual misconduct at First Baptist of Hammond and other Independent Baptist churches was exposed by prominent Independent Baptist preachers in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 1989, Evangelist Robert Sumner exposed Jack Hyles' own inappropriate relationship with his secretary Jennie Nischick, and the Dave Hyles mess, and other such things in his monthly paper, *The Biblical Evangelist*. The reports were titled “One of the Blights of Bigness,” “The Saddest Story We Ever Published,” “The Hyles Response,” and “The Hyles Reply.” The reports have been the matter of public record ever since. They are available today at www.biblicalevangelist.org/jack_hyles_chapter1.php.

Voyle Glover exposed Hyles in [Fundamental Seduction: The Jack Hyles Case](#), 1990 (455 pages).

Roger Voegtlin, Pastor of Fairhaven Baptist Church of Chesterton, Indiana, exposed Hyles in a widely distributed sermon in June 1989, entitled “[Why I Am Not 100% for Jack Hyles](#).”

Biblical Discernment Ministries exposed Hyles and his wicked influence. See <http://rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/exposes/hyles/testim.htm>.

And there were others. The “cover ups” that were committed by some Independent Baptist preachers were uncovered by other Independent Baptist preachers in the most public manner possible.

Another thing that the *Star-Telegram* doesn't tell its readers is that Jesus Christ and His apostles prophesied of the coming of false teachers into churches, wolves in sheeps' clothing, who would deceive people and commit immorality.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:28-30).

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:15-20).

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not” (2 Peter 2:1-3).

The very existence of immoral church leaders today is evidence that the Bible is true, because it was predicted by the Bible 2,000 years ago.

Conclusion

Many of the people quoted by the *Star-Telegram* appear to be extremely angry, bitter people. Doubtless many of them were wrongly treated, but who hasn't been? Doubtless they encountered hypocrisy, but who hasn't? They appear to be products of a “victim mentality,” and there is no spiritual victory, no blessing, no fruitfulness, and no peace in that.

I will not allow the sin and hypocrisy of this world, or the sin and hypocrisy of professing Christians, to rob me of my blessings in Jesus Christ. My faith does not stand in man. I know by experience that if my eyes are on man, I will be discouraged, and if my eyes are myself I will be

defeated. Every man or woman will disappoint you and sin against you sooner or later, because “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

The Bible says, “Cursed *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD” (Jeremiah 17:5).

There is One who never does wrong and never disappoints, and He is my resurrected Lord and Saviour, and I intend to keep my eyes upon Him. I intend to cast all my care upon Him, for He careth for me (1 Peter 5:7).

I will not allow false christs and false gospels to turn me from the true Christ and the true Gospel of eternal salvation through Christ’s blood.

I will not allow false Christianity to turn me away from true Christianity.

I will not allow false churches to turn me away from biblical churches.

I will not allow carnal church leaders to turn me away from spiritual ones.

I personally know many fundamental Baptist churches that are not cults. They are not sinlessly perfect, because there is no such thing in this present world, but they are biblically sound; they are spiritually healthy; they build good, healthy Christian lives in those who receive their ministries; they are led by humble, kind men of God who are not Grand Poobahs.

I will not allow the abuse of biblical separatism and the hypocrisy of some who claim to be biblical separatists to turn me from the Bible’s clear teaching on separation from the world and a pilgrim Christian walk.

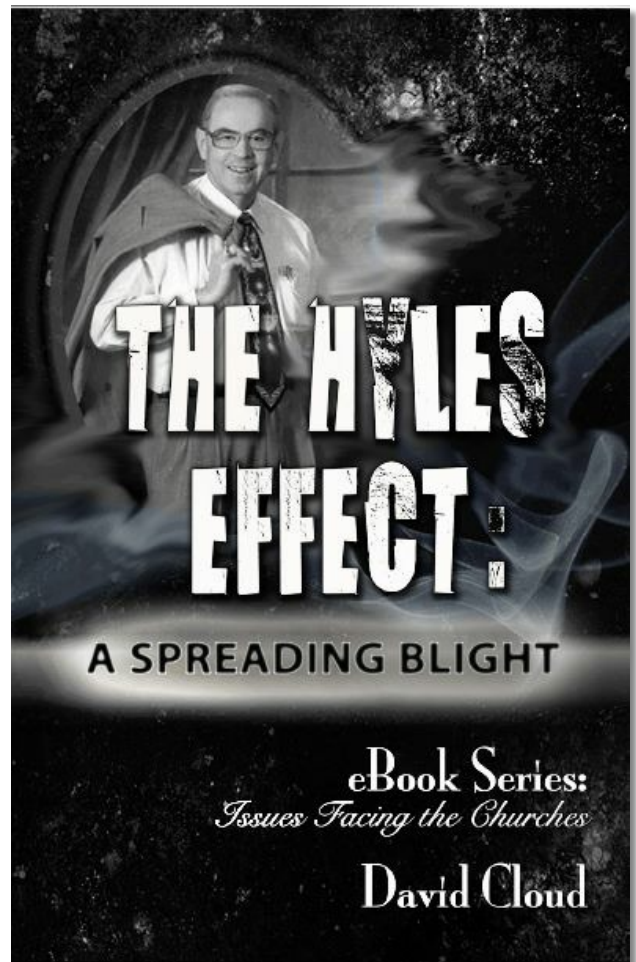
“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11).

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11).

THE HYLES EFFECT

A Spreading Blight

By David Cloud



This book documents the life and ministry of Jack Hyles, who pastored First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, for 42 years, and Jack Schaap, who took over the pastorate of the church when his father-in-law died in 2001. But the book is not merely about two men. It is a warning about a cultic model of ministry that has spread very far. Hyles set the pattern for errors that are still rampant. And the book is a positive call to build biblical churches.

[FREE At Wayoflife Online Store](#)

The Life Of The Flesh

is in the **BLOOD**

By David Cloud

“For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul” (Leviticus 17:11).

Until the late 19th century, bloodletting was one of the most common forms of medical practice, and it was an attempt to balance the “humors” according to ancient Greek practice.

The bloodletting was accomplished by knives and leeches and was performed by barbers as well as physicians. The red-and-white pole still used to identify barber shops is derived from this practice. Originally it signified bloody bandages wrapped around a pole.

“One British medical text recommended bloodletting for acne, asthma, cancer, cholera, coma, convulsions, diabetes, epilepsy, gangrene, gout, herpes, indigestion, insanity, jaundice, leprosy, ophthalmia, plague, pneumonia, scurvy, smallpox, stroke, tetanus, tuberculosis, and for some one hundred other diseases” (“Bloodletting,” *Wikipedia*).

The more severe the disease, the more blood was let! Before amputation, blood was removed equal to the amount estimated to be in the limb to be removed!

Countless people died untimely deaths because of the bogus practice of bloodletting. This was probably the cause of George Washington’s death at age 68 of septic throat when he was in good health overall. During a period of nine or ten hours, he was bled five times for a total of two and a half quarts of blood. This would have been nearly half of his total blood!

If ancient physicians had believed the Bible, they could have avoided this great error, for the Bible says, “For

the life of the flesh is in the blood...” (Leviticus 17:11). That was written about 3,500 years ago, and modern medicine has confirmed it in stunning ways.

The body’s amazing circulatory system of heart, lungs, arteries, capillaries, and veins, transports the marvelous blood cells with their life-giving oxygen and other necessary elements to every part of the body. The blood also forms a major part of the infection fighting and clotting systems, which are necessary for the “life of the flesh.”

BLOOD CELLS

The human red blood cell (*erythrocyte*) is perfectly designed to carry oxygen throughout the body. Even evolutionary writings use terms such as “highly specialized” and “nature’s design” to describe these amazing things.

The blood cells flow in plasma through the body’s breathtakingly complex circulatory system, which is used to maintain the body’s temperature, regulate the body’s pH balance, provide communication, transport oxygen, nutrients, hormones, clotting agents, and immune defense mechanisms such as antibodies, white blood cells, and platelets, and remove waste. Blood flows everywhere in the body, from the roots of the hair to the toes.

The red blood cells are formed in the marrow of the ribs, pelvis, and some other bones. They are 1/25,000 of an inch in size. There are about 25 trillion of them in the body, and they live only 100-120 days. They must be replaced because they are unable to synthesize new enzymes to replace those lost during normal cell metabolic process due to their lack of organelles (<http://www.fortunecity.com/greenfield/rattler/46/blood2.htm>). The body replaces the blood cells at the rate of

about 2.5 million per second, but that rate can be increased if the body needs more blood cells due to heavy bleeding or a reduction in oxygen content of the air at high altitude.

The main function of the red blood cell is to carry oxygen throughout the human body, and it is perfectly designed for this. First of all, its shape, which is biconcave and looks similar to a donut, allows more surface area to facilitate absorption and diffusion of oxygen. The shape of the red blood cell also allows it to contort through minute blood capillaries *that are smaller in diameter than itself* and spring back to its original shape. Further, it can carry more hemoglobin molecules because it loses its nucleus, and its internal organelles (cell organs) are degraded soon after it is made, and it thus has more storage capacity than other types of cells in the body. Each red blood cell carries about 300 million hemoglobin molecules.

The hemoglobin (or haemoglobin) molecule that is carried within the red blood cell (and gives it the bright red color) is a miracle of design in its own right. It is an iron-containing protein that allows oxygen to be picked up from the lungs and carried through the fluid of the circulatory system. The hemoglobin molecule has a single atom of iron at its center, and in the lungs this iron atom combines with oxygen to create a compound called oxyhemoglobin. Oxygen by itself is not very soluble in water, but the hemoglobin molecule binds four oxygen molecules to itself, “consequently hemoglobin permits human blood to carry more than 70 times the amount of oxygen that it could have carried otherwise” (<http://help.com/post/202779-are-there-any-parts-inside-a-red-bl>).

After the hemoglobin transports its oxygen to cells in the body, it reinvents itself as a waste disposal entity. Combining with the carbon dioxide given off by the cells as waste, it carries this back to the lungs to be exhaled out of the body.

The processes that take place in the blood are extremely complicated and interrelated. Everything from the individual atoms up must work together in perfect harmony for the individual to survive. And the blood is only one part of the circulatory system that is, in turn, intimately interrelated with the other systems of the body. Even something as simple as a change in the shape of the red blood cell is a threat to survival.

A system this complicated screams out “divine creation”!

BLOOD CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

The blood circulatory system (cardiovascular system) is the means by which the life-giving blood is transported to every cell in the body. Consisting of the heart, lungs, and blood vessels, it is ingenuous and complicated beyond words.

The heart pumps the blood through the cardiovascular system. First it passes through the lungs where it is oxygenated and the carbon dioxide is removed. This is called pulmonary circulation. The oxygenated blood is then pumped through the arteries and capillaries to every part of the body. The deoxygenated blood is transported back to the heart by the veins. This is called systemic circulation.

The heart is composed of four chambers: right atrium (top) and ventricle (bottom) and left atrium and ventricle. Blood enters the atriums, is transferred to the ventricles via valves (that keep the blood from moving in the wrong direction), and the ventricles pump the blood into the circulatory system.

Deoxygenated blood enters the heart via two large veins called the superior and inferior vena cava. This blood enters the right atrium. It flows via the tricuspid valve down to the right ventricle. The right ventricle pumps the blood to the lungs for oxygenation through the pulmonary arteries via the pulmonary valve. The lungs oxygenate the blood and it is transported back into the heart to the left atrium, where it flows down into the left ventricle via the mitral valve. The left ventricle pumps the blood via the aorta into the arteries. It delivers oxygen to the organs, including the skin and brain, and the deoxygenated blood is transported back to the heart via a system of veins. The arteries and veins are connected via tiny capillaries.

The heart itself is supplied with blood by the two coronary arteries that enter the top of the heart from the aorta. The right coronary artery supplies blood to the right atrium and ventricle, and the left coronary artery supplies blood to the left atrium and ventricle.

Every day, the heart beats about 115,000 times and pumps about 2,000 gallons of blood. That’s about one million barrels of blood in a lifetime. There are 60,000 miles of arteries, capillaries, and veins in the human

body! If stretched out, they would extend around the world two times.

BLOOD CLOTTING

The blood clotting mechanism is necessary for survival in animals and humans, because the blood circulation system is pressurized, and a simple cut or wound would prove fatal if the bleeding were not stopped.

Hemophilia is a life-threatening disease in which part of the clotting apparatus is crippled.

When a cut occurs, molecular signals cause various proteins to activate to create a complex meshwork that entraps the blood cells, forming the initial clot.

Clotting involves over 30 distinct individual reactions, each of which is vital to heal a wound and each of which is exceedingly complex. The coordination, order, timing, and rates of action must be exact. Omitting even one of the reactions, inserting an unwanted step, or altering the timing of a step would result in death.

This is why the blood clotting system is called “a cascade, a system where one component activates another component” (Alan Gillen, *Body by Design*, p. 74).

- The clot must form quickly.
- It must form the full length of the wound with sufficient coverage to stop the bleeding.
- It must form only in the precise location of a wound and only enough to close the wound and not close down the blood vessels (otherwise it could block circulation, which is what causes heart attacks and strokes).
- The wound must be cleansed of germs and damaged cellular tissues. This is accomplished by an increase in the flow of blood enriched with white blood cells.
- The clotting process must not only stop the flow of blood but also develop a new skin cover for permanent healing. The surrounding skin cells increase the rate of reproduction to create a bridge of new skin.
- At the precise time when healing is completed, other protein machinery must remove the clot.

The intricate process begins with the creation of a protein mesh to close the wound and trap the blood. It is composed of a protein called fibrinogen that is carried in the blood plasma. Another protein, thrombin, slices pieces of fibrinogen to create fibrin and connect them together to form a network. Long threads criss-cross the fibrin to entrap the blood cells.

Consider the amazing intelligence and communication that is involved throughout this process at the cellular level.

Russell Doolittle has tried to provide an evolutionary scenario for the blood clotting system, but biologist Michael Behe demonstrates that Doolittle’s scenario is simply a “just-so” story.

“What he has done is to hypothesize a series of steps in which clotting proteins appear one after another. Yet, as I will show in the next section, the explanation is seriously inadequate because no reasons are given for the appearance of the proteins, no attempt is made to calculate the probability of the proteins’ appearance, and no attempt is made to estimate the new proteins’ properties. ...

“The first thing to notice is that no causative factors are cited. Thus tissue factor ‘appears,’ fibrinogen ‘is born,’ antiplasmin ‘arises,’ TPA ‘springs forth,’ a cross-linking protein ‘is unleashed,’ and so forth. What exactly, we might ask, is causing all this springing and unleashing? Doolittle appears to have in mind a step-by-step Darwinian scenario involving the undirected, random duplication and recombination of gene pieces. But consider the enormous amount of luck needed to get the right gene pieces in the right places. ...

“The second question to consider is the implicit assumption that a protein made from a duplicated gene would immediately have the new, necessary properties. ...

“The third problem in the blood-coagulation scenario is that it avoids the crucial issues of how much, how fast, when, and where. Nothing is said about the amount of clotting material initially

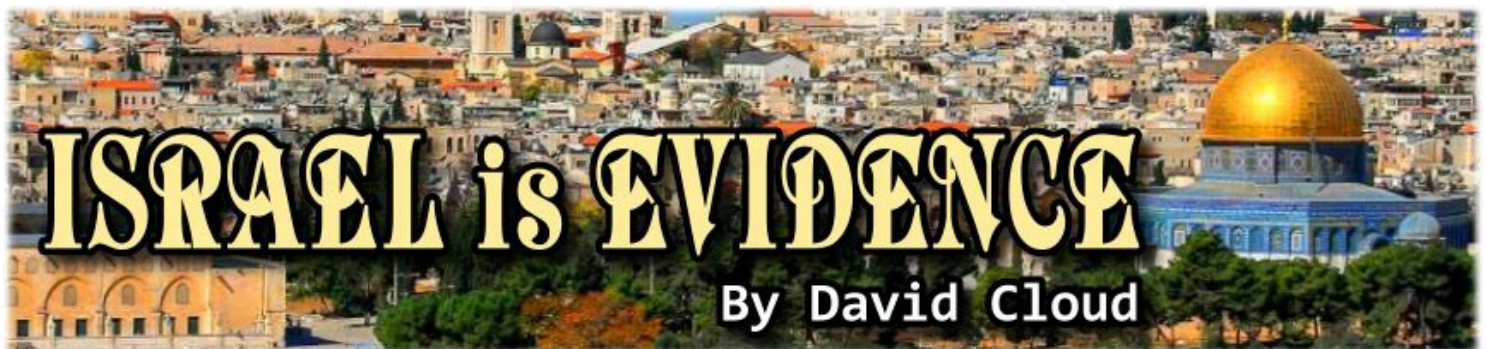
available, the strength of the clot that would be formed by a primitive system, the length of time the clot would take to form once a cut occurred, what fluid pressure the clot would resist, how detrimental the formation of inappropriate clots would be, or a hundred other such questions” (*Darwin’s Black Box*, chapter 4).

The blood clotting system cannot have emerged piecemeal. Dean Kenyon, Ph.D. in biophysics from Stanford University, observes:

“In fact, having a primitive, poorly controlled clotting system would probably be more dangerous to an animal, and therefore less advantageous, than having no such system at all!

... It is important to realize that no one has ever offered a credible hypothesis to explain how the blood clotting system could have started and subsequently evolved. ...

“Virtually all biochemical systems, large and small, exhibit coherent integration of distinct parts to give a whole entity with a separate purpose. This includes photosynthesis, cell replication, carbohydrate, protein, and lipid metabolism, vision, the immune system, and numerous others. Like a car engine, biological systems can only work after they have been assembled by someone who knows what the final result will be” (Davis and Kenyon, *Of Pandas and People*, p. 145).



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

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.”

Writing from Vienna in 1897, the American author Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) observed in his inimitable way, “The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they were gone; other people have sprung up and held their

torch high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, and have vanished. The Jew saw them all, survived them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert but aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, *but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?*” (“Concerning the Jews,” *Harper’s Magazine*, 1899; *The Complete Essays of Mark Twain*, Doubleday, 1963, p. 249).

The answer to this puzzle was in the Bible that Twain read but did not believe. The secret to the Jew’s “immortality” is the immortal God and His eternal covenants.

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 confounded 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](#), 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.

The utter candor of the Hebrew Scripture also attests to its Divine inspiration.

No other nation has been so brutally honest about its failings after the fashion that we see in Israel’s Scripture.

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

The Pied-Billed Grebe

Grebes float on water like ducks and have the general appearance of small ducks, but they are diving birds. Well are they called “part bird, part submarine.”

They have many features which enable them to be expert diver hunters. For one, their feet are located near their rear ends, which helps them propel themselves under water. (The Latin genus for “grebe” (*podiceps*) means “feet at the buttocks.”) Their feet are lobed rather than webbed like a duck’s, further assisting with swimming. They can trap water in their feathers to control their buoyancy, enabling them to dive deeply or stay just beneath the surface. They can stay submerged with just their eyes and nostrils above the surface.

They can dive out of sight amazingly fast when alarmed.

The pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) is so named for the black stripe on its beak. It is also called a dabchick or a dipper. It is a small bird, 12-15 inches long with a wingspan of 18-24 inches. It is various shades of brown, has black eyes surrounded by a white circle and a white bill, which turns silver in the summer. Its breast is speckled with gray and it has a white patch on its undertail.

Its stout pointed beak and strong jaws enables it to kill and eat large crustaceans along with a great variety of fish, amphibians, and insects. It has a special love for crayfish, but it will eat crabs,



shrimp, snails, mussels, beetles, dragonfly nymphs, salamanders, leeches, frogs, tadpoles, and any type of small fish.

It makes “bizarre whinnying, gobbling, cooing noises.”

It spends most of its time in the water, rarely flying.

It even builds a floating bowl-shaped nest using materials from aquatic vegetation. The nest is anchored to standing vegetation. The male and the female both participate in selecting the site and building the nest. They favor a location with water deeper than nine inches so they can approach the nest underwater, feed nearby, as well as escape predators. The male and female also participate in incubating the eggs. The chicks leave the nest the first day after hatching and can already swim but not very well. They spend much of the first one to four weeks riding on their parents’ backs. They sleep like this and even stay on their backs during underwater dives.

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?



CHINA: FIRSTFRUITS OF AN ANTICHRIST SURVEILLANCE GOVERNMENT (Friday Church News Notes, November 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "China Mandates Surveillance as Religious Persecution Rises," an interview with Bob Fu, *The Stream*, Nov. 14, 2018: "President Xi Jinping considers Christians one of the greatest threats to his power. Underground churches are listed as one of the 'new black five' national security threats in China. It's new under this president for churches to be classified as a national security threat. The government-sanctioned churches that *are* allowed to exist right now have unique restrictions. Each church has to install a facial-recognition camera in front of the pulpit. The purpose is to identify certain people in the congregation. Many classes of people are banned from entering into any church. These include young people under 18 years old, college students, doctors or medical professionals, civil servants, military members and educators. If they're found, immediately their boss or a government official will be speaking with them. These are huge ramifications right now. It really began after President Xi Jinping took office in 2012. He is now nicknamed 'Emperor Xi' since he successfully removed his term limits in March of

this year. When he took power, the mass forced demolition of crosses started in Zhejiang province. That area is called the Jerusalem of China. ... These are government-sanctioned churches. The house churches do not have buildings or a cross. ... On February 1 of this year, a new law called 'Regulations on the Administration of Religious Affairs' took effect. Things have become dramatically even worse. Bible-burning campaigns are happening across China. ... China is perhaps the world's most sophisticated surveillance police state. It's beyond anything the U.S. does. Some of these efforts are aided by greedy American companies. ... Apple decided to remove all virtual private networks from Apple Stores across China. They have a segregated Chinese version of the Apple iCloud. Supposedly this China iCloud is still part of Apple, offering iTunes content. But it's totally controlled by the Chinese government. Cisco and Google are similar. China has the most cameras in the whole world, on every street corner. These facial recognition cameras are part of their dynamic monitoring system. They can follow you anywhere. If you drive a car, they can quickly track your license plate. If you buy a train or bus ticket, as soon as you swipe your card, you are classified. I noted how China has five categories of dangerous people. Now China is also building the world's largest so-called 'social credit' system. If you get a traffic ticket, then one point of morality is deducted. If you are found in the underground church, your social score is essentially zero. You lose your right to buy airplane tickets. Last week, I was in South Korea attending a house church leadership conference. But 240 out of 300 church leaders were

blocked in Chinese airports, even including Hong Kong, and declared as national security threats. They were not allowed to board the flight when they checked in to Customs.”

BEIJING DEBUTS PLAN TO MONITOR BEHAVIOR OF EVERY RESIDENT (Friday Church News Notes, November 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Beijing Debuts,” Breitbart.com, Nov. 23, 2018: “Beijing plans to reward and punish its residents based on data that will be collected from various departments monitoring citizens’ social behavior, according to a detailed ‘action plan’ posted on Monday to the city’s municipal website. By the beginning of 2020, the announcement declares, China’s capital city will have all residents officially locked into the permanent surveillance program, part of a broader effort to have every Chinese citizen rated on a ‘social credit system’ decreeing what public services a person can use based on their obedience to laws and loyalty to the communist regime. The government will use the data collected to assess citizens’ behavior to decide if an individual is law-abiding and ‘trustworthy’ to the Communist Party. Residents who behave properly in the eyes of the Chinese government will receive high credit scores, while residents who misbehave will receive



low scores, causing them to lead more difficult lives. ‘Efforts will be made to build a market supervision mechanism with corporate credit as the core,’ states Beijing’s municipal website, adding that it will explore the implementation of what it calls ‘the personal integrity project,’ which will utilize residents’ credit scores for ‘market access, public services, tourism,’ and ‘fields such as entrepreneurship and job hunting.’ Higher scores can also open the ‘green channel,’ which will expedite residents’ applications for higher quality ‘education and medical resources.’ ‘Those who violate the law and lose trust will pay a heavy price,’ adds the government website, stating that it will ‘improve the blacklist system’ and that residents will find themselves ‘limited everywhere, and difficult to move’ if they are deemed untrustworthy by the Communists in control.”

CHICKEN FITBITS (Friday Church News Notes, November 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

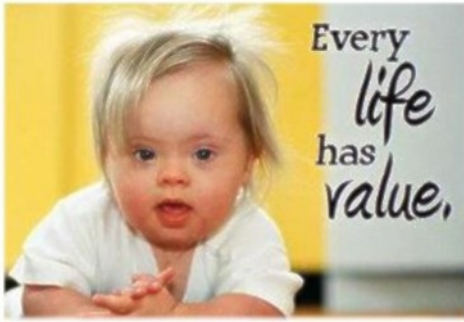
- The “Internet of Everything” will soon include chickens. The following is excerpted from “Smart mini-backpacks for chickens,” *The New Scientist*, Nov. 23, 2018: “Tiny electronic backpacks for chickens can automatically analyse their behaviour, which could reveal when something is wrong. The backpacks are attached to the birds’ backs using straps and are filled with accelerometers that record their movements. An algorithm uses data from the sensors to identify when and for how long the chickens perform different behaviours. The team behind the idea call the devices ‘Fitbits for chickens.’ Currently, farmers have to check chickens



manually and individually for signs of the mites. The technology could make monitoring the birds far less labour-intensive. Monitoring different behaviours using the backpacks could help reveal whether farm birds are being disturbed by parasites such as the northern fowl mite, says Amy Murillo at the University of California, Riverside, one of the team. The mite feeds on chickens’ blood and mainly affects egg-laying hens, which are kept alive much longer than those bred for meat.”

DOWN SYNDROME COMMUNITY ASKS TO BE PUT ON “ENDANGERED SPECIES” LIST (Friday Church News Notes, November 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

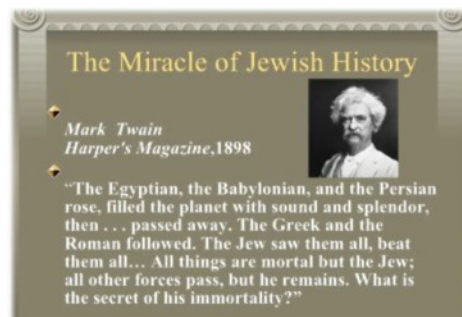
- The following is excerpted from LifeSiteNews, Nov. 13, 2018: “In Iceland, people with Down Syndrome have been virtually wiped out by abortion. In Denmark, people with Down syndrome also face extinction. In the United Kingdom, 90% of parents who discover that their pre-born child has Down syndrome opt to have the baby aborted. In the US, 75% of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted. In Canada, it is also close to 90%. All of this is despite the fact that the vast majority of people with Down syndrome report having an extremely high quality of life, exposing the empty and evil excuses of some abortive parents that



abortion is ‘best for the baby’ as the transparent lie that it is. Life expectancy has also gone up steadily: Now, people with Down syndrome generally live to about sixty years old, with some living into their seventies. Their life expectancy post-birth has skyrocketed just as their life expectancy pre-birth plummets. That is precisely why the Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS) is attempting to draw attention to the plight of people with Down syndrome via a daring new campaign, ‘Endangered syndrome’: They have launched a petition calling for those with Down syndrome to be placed on the ‘endangered’ list, noting that by the standards of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Down syndrome community qualifies. The dwindling Down syndrome community has resulted in dwindling funds for essential community services, the CDSS noted through a video highlighting people dressed as endangered animals while explaining their plight. Animal welfare groups, the CDSS observed, get 90% more funding than Down syndrome charities across North America, a fact that helped drive their controversial comparison—the video has already been viewed more than a million times.”

MARK TWAIN’S QUESTION ABOUT THE JEWS (Friday Church News Notes, November 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Writing from Vienna in 1897, the American author Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) observed in his inimitable way, “The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they were gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, and have vanished. The Jew saw them all, survived them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert but aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, *but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?*” (“Concerning the Jews,” *Harper’s Magazine*, 1899; *The Complete Essays of Mark Twain*, Doubleday, 1963, p. 249). The answer to this puzzle is in the Bible that Twain read but did not believe. The secret to the Jew’s “immortality” is the immortal God and His eternal covenants. “Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and



Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them” (Jeremiah 33:25-26).

SIBERIAN UNICORN (Friday Church News Notes, November 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The Siberian rhino (*Elasmotherium sibiricum*) is an extinct rhino that lived on the Eurasian Steppe (present-day Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, northern China). It is a good candidate for the unicorn mentioned in Job 39:9-12, which was notable for its strength and untamable spirit. See also Numbers 23:22; 24:8. The Siberian rhino is also called the Siberian unicorn. It looked like a giant buffalo with a massive horn protruding from its snout and weighed more than 3.5 tons (“Eurasian Ice Age Wiped out the Siberian Unicorn,” UPI, Nov. 27, 2018). “Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib? Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after thee? Wilt thou trust him, because his strength is great? or wilt thou leave by labour to him? Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed, and gather it into thy barn?” (Job 39:9-12).

MORE PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD TEMPLE (Friday Church News Notes, December 7, 2018, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The preparation for the building of the Third Temple is reaching fever pitch. On December 10, the last evening of Hanukkah, the “nascent” Jewish Sanhedrin is planning to consecrate a stone sacrificial altar and perform the daily offering that occurred every morning and evening in the ancient temple. The sacrifice will be enacted by Kohanim (Levites) dressed in biblical priestly attire. It is not known whether the lamb will actually be sacrificed at the site, but meat will be roasted on the altar. The Temple Institute’s golden menorah will also be lit. The Sanhedrin was a council of rabbis who led the Israelites before and after the destruction of Herod’s Temple. It ceased to function in the fifth century AD, but in 2004 a group of orthodox Jewish groups announced that they were re-establishing it. The “nascent” Sanhedrin’s goal is to establish a “Bible-based organization to replace the United Nations.” The announcement by Rabbi Yoel Schwartz states, “We are very close to the time about which the prophets of Israel prophesied that the God of the world who created everything will be called by the world in the name of the God of Israel, for only the people of Israel remained attached to Him. ... God’s call to return his people to his land will show that the belief of some nations that Israel was in exile as a punishment was a mistaken belief.

The exile was only in order for Israel to serve as an example to the nations for serving God. ... Now, it is time for the Creator’s people to return to their land, and from here light will come forth to the world. And when we merit it, and the Temple will be restored and built on its place, then even more will all the nations realize that the time has come to worship God” (“Sanhedrin Invites 70 Nations to Hanukkah Dedication of Altar for the Third Temple,” *BreakingIsraelNews*, Nov. 29, 2018). Israel abides in the same self-righteousness that caused her to reject her own Messiah 2,000 years ago. She doesn’t admit that her dispersal was a punishment. But just before His crucifixion, Jesus said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when he shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Luke 13:34-35). And the apostle Paul, trained as a rabbi at the feet of the famous Gamaliel, said of Israel, “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth” (Romans 10:3-4). The “nascent” Sanhedrin who are re-enacting the daily sacrifice are blind to the meaning of that sacrifice, having rejected the testimony of John the Baptist about Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN ARAB MONARCHIES (Friday Church News Notes, December 7, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Democracy and Civil Rights,” *Israel Today*, Dec. 2018: “While in Israel and the West the role of political opposition is anchored in law, the governments of the Persian Gulf states tolerate no such criticism. Anyone defying the government is soon found in a cemetery or in prison or forced to travel abroad. ... The Gulf states have no real political parties, at least not as Westerners would define them. This is how countries such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait operate. In fact, with the exception of Kuwait, these countries have no parliament at all, and all power is vested solely in the royal families, who, we might remember, were handed the reins of rulership by the British in the early part of the 20th century. The power wielded by these families is absolute. ... The Gulf states are having trouble combatting popular opposition given voice by online social networks like Facebook and Twitter. And that only makes them more dangerous. Since the Arab Spring, many of these regimes have set up cyber units to hunt down those who criticize them online. ... Under these conditions, the Gulf monarchies are dictatorships in every respect. There is a total absence



of human rights ... Acquiescing in economic considerations, the West continues to engage and do business with these monarchies, while all but ignoring their rampant violations of human rights.”

TWITTER DECLARES WAR ON BIOLOGY (Friday Church News Notes, December 7, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Twitter Declares War,” *Christian Post*, Nov. 30, 2018: “I recently did a little computer-generated test to help determine my ‘physiological age’ as compared to my ‘chronological age.’ (Thankfully, I was 8 years younger than my chronological age, 55 rather than 63.) One of the first questions I was asked was whether I was male or female. Why? It’s because--brace yourself!--men are biologically different than women. What a revolutionary concept! But if a computer program is going to determine your physiological age vs. your chronological age, it needs to know something about your biology since, to repeat, men are different than women. Medical science understands this. Genetic studies understand this. Common sense understands this. But it appears Twitter no longer understands this. So, Twitter has updated its terms of service, adding further information under the category of ‘Repeated and/or non-



consensual slurs, epithets, racist and sexist tropes, or other content that degrades someone.’ Specifically, Twitter explains, ‘We prohibit targeting individuals with repeated slurs, tropes or other content that intends to dehumanize, degrade or reinforce negative or harmful stereotypes about a protected category. This includes targeted misgendering or deadnaming of transgender individuals.’ Note carefully that last sentence, which singles out ‘misgendering’ and ‘deadnaming.’ And what, precisely, do these terms mean? To misgender would be to refer to Bruce Caitlyn Jenner as ‘he.’ To deadname him would be to call him Bruce rather than Caitlyn. Twitter now forbids this usage, meaning that Twitter forbids you from being scientifically and biologically correct. To do so is to risk being banned. ... And if you dare raise your voice in protest against this social madness, you risk being banned. Who cares about your conscience and convictions. Who cares about scientific reality. Speech that falls outside the lines of transgender political correctness is absolutely forbidden.”

FACEBOOK AND EPHESIANS 5:11 (Friday Church News Notes, December 7, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - There are many Bible verses that provide guidance for spiritual victory in the Internet age, and one of those is Ephesians 5:11 - “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” There are two simple commands and principles here. First, the child of God is to have NO fellowship with the works of darkness. This is a great protection. If I determine that I will



not fellowship with darkness on Facebook, then I will not associate with, join hands with, link to, or befriend anyone or anything that pertains to spiritual and moral darkness. I will not befriend or “Like” or join in with communication threads pertaining to immodest dress or rock & roll (whether secular or “Christian”) or drinking or drugging or worldly partying or dating or vain philosophy or charismatic heresy or slandering of good churches. I refuse to have “a little fellowship” with darkness, because my God has instructed me to have “no fellowship” with it. The second command in Ephesians 5:11 is to “reprove them.” As a child of God, a pilgrim in a strange world, my responsibility is not finished when I avoid fellowship with evil and error. Separation is not enough. I must speak out against things that are wrong. This will tend to limit one’s associations and narrow one’s “tent,” but it is exactly what God’s Word commands. Godly reproof is light in the darkness, as we see in the same context: “But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light” (Ephesians 5:13). If you stand up for truth and righteousness as you should, you will not get along smoothly and comfortably with the worldly crowd. You will be like the pastor who shared the following with me recently: “I felt that when someone became my friend on

Facebook they [should know] they had friended a Bible preacher. There were times I'd post Scripture and comment about Bible principles. As long as I was general about salvation, no big deal. But, as soon as I was specific about sin, I was attacked personally no matter how much Scripture I would use. One time I commented on Tim Tebow. I had been to his website to get some information about him and when his website loaded, a country music song about drinking on Friday night automatically played. I commented on Facebook about the bad testimony that was. That resulted in harsh criticism of me. One man said, 'Tim Tebow will lead more people to Christ than you ever will.' Many times Facebook created a forum for others to gang up on me. I made a comment about people being at the kids' baseball game on Sunday instead of Church. Several 'Christians' criticized me." This reminds me of something Jesus said: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19).

A SERMON THAT SAVED A SOUL 85 YEARS LATER (Friday Church News Notes, December 7, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from Spurgeon's *Lectures to My Students*: "There is an authenticated case of a man being converted by a sermon eighty-five years after he had heard it preached. Mr. Flavel, at the close of a discourse, instead of pronouncing the usual benediction, stood up, and said, 'How can I dismiss you with blessing, for many of you are Anathema

Maranatha, because you love not the Lord Jesus Christ?' A lad of fifteen heard that remarkable utterance; and eighty-five years afterwards, sitting under a hedge, I think in Virginia, the whole scene came vividly before him as if it had been but the day before; and it pleased God to bless Mr. Flavel's words to his conversion, and he lived three years longer to bear good testimony that he had felt the power of the truth in his heart."

THE DANGER OF INTERNET HERESY (Friday Church News Notes, December 14, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Internet is the greatest communication tool that has ever existed, and it has incalculable potential for broadcasting truth as well as error. U.S. President Trump has popularized the term "fake news," and he is right. The world is full of fake information, not only fake political information, but every other type of information. The Internet is a dream come true for flat earthers and health food quacks and disinformation campaigners and heretics of every stripe. While truth barely gets a hearing in this fallen world, error resonates widely. The Bible tells God's people how to protect themselves in any age. Technology changes, but the principles of spiritual protection are the same. The most fundamental principle of protection is to be well grounded in God's Word ("skillful," Hebrews 5:12-15), to test everything by God's Word, and to avoid things that are false. This is set out in a nutshell in 2 Timothy 2:15-17. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and



vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some." Every fundamental principle of protection from heresy in the Internet age is found in this passage. Protection requires being a serious student of God's Word. You won't be able to discern error until you are well grounded in the truth. And protection requires shunning false teachers. Shunning is the opposite of reading their blogs and visiting their social media pages and watching their YouTube channels. 2 Timothy 2:18 warns that false teaching has the power to "overthrow the faith." It is very dangerous. Further along in the same passage, we find that false teaching engenders questions and strifes (2 Ti. 2:23). It destabilizes the Christian life. A great many people have written to me after becoming confused by things they have read on the Internet. Typically, these are people who are not skillful in God's Word, but instead of spending their time studying the Bible by means of proper tools and staying with sound Bible teachers, they surf around the Internet and dabble with error and nuttiness and quackery. The resources for becoming a skillful Bible student are available for those who are willing to invest sufficient time and energy.

There is no easy path or shortcut. I think of many people who have gone through most or all of the *Advanced Bible Studies Series* published by Way of Life Literature. I think of a man who has studied through the *Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity* three times. That alone is a serious Bible education. Beware of Internet heresy!

TEACHER FIRED FOR NOT CALLING TRANSGENDER STUDENT BY “CORRECT” PRONOUN

(Friday Church News Notes, December 14, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Virginia high school teacher fired,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Dec. 6, 2018: “A Virginia high school teacher was fired Thursday for refusing to use a transgender student’s new pronouns, a case believed to be the first of its kind in the state. After a four-hour hearing, the West Point School Board voted 5-0 to terminate Peter Vlaming, a French teacher at West Point High School who resisted administrators’ orders to use male pronouns to refer to a ninth-grade student who had undergone a gender transition. The board met in closed session for nearly an hour before the vote. ... Vlaming, 47, who had taught at the school for almost seven years after spending more than a decade in France, told his superiors his Christian faith

prevented him from using male pronouns for a student he saw as female. The student’s family informed the school system of the transition over the summer. Vlaming said he had the student in class the year before when the student identified as female. Vlaming agreed to use the student’s new, male name. But he tried to avoid using any pronouns--he or him, and she or her--when referring to the student. ... Speaking in his own defense, Vlaming said he loves and respects all his students and had tried to reach a solution based on ‘mutual tolerance.’ That effort was rejected, he said, putting him at risk of losing his job for having views held by ‘most of the world for most of human history.’ ‘That is not tolerance,’ Vlaming said. ‘That is coercion. ... I am being punished for what I haven’t said.’ ... It’s not clear if Vlaming’s firing will lead to a wrongful-termination lawsuit. Vlaming said he was interested in pursuing a legal appeal, but he wanted to consult with his attorney before announcing further steps.”

GOOGLE’S “CREEPY LINE”

(Friday Church News Notes, December 14, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “The Creepy Line” by John Stossel, *Townhall.com*, Dec. 5, 2018: “[A] new documentary, ‘The Creepy Line,’ argues that companies like Google and Facebook lean left and have power they shouldn’t have. The title ‘Creepy Line’ refers to a comment by former Google chairman Eric Schmidt, who said when it comes to issues like privacy, Google policy ‘is to get right up to the creepy line but not cross it.’ But the



documentary argues that Google crosses that creepy line every day. Google’s power comes from its dominant search engine. We assume that whatever appears at the top of our searches is the ‘best’ or most popular result. But is it? ‘It is a company that has an agenda,’ the writer of ‘The Creepy Line,’ Peter Schweizer, says in my latest video. ... ‘Their ability to manipulate the algorithm is something that they’ve demonstrated,’ says Schweizer, and last election Google put positive stories about Hillary Clinton higher in Google searches. ... Human ‘content monitors’ do some of that censoring, and some of them despise conservatives. A former Facebook employee reported that the human censors sometimes ignored stories trending among Facebook users if the stories came from a conservative website. ... ‘The Creepy Line’ makes a compelling case that a small number of people at a few Silicon Valley companies have tremendous power to do creepy things.”

THE “WANDERING PEOPLE” RETURNING TO ISRAEL/SOCIAL MEDIA-POWERED HATE (Friday Church News Notes, December 14, 2018, www.wayoflife.org,





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

- The following is excerpted from "Europe Is Finished," *Times of Israel*, Dec. 6, 2018: "A top British lawyer and his partner immigrated to Israel this week, citing rising anti-Semitism in Europe. 'Europe in my view is finished. Every day you see people being attacked in one way or another across Europe,' Mark Lewis told Israel's Channel 10 news, which accompanied his arrival, together with partner Mandy Blumenthal, at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. 'You see people murdered in museums in Belgium, people murdered in schools in France, people attacked in England. There is only one place for Jewish people to go,' Lewis added. Lewis, 54, one of the UK's leading libel lawyers, said he has been increasingly subjected to hate speech and threats for being Jewish, including being subjected to regular abuse and death threats online. The decision to leave Britain did not come easily, the couple has said, but they feel it was inevitable. 'We're a wandering people, and it's time to wander again. People just don't want to see it,' Lewis said of his fellow British Jews. Lewis said while anti-Semitism was a fringe phenomenon in the past, it is has become more prominent due to social media. 'Social media has caused so much harm,' he said. 'Fifteen years ago there was still anti-Semitism but it was an obscure thing. Fifteen years

ago somebody painted a swastika on my garage door in Manchester, that was a message. But it was a one-off, it was something you could almost laugh off. Now with the effect of social media, it's almost every day.'"

A SKEPTIC'S ERROR - MINDS AREN'T COMPUTERS

(Friday Church News Notes, December 14, 2018, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- The following is excerpted from "A Skeptic Gets It Wrong," Tom Gilson, *The Stream*, Dec. 8, 2018: "A commenter who goes by 'swordfish' got human minds and thinking badly mixed up recently, claiming minds and computers are a lot alike. In a comment on last week's atheist meme article, he wrote, 1) Computers can process anything which can be represented in a computer's memory, which includes ideas. 2) The human brain could be said to be just processing electro-chemical reactions. Is he right? ... Now, as a Christian I'm committed to the belief that the physical world isn't all there is. God is spirit, and He has made us in His image, so that there's more to us than just the bodies we walk around in. But there are plenty of people who disagree. Like swordfish, they think all reality can be explained by matter, energy and the laws of nature by which they interact--just that, and nothing else. The problem is, if they're right, they're wrong. Or at least they have no reason to think they're right. There are many ways to show that's the case. One way is to run the comparison between human minds and computers, and see how it comes out. That's how I answered swordfish. ... Consider the statement, 'It's raining outside, therefore the roads will be wet.' Humans process that in terms of

ideas. We start with what we know about 'rain,' 'wet,' and 'road,' and we run through the logic in our minds. We reach our conclusion based on what the words mean, and based on reasons that connect them to each other. But what does a computer do? In raw terms, computers process voltages, which are purely electrical things, their status controlled by natural law. Some of those voltages are associated with terms like 'rain,' 'road,' and 'wet.' That's because hardware designers and programmers have designed computers so they can represent terms like that. But the computer doesn't have any idea what those words mean. It has no clue what 'wet' is, or any of the rest. So there's the first reason computers can't process ideas like humans do: Computers don't have ideas. They don't know meanings of words. They can only have voltage states, designed by humans to represent words. ... The computer doesn't think, 'the road must be wet because that's what happens when it rains.' It arrives at its output due to physical laws, not because of logical reasons. ... if swordfish is right, and if minds operate like computers, then minds don't operate according to reasons. And if minds don't operate according to reasons, then even swordfish has no reason to think he's got good reason to think what he thinks. Which is absurd. It's impossible. When a conclusion is that absurd, you know there's something wrong with the thinking that led to it."





CHURCH OF ENGLAND OFFERS BAPTISMAL-STYLE CEREMONY FOR TRANSGENDERS

(Friday Church News Notes, December 21, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Church of England," CNSNews.com, Dec. 13, 2018: "Proving that it is constantly transforming with the times, the Church of England has announced it will now offer baptism-style ceremonies for transgender persons, people who deny their biological sex--e.g., a man who claims he is a woman--and want to be 're-baptized' in their new sexual identity and new name. The Scripture teaches that God made us in His image, male and female, but the Church of England believes it can do better. The decision to offer the new 'Affirmation of Baptismal Faith' was decided by the House of Bishops in England on Monday, Dec. 3. ... [I]n the ceremony, 'the minister lays their hands on the candidate or candidates, addresses them by name, and prays for them,' reported *The Telegraph*. The Affirmation of Baptismal Faith enables people to 'renew the commitments made in baptism and in a public setting and provides space for those who have undergone a major transition to re-dedicate their life to Jesus Christ,' according to the bishops. Guidance for the Affirmation states, 'For a trans

person to be addressed liturgically by the minister for the first time by their chosen name may be a powerful moment in the service.' The guidance also clarifies that 'clergy are being told to call men by their new female names, and women by their new male names,' reported LifeSiteNews. ... Dr. Paul R. McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital and its current Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry, said that transgenderism is a 'mental disorder' that merits treatment, that sex change is 'biologically impossible,' and that people who promote sexual reassignment surgery are collaborating with and promoting a mental disorder. 'Sex change is biologically impossible,' said McHugh. 'People who undergo sex-reassignment surgery do not change from men to women or vice versa. Rather, they become feminized men or masculinized women. Claiming that this is a civil-rights matter and encouraging surgical intervention is in reality to collaborate with and promote a mental disorder.'"

LEADING COLLEGE FACULTY UNION SAYS BELIEF IN ONLY TWO GENDERS IS BASED ON "IDEOLOGY" (Friday Church News Notes, December 21, 2018, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Leading College Faculty," *Christian Post*, Dec. 12, 2018: "One of America's leading college faculty unions is decrying attempts to define gender as 'binary,' and claims that the Trump administration and the 'religious fundamentalists' who support such a definition are moved by ideology, not fact. The American Association of University Professors, which has 500 chapters and 39 state associations, released a statement last month titled 'The Assault on Gender and Gender Studies.' The statement, which was created by AAUP's subcommittee of Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure and the Committee on Women in the Academic Profession, railed against the Trump administration for considering a plan to define gender as a 'biological, immutable condition' defined by a person's sex at birth. The plan stoked fears that the word 'transgender' could be 'defined out of existence.' The AAUP statement also condemned Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán for issuing a decree prohibiting gender studies courses from being taught in universities throughout the country. The statement also went after administrations in Poland, Brazil and Bulgaria for 'attempts to refute the scholarly consensus that gender



identity is variable and mutable.’ ... AAUP claims that those ‘authoritarian efforts’ lead to a justification of ‘racial, class, and sexual policing that disciplines forms of kinship and homemaking.’ ‘Politicians and religious fundamentalists are neither scientists nor scholars,’ the AAUP statement asserts. ‘Their motives are ideological. It is they who are offering “gender ideology” by attempting to override the insights of serious scholars. By substituting their ideology for years of assiduous research, they impose their will in the name of a science that is without factual support. This is a cynical invocation of science for purely political ends.’ ... Despite accusing politicians and religious fundamentalists of having ideological motives with no ‘factual support,’ AAUP failed in its statement to provide any sort of citation to the ‘biologists, anthropologists, historians, and psychologists’ it relies on to form its own argument. Although the AAUP statement wants to present politicians and religious fundamentalists as the main purveyor of the argument against beliefs in mutable gender, doctors and academics are also calling on the Trump administration to define gender as a ‘biological, immutable condition.’”

PROMINENT DOCTORS SIGN “PETITION TO UPHOLD THE SCIENTIFIC DEFINITION OF SEX IN FEDERAL LAW AND POLICY” (Friday Church News Notes, December 21, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Prominent medical doctors and other educators have signed a “Petition to Uphold the Scientific



Definition of Sex in Federal Law and Policy.” It is addressed to the Trump administration. Following is an excerpt: “We, the undersigned medical, legal, and policy organizations and individuals applaud the Trump Administration’s intention to uphold the scientific definition of sex in federal law and policy, such that girls and women will regain their sex-based legal protections, and the human rights of all will be preserved. ... Not only is an expanded definition of sex unscientific, but it has also proven harmful, as we detail below. According to the Institute of Medicine, sex is a narrowly defined biological term. Sex is a biological trait that defines living things as male and female based on the complement of sex chromosomes and the presence of reproductive organs. ... Human sex is a binary, biologically determined, and immutable trait from conception forward. The norm for human design is to be conceived either male or female. Human sexuality is binary by design for the obvious purpose of the reproduction of our species. This principle is self-evident. ‘XY’ and ‘XX’ are genetic markers of male and female, respectively, and are found in every cell of the human body, including the brain. Sex is established at conception, declares itself in utero, and is acknowledged at birth. Sex differences are real and consequential. The Institute of Medicine recognized the singular

importance of sex to health and the field of medicine nearly two decades ago. Sex chromosomes impart innate differences between men and women in literally every cell of our bodies. There are over 6500 shared genes that are expressed differently in human males and females. These differences impact our brains, organ systems, propensity for developing certain diseases, differential responses to drugs, toxins and pain, differential cognitive and emotional processes, behavior and more. ... In reality, an individual who identifies as transgender remains either a biological male or female. ... Sex is not a spectrum; congenital disorders are not additional sexes. The final result of sex development in humans is unambiguously male or female over 99.98 percent of the time. ... The use of congenital disorders to advance the myth that there are a multitude of human sexes which exist on a spectrum is ideological and political activism, not science.” The petition has been signed by the chief officers of the American College of Pediatricians (Michelle Cretella, M.D. and Quentin Van Meter, M.D.), as well as many other medical doctors, psychiatrists, and law professors.

THE FALSE CLAIM THAT UPHOLDING SCIENTIFIC DEFINITION OF SEX INCREASES SUICIDE AMONG TRANSGENDER (Friday Church News Notes, December 21, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Petition to Uphold the Scientific Definition of Sex in Federal Law and Policy,” www.ipetitions.com, Dec. 4, 2018: “The claim that upholding the scientific definition of sex will



increase suicide among transgender identifying people is false. ... Sweden is a transgender affirming country that has adopted laws and policies conflating sex and gender-identity. Nevertheless, a study conducted by researchers there in 2011 found the rate of completed suicides among surgically ‘gender-affirmed’ adults to be 19 times greater than that of the

general population (“Long-Term Follow-Up of Transsexual Persons Undergoing Sex Reassignment Surgery: Cohort Study in Sweden,” *PloS One* 6, 2011). Clearly, transgender affirmation does not prevent suicide, and may paradoxically worsen the emotional health of these individuals in the long term.”

A TIME IS COMING (Friday Church News Notes, December 21, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “What a long, dreary night with what frightful disturbing nightmares, if I may so speak, has this world known since sin, with all of its

attendant evils, came in to wreck man’s hopes of joy and gladness! But how precious to know that evil shall not always have the upper hand; that a time is coming, aye, and is very near, when the curse will be lifted, the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the rose; even the lower creation will be changed and revert to former habits before sin entered, ‘the lion shall eat straw like the ox’ (Isaiah 11:7); the little child need not fear the most savage of beasts because they shall not hurt nor destroy in that day. Then government will be righteously regulated; abuses of every kind will be stopped, and for a thousand glorious years our Lord Himself shall reign in righteousness” (Harry A. Ironside).

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