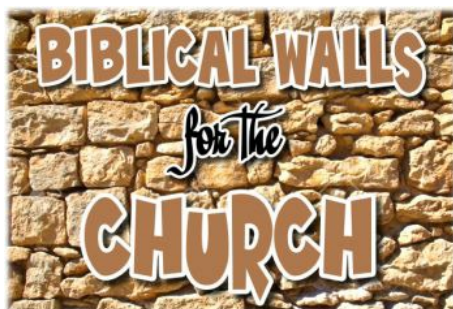


O Timothy

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 36 - Issue 4 - April 2019



"Every sane person understands the importance of walls in a fallen world. Walls are protection. Walls keep out things that shouldn't come in. The New Testament church needs walls, as well. These are spiritual walls. ... Biblical walls aren't harmful. They don't keep out those that God wants in. They help keep the church the pure lump that God has ordained" **Page 1.**

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



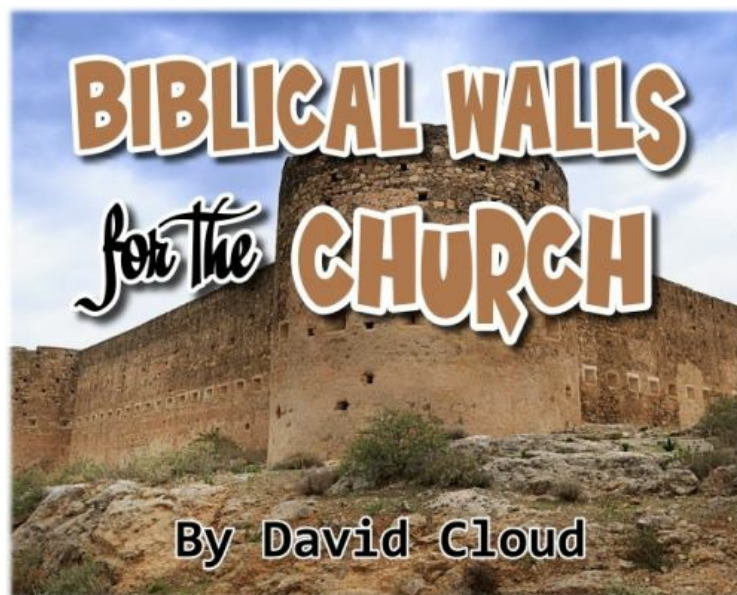
BIBLICAL WALLS FOR THE CHURCH ~ By David Cloud

There is a lot of talk about walls today, particularly President Donald Trump's plan to build an effective wall on America's southern border. That is a reasonable, common sense thing. Even the opponents of Trump's wall use walls. They have walls on their own property, with gates and doors and strong locks. Every sane person understands the importance of walls in a fallen world. Walls are protection. Walls keep out things that shouldn't come in.

The New Testament church needs walls, as well. These are spiritual walls.

We have five walls in our church.

First, we have the wall of the biblical standard for baptism. That is, primarily, the requirement of born again salvation (Ac. 2:42; 8:36-37). We aren't hasty in this matter. We do our best to baptize only those who give evidence of salvation (2 Co. 5:17; 1 Jo. 2:3-4). We make



sure that each person understands all points of the gospel (1 Co. 15:1-4). We don't baptize complete strangers; we want to know the individual well enough to discern if he

has been born again. We require that each baptismal candidate appear before the church leaders and their wives and give his or her testimony and answer any questions that might arise. We give opportunity for the church body to express any misgivings about the candidate's suitability.

Second, we have the wall of biblical standards for church membership. We are not in a hurry to receive members. A New Testament church is a spiritual body which should be composed of spiritual members. It is a spiritual temple built only with spiritual stones. The body and temple belongs to Christ, and He is the one who must add to it. The church's part is to discern Christ's will. We want to do our best to ascertain that the prospective member is born again (Ac. 2:41), a true disciple of Christ (Ac. 2:42; 1 Th. 1:9-10), likeminded with the church body (1 Co. 1:10), and that it is God's will for this individual to be a part of our congregation.

Third, we have the wall of biblical standards for those who participate in ministry (Ac. 6:3; 1 Co. 4:2; 2 Co. 8:22; 1 Ti. 3:8-13). We want every minister—whether usher or musician, Sunday School teacher or public Bible reader—to have a good testimony and to be a good spiritual example, knowing that they will have a large influence on the body itself and that they will affect the church's testimony before the world.

**O TIMOTHY Magazine
Volume 36 Issue 4**

David W. Cloud, Editor
Subscription information on
back page of the magazine

Copyright 2011 by D.W.Cloud
Way of Life Literature
PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
48061

866-295-4143 (toll free)

fbns@wayoflife.org

<http://www.wayoflife.org>

Bethel Baptist Church
4212 Campbell St. N.
London, Ontario, N6P 1A6 Canada
519-652-2619

Fourth, we have the wall of biblical standards for ordination to leadership (1 Ti. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9). Nothing is more important than ordaining the right leaders in the churches, as “everything rises and falls on leadership.” God emphasizes this by the high standards listed in the Pastoral Epistles and by the fact that these standards are repeated.

Fifth, we have the wall of discipline. When a member ceases to be faithful or ceases to have the moral testimony that God requires, we raise up the wall of discipline to keep them out until they show true repentance for restoration (Mt. 18:15-17; 1 Co. 5).

Biblical walls aren't harmful. They don't keep out those that God wants in. They help keep the church the pure lump that God has ordained.

“Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth” (1 Co. 5:6-8).

I love our walls! It took me a long time to understand this matter properly, because church tradition is so strongly established and non-critically accepted.

It wasn't that long ago that I asked the Lord if it would be acceptable to Him if we required faithfulness of *all* of the members. The answer was Acts 2:41-42. Not only is it acceptable to God if we require this, it is highly displeasing to Him if we don't, because this has been the clear standard of God's Word for 2,000 years.

We have a lot of visitors in our church services. We have visitors who do not profess to be saved, and we have visitors who have been members of other churches.

Because of our walls, we can relax, so to speak, and minister to the visitors, knowing that we have biblical walls to keep the church from being so easily corrupted.

(For more on this, see [The Discipling Church](#), available from www.wayoflife.org.)

DON'T assume that your congregants are SAVED

By David Cloud

A church member recently told me, “One reason I like your preaching is that you always preach something for the unsaved.”

I first learned that from the late Bruce Lackey, who was the Dean of the Bible School at Tennessee Temple in the 1970s. He preached the gospel in every message. I haven’t always done that, but he did, and the older I get the more consistently I follow his example.

Even in the Wednesday evening services, Dr. Lackey would preach the gospel in the midst of or at the conclusion of his Bible messages. He did that when he preached through the Psalms on Wednesdays.

Invariably there are unsaved people in a congregation. There are unregenerate children and youth, visitors, and those who have made professions of faith but who have not been born again.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones explained the reason why he always preached the gospel:

“The main danger confronting the pulpit in this matter is to assume that all who claim to be Christians, and who think they are Christians, and who are members of the Church, are therefore of necessity Christians. ... This is dangerous and wrong for this reason, that if you assume that, you will tend therefore, in all your services, to preach in a manner suited to Christian believers. Your messages will always be instructional, and the evangelistic element and note will be neglected, perhaps, almost entirely.

“This is a very great and grievous fallacy. let me give you reasons for saying that.

“I would start with my own personal experience. For many years I thought I was a Christian when in fact I was not. It was only later that I came to see that I had never been a Christian and became one. But I was a member of a church and attended my church and its services regularly.

“So anybody assuming, as most preachers did, that I was a Christian was making a false assumption. It was not a true assessment of my condition. [I was received into the Church because I could give the right answers to various set questions; but I was never questioned or examined in an experimental sense.]

“What I needed was preaching that would convict me of sin and make me see my need, and bring me to true repentance and tell me something about regeneration. But I never heard that.

“The preaching we had was always based on the assumption that we were all Christians, that we would not have been there in the congregation unless we were Christians. This, I think, has been one of the cardinal errors of the Church especially in this present century.

“But this has been reinforced many times in my experience as a preacher and as a pastor. I think I can say quite accurately that my most common experience in conversation with people who have come to me in my vestry to discuss the questions of becoming

members of the church, has been this. I have questioned them as to why they want to become members, and what their experience is and so on.

“The commonest answer I have had, particularly in London for over thirty years, has been something like this. These people--and quite frequently they were either undergraduates or young graduates--would tell me that they came up to London to the University from their home churches fully believing that they were Christians. They had no doubt about that, and either they had asked their home church, before coming up to London, where they should go on Sundays, or else they had been referred to us by their home church.

“They went on to tell me that having come in that way, and having listened to the preaching, and especially on Sunday nights, when, as I have already said my preaching was invariably evangelistic, the first thing they discovered was that they had never been Christians at all and that they were living on a false assumption.

“At first, some of them were honest enough to confess, they had been rather annoyed at this. They did not like it, and they had resented it; but that was the fact. Then, realising that though they did not like it, that this was the truth, they continued to come.

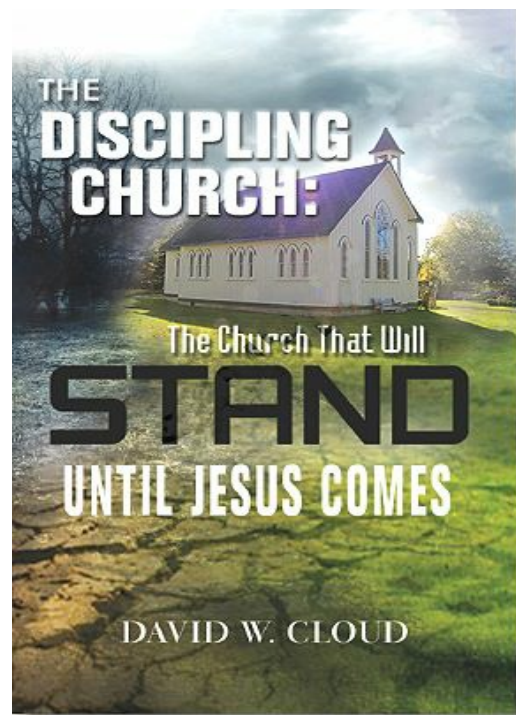
“This might go on perhaps for months, and they would pass through a period of repentance in great trouble about their souls. They were afraid to trust almost anything because, having previously assumed wrongly that they were Christians, they were now afraid of repeating the same error.

“Then eventually they had come to see the truth clearly and had experienced its power and become truly Christian.

“That has been my commonest experience in the ministry. It shows the complete and dangerous fallacy of assuming that anybody who comes to a service regularly must be a Christian” (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers*, 1971, pp. 146, 147).

The Discipling Church: The Church That Will Stand Until Jesus Comes

by David W. Cloud



This book aims to help the church planter establish churches on a solid biblical foundation and it exhorts the pastors of existing churches to move forward in their establishment of a Biblical church.

The keys are a regenerate church membership, one mind in doctrine and practice, serious discipleship, thorough-going discipline, and a large vision for world evangelism.

We examine the New Testament pattern of a discipling church, and we trace the history of Baptist churches over the past 200 years to document the apostasy away from the biblical pattern to a mixed multitude philosophy. We also document the history of “sinner’s prayer” evangelism which has affected the reality of a regenerate church membership.

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



The following is enlarged from “Training for Song Leaders.”

Available at: <https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/training-for-song-leaders.php>

Too many churches are stuck in a rut with their song services. “Victory in Jesus” is a wonderful song, but when it is sung every week for fifty years, even a wonderful song can grow tiresome! There are hundreds of songs in the traditional sacred hymnbooks, but many churches sing only a few of them. Variety is the spice of life. The largest book in the Bible is Psalms, and God has provided 150 different psalms in this inspired hymnal.

Suggestions for Introducing Variety into a Song Service

New songs should be introduced regularly and then sung frequently until they become an integral part of the church family’s ever-enlarging song repertoire.

One of the best hymnals with the largest selection of songs that we have seen in one volume is *SONGS AND HYMNS OF REVIVAL*. It is published by North Valley Publications, Santa Clara, CA (We don’t recommend the music published by Golden State Baptist College.)

Majesty Music’s hymnal *Majesty Hymns* contains many beautiful songs which were written in the last few decades. (We don’t recommend Majesty Music’s latest hymnal *Rejoice Hymns*, as it contains many contemporary worship songs by Getty/Townend and

others. It is sad to see Majesty Music moving in this direction.) This music is contemporary in the sense that it is new but it is not contemporary in style.

Pastor David Earnhart says: “For many years we have used the Chorus of the Month. And don’t forget the ‘old songs.’ I have often used songs like ‘Thank You Lord for Saving My Soul.’ Last year many raised their hands to indicate they did not know that song (even if it was ‘old hat’ to us old-timers!). This brings new Christians into the ‘common fold’ of music shared by Christians over many miles, and even generations.”

Pastor Don Williams, Believers Baptist Church in Winona Lake, Indiana, says: “As for learning new songs, my family regularly picks out a new song from our hymnal and works on learning it for a couple weeks. Then we introduce it to the congregation as a special and begin to sing it in the song services. Our church has learned a lot of new songs that way.”

Singing Scripture is a wonderful way to praise the Lord and edify the saints. During the Sunday evening services, for example, some churches sing Scripture songs. Two sources for these are North County Baptist Church, 221 W. 9th Ave., Escondido, CA 92027 and Tri-City Baptist Church, 4500 Selsa Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015.

Not only do these introduce variety within the music program, but nothing surpasses the actual words and verses of Scripture for doctrinal purity.

Even the most familiar songs can be made more interesting by an imaginative change in the manner of presentation. There are endless means of singing old songs in new ways (without going contemporary).

- (1) Musicians can drop out while the congregation sings A Capello.
- (2) One verse can be sung by the women, the next by the men.
- (3) One verse can be sung by the young people, another by the old people.
- (4) The choir, singing group, or soloist can be accompanied by the congregation in places.
- (5) An instrument can play the first stanza and chorus and then the congregation can come in and sing.
- (6) The timing of the song can be altered.
- (7) The chorus can be sung with a little more enthusiasm and volume as the song progresses.
- (8) Some songs can be sung as a round (e.g., Mat. 6:33).
- (9) Some stanzas or the chorus can be slowed down in tempo to allow the people to better think about the words.

Once a month our church has a song service in which the people take turns quoting or reading a favorite verse and then choosing a hymn. We sing the first two stanzas of the hymns to allow more people to participate.

The song service can be spiced up with the multiplication of musical instruments. Some of the most enjoyable song services I have participated in have been those accompanied by small orchestras. The *Majesty Hymnal* offers complete orchestrations for each song in the volume.

There can be a focus on worship songs in some services, and the song leader can work toward getting the people to really worship the Lord by singing the songs to the Lord from the heart.

Hymns directed to the Lord include the following:

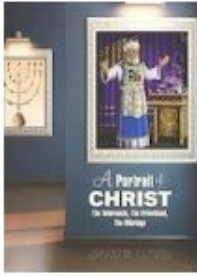
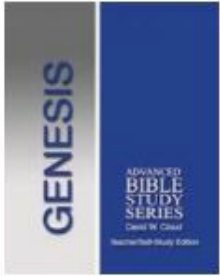

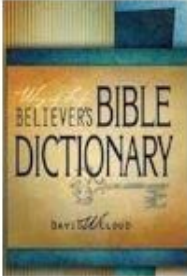
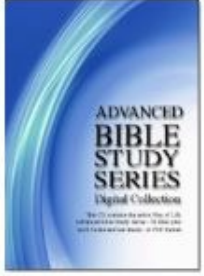
- Come, Thou Almighty King
- Come, Thou Fount I Need Thee Every Hour
- Draw Me Nearer
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- Jesus, I Am Resting
- Jesus, Lover of My Soul
- Jesus! the Very Thought of Thee
- Lead Me to Calvary
- More Love to Thee
- My Jesus, I Love Thee
- O to Be Like Thee!
- Our Great Savior
- Rock of Ages
- Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
- Take My Life and Let It Be
- To God Be the Glory

Some hymns are a combination of singing to the brethren and singing directly to the Lord. Examples are “Day by Day,” “Living for Jesus,” and “I’m Pressing on the Upward Way.”

Way of Life Literature

Publisher of Bible Study Materials

[Home ▼](#)
[Reports ▼](#)
[Store ▼](#)
[Free eBooks](#)
[Free Videos](#)
[Friday News](#)
[O Timothy](#)

Mary's Song

By David Cloud



The following is excerpted from Woman and Her Service for God, a training course available from Way of Life Literature.

Luke 1:46-55

This is the hymn of a woman. It flows from a woman's heart. It is recorded in Scripture because it pleased God. Mary honored God, and God honored Mary.

This song is permeated with exaltation of God and humility of spirit.

The language is so exalted, so simple yet powerful, so instructive, so interesting, so perfectly fitted to its exalted subject.

It is obvious that Mary was full of God's Word, the Scriptures.

Again the saintly women of Israel were literate and educated in the Scriptures. This is in contrast to the women of most ancient pagan nations.

Mary's thinking was controlled by the Bible. She was renewed in her mind by the power of God's Word. She did not think like the world; God's thoughts were her thoughts.

Mary knew the Bible's teaching about God's character. She knew the Bible's teaching about God's covenants with Israel. She knew the Bible's teaching about the Messiah and how that He will bless those who fear Him and scatter the proud and rule forever.

Mary magnified the Lord (Lu. 1:46).

This is man's chief purpose. This is the most exalted and beautiful thing man and woman can do.

She magnified the Lord with her soul. Here, the term "soul" refers to the whole man. Sometimes "soul" refers to the part of man that is "soulish" or associated with his emotions and appetites, but sometimes, as here, it refers to the whole person. Compare Ge. 2:7; Le. 17:12. Mary is saying that she magnified the Lord with her whole heart, soul, and might (De. 6:5).

Mary called God her Saviour (Lu. 1:47).

She was a sinner saved by grace. The Roman Catholic dogma of "immaculate conception" is a gross heresy which is a direct assault on the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Rome's Mary is the devil's Mary. Rome's Mary suffered with Christ, is co-redemptress with Christ, is immaculate, is a Mediatrix. She is full of grace. She is the loving person who brings the sinner to the stern Christ. How blasphemous and foolish!

Mary knew God. He was her Saviour. She loved Him.

Mary expressed her humility (Lu. 1:48).

Humility is a wonderful thing. It brings salvation. It is the essence of repentance. When the sinner humbles himself before God's majesty and acknowledges his sin against God's holy law and submits to God's authority, that is biblical repentance, and repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus Christ is salvation (Acts 20:21).

Humility also pleases God and gets His attention and blessing (Isa. 66:2). Humility allows the saint to dwell with God in His high and holy place (Isa. 57:15).

Mary knew that all generations would call her blessed (Lu. 1:48).

She knew the prophecies. She knew that she was involved in really big, eternal things. She knew that she had been chosen to be someone very special and that

she would hold a unique position in human history forever.

Mary glorified God for His goodness to her (Lu. 1:48-49).

Mary was thankful. She did not take God's blessings for granted. She did not presume to enjoy God's blessings without praising Him for them.

Mary knew God's character.

It is obvious that Mary meditated on God and His glorious character. She was not a mere hearer of the Word. She didn't hear the words of Scriptures read in the synagogue each sabbath and then forget them. She was a young woman who meditated on God's Word, and we will see that this characterized her entire life.

- She knew that God is mighty (Lu. 1:49).
- She knew that God is holy (Lu. 1:49).
- She knew that God is merciful (Lu. 1:50).
- She knew that God is a God of judgment against sin (Lu. 1:51-52).
- She knew that God loves to fill the hungry with good things (Lu. 1:53).
- She knew that God is faithful to keep His promises (Lu. 1:54-55).
- She knew that God speaks to man; He is a Person who reveals Himself (Lu. 1:55).

Mary knew that God is to be feared (Lu. 1:49).

God is to be loved, but first He is to be feared, and the right love of God includes the fear of God. He is God, and He is still God to the believer, though the believer is in Christ, adopted, accepted in the beloved, a joint heir with Christ. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Heb. 12:28).

Mary prophesied of the Messiah's coming kingdom (Lu. 1:51-55).

These things had not happened in Mary's day and they have not happened until today. This is not poetry or flowery language. These are real future events.

God will scatter the proud (Lu. 1:51). Mary is referring to the Day of the Lord, the day when God will be

exalted and prideful, rebellious man abased. Pride was the original sin of the devil (1 Ti. 3:6; Isa. 14:13-14). It is the sin of all men who rebel against God and His laws. Pride is a characteristic of the fallen flesh (Mr. 7:21-22). The pride of life is a major trait of this fallen world system (1 Jo. 2:16). Pride will be a chief characteristic of the antichrist (Re. 13:5-6). And pride will characterize those nations that join the antichrist in his ventures against God. But God will judge man's pride in the day of the Lord. See Isa. 2:12; 13:10; Mal. 4:1.

God will put down the mighty from their seats and exalt them of low degree (Lu. 1:52). Hannah also prophesied of this (1 Sa. 2:4, 8). The wicked who hold power in this present world will be overthrown, and the humble saints in Christ will rule and reign with Him. Compare Job 34:24-28; Ps. 37:1-20; 107:40-41; 113:6-8; Da. 2:44-45; Eze. 17:24; Mt. 5:3-10; Re. 2:26-27; 3:21.

God will fill the hungry with good things (Lu. 1:53). Christ explained that this refers to the poor in spirit, to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness (Mt. 5:3, 6). It refers to the saved. They will be filled with "good things." Yea, every good thing and forever. They will be filled with joy unspeakable (sorrow and sadness having fled away) and praise. They will be filled with holy and lovely music. They will be filled with a bounty of every delightful thing in a world that is a new Eden, delicious food, gorgeous flowers, lovely trees, clean flowing rivers, the antics of harmless animals, the unspeakable glory of Christ's capital city. The prophets describe these "good things" in great detail. See the study on Christ's kingdom in *The Future According to the Bible*, available from Way of Life Literature.

God will send away the rich empty (Lu. 1:53). Those who are rich in the present world but do not honor and serve God's Christ will be empty then. They will have less than nothing in the lake of fire.

God will help Israel (Lu. 1:54-55).

God will help Israel because of His covenants, which will be literally and completely fulfilled. God will help Israel by converting her and giving her spiritual life and a new heart to love Him supremely and forever (Jer. 31:31-34). He will help Israel by defeating all her enemies (Zec. 14:1-5). He will help Israel by exalting her as the chief nation of a global kingdom.



The cuckoo is the common name for a family of birds (scientific name Cuculidae) that has about 60 members.

There is a large variety. While most are dove-sized, they can range in size from 6.5 to 36 inches; and while the most common are blue gray and brown, some are iridescent blue and emerald green. All have long tails, usually with the individual feathers tipped with white.

The most common is the *Cuculus canorus*, known simply as the “cuckoo,” the “European cuckoo,” and the “common cuckoo.” The male’s wings, back, and tail are dark gray or bluish gray; its neck, breast, and head are light gray; its eyes are red, and its feet are orange. Its belly is white with dark stripes or bars. The female comes in two varieties. One looks like the male, except its belly is buff colored rather than white. The other is reddish brown and often covered with dark bars.

The bird’s name derives from the “cuck-oo” sound it makes. Some can drive their human neighbors near crazy with their endless cuckooing.

Cuckoos love hairy caterpillars, but before eating them they shake the toxins out of the creature.

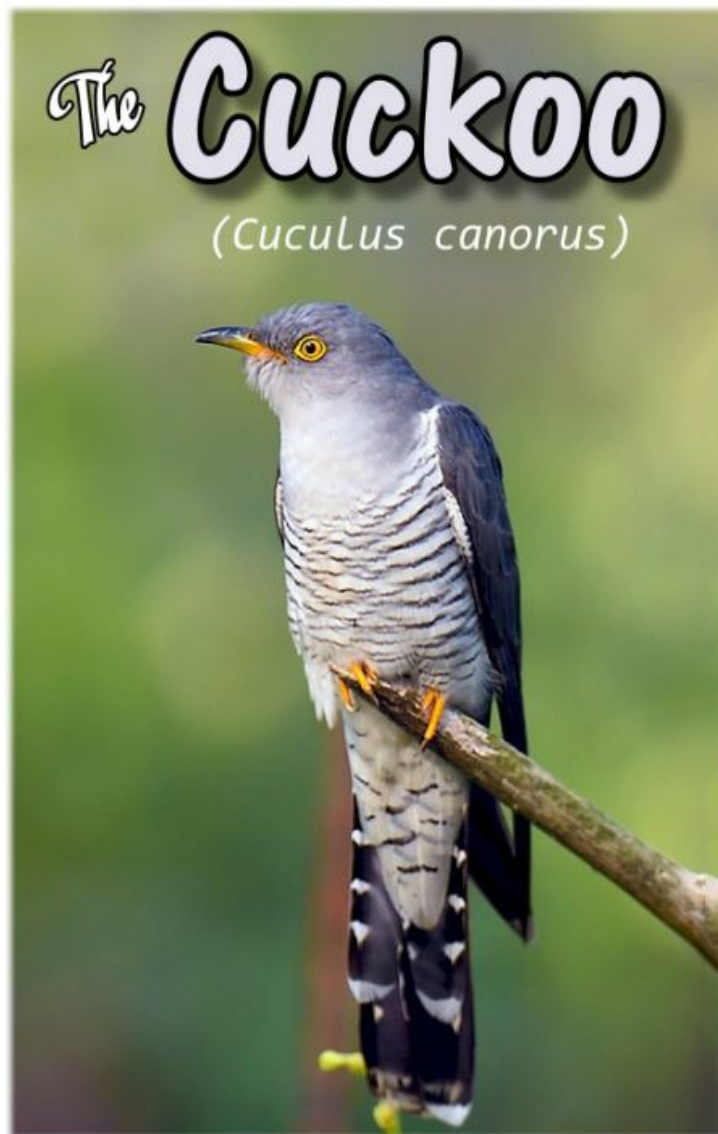
Brood Parasitism

The most famous or infamous characteristic of the cuckoo is called brood parasitism, which means they lay their eggs in the nests of other types of birds.

This amazing process involves many things.

There is perfect timing. “A female will establish a territory encompassing a number of potential foster nests, and carefully observe activity, waiting until the nests are at the right stage. She then swiftly takes her chance, swooping down, ejecting an egg and laying one of her own” (“Cuckoo,” Arkive.org). It only takes the female cuckoo 10 seconds to eat the host egg and to lay her own in its place! Obviously she can lay her eggs at will.

There is egg mimicry. The female cuckoo produces eggs that mimic those of the selected host. Thus



various cuckoos are capable of producing a variety of eggs of differing appearance. The cuckoo prefers the nests of meadow pipits, dunnocks, and warblers, though 50 foster species are known. The female cuckoo will lay about a dozen eggs in different nests each season.

There is mimicry of the hawk. “Some species of *Cuculus* resemble certain bird-eating hawks (*Accipiter*) in appearance and mannerisms, apparently frightening the potential host and allowing the cuckoo to approach the nest unmolested” (“Cuckoo,” *Encyclopedia Britannica*).

There is the removal of host eggs and nestlings by the baby cuckoo. The cuckoo hatches a half-day before the other eggs, and immediately after hatching, while it is still blind and featherless, the rogue baby cuckoo rids

itself of competition by pushing the host's eggs and baby birds from the nest.

There is mimicry of the host nestlings chirp by the baby cuckoo. The cuckoo nestling eats four times as much as baby warblers, and it tricks the hosts into feeding it as much as they would normally feed multiple of their own chicks. Dr. Nicholas Davies of the University of Cambridge, Britain's foremost expert on the cuckoo, says, "The cuckoo chick has this amazing begging call. It sounds like a whole brood of hungry chicks" ("The secret crimes of the cuckoo," Countryfile.com, May 26, 2009). "As the chick gets older the intensity of its begging cry increases to make the hosts work harder."

Migration

After the cuckoo lays all of her eggs, it flies 12,000 miles to Africa, crossing the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert in the process. After the baby cuckoo hatches and is raised by an adopted parent, it flies 12,000 miles to join the parents it has never seen at a place it has never been ("Cuckoos," *The Atlas of Bird Migration*). One cuckoo that was tagged with a solar-powered satellite tracking device in 2011 flew 45,000 miles in three years, migrating from England to Angola. The birds usually spend only a few weeks in Africa before heading north again.

Lessons from the Cuckoo

For one thing, the cuckoo and all of its amazing attributes is witness to the existence of an Almighty, all-wise Creator.

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

Consider the bird's living cell with its DNA and amazing biological machinery to read the DNA's information and convert it to a living, reproducing creature.

Consider the bird's ability to fly and all of the components required for that. Just one flight feather is

composed of more than one million individual parts made up of billions of cells perfectly organized into a marvel of design.

Consider the bird's eyesight, hearing, digestive system, survival ability.

Consider its reproduction system, which even unsaved Darwinists call "the miracle of life."

Consider the bird's amazing environment. It is but one tiny part of a gigantic, integrated system that make's life possible on earth.

For another thing, the cuckoo testifies of man's fall.

The creation is for man's enjoyment and also for man's understanding. It is a divine revelation. The Bible says man should learn spiritual principles from the animal and plant life.

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest" (Proverbs 6:6-8).

Here, the lesson is the positive.

In the case of the cuckoo, it appears to be largely negative. The cuckoo is a liar!

We don't know, of course, to what extent the cuckoo's behavior has been changed by the Fall, but its actions are a loud warning to men about God's moral law and divine retribution. The Bible warns men that all liars will be punished.

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8)

The only place of redemption and safety is in Jesus Christ, the Creator who came to earth to save men from their sins.



Honor killing is defined by the Human Rights Watch as “acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonor upon the family.” These are very common in the Middle East and Turkey.

According to the United Nations, 5,000 females are murdered every year (“Murder in the Family,” *Fox News*, July 26, 2008). The perpetrators usually get off scot free or with a light sentence.

Islamic apologists pretend that honor killings are “cultural” rather than a product of Islam, but *Jihad Watch* reports that in 2003 the Jordanian Parliament voted down ON ISLAMIC GROUNDS a provision designed to stiffen penalties for honor killings, and *Al-Jazeera* reported that “Islamists and conservatives said the laws violated religious traditions and would destroy families and values” (“Muslim Ran Down Daughter,” *Jihad Watch*, Oct. 22, 2009).

Honor killings are on the rise in the United States.

The first documented case was in November 1989, when Zein Isa, a Palestinian terrorist living in St. Louis, murdered his 16-year-old daughter, Tina, for having a boyfriend, going to a school dance, and applying to work at Wendy’s restaurant. Her mother held her down while her father plunged a 9-inch knife into her chest 13 times, the mother shouting “Shut up!” in response to the girl’s pleas for help (Ellen Harris, *Guarding the Secrets: Palestinian Terrorism and a Father’s Murder of His Too-American Daughter*, 1995).

In April 2004, Ismail Peltek of Rochester, New York, murdered his wife and fractured the skulls of his daughters because he was “concerned that my family’s

honor was taken” (*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*, April 24, 2004).

In January 2008, teenage sisters Amina and Sarah Said were shot to death in Irving, Texas, by their father, Yaser Abdel Said. Their great aunt, Gail Gartrell, told reporters, “This was an honor killing” (“Honor Killing in Texas,” *Human Events*, Jan. 8, 2008). The mother says that Yaser killed them because they were dating non-Muslim boys (“Honor Killing Dad Secretly Taped Girls,” *Fox News*, Aug. 6, 2010). Yaser Said vanished the night of the murders.

In July 2008, Chaudhry Rashid strangled his daughter to death in Jonesboro, Georgia, “to restore the family’s honor” after she wanted to end her arranged marriage.

That same month, in upper state New York, 22-year-old Waheed Mohammad attempted to murder his sister for wearing western clothing. He explained the stabbing by saying that she was “a bad Muslim girl” (“An American Honor Killing,” *New York Post*, July 23, 2008).

In February 2009, Muzzammil Hassan beheaded his wife, Aasiya, in upstate New York after she filed for divorce. Phyllis Chesler, author of “Are Honor Killings Simply Domestic Violence,” said, “The fierce and gruesome nature of this murder signals it’s an honor killing” (“Beheading Appears to Be Honor Killing, Experts Say,” *Fox News*, Feb. 17, 2009).

In October 2009, police in Peoria, Arizona, reported that Faleh Hassan Almaleki ran over his daughter because she was becoming too “westernized” (“Police: Strict Iraqi Father Ran Daughter Down,” *myfoxphoenix.com*, Oct. 22, 2009). Noor, the twenty-

year-old woman, was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries and died a couple of weeks later. It had all of the appearances of an “honor killing.”

Recent honor killings in other Western nations include the following:

In August 2010, a Turkish man beat his 20-year-old daughter, Gulsum Semin, to death with a club in **GERMANY**. The assistant in the terrible deed was the girl’s own twin brother (“Honour Killing: Father Beat Daughter in Face with Club,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, Aug. 8, 2010). The young woman had recently had an abortion.

In 2009, Mohammad Shafia was charged with murdering his three teenage daughters (Zainab, Sahari, and Geeti) and his first wife, Rona, in Montreal, **CANADA**. Also charged was Mohammad’s son. The women were found in a car submerged in a canal. Rona’s brother and sister have testified that it was an honor killing (“More on the Canadian Honor Killings,” *Atlas Shrugged*, July 24, 2009). When the case came to trial in October 2011, the *National Post* observed: “It’s the Canadian Maple Leaf that flies high over the picturesque locks at Kingston Mills near this historic city, but on the night of June 30, 2009, it might just as well have been the black-red-and-green flag of Afghanistan, with its sacred line proclaiming the greatness of Allah. What happened at the locks that night, Crown prosecutors alleged in Ontario Superior Court Thursday, was a so-called ‘honour killing’” (“Afghan Custom behind Canal Killings,” Oct. 21, 2011).

In 2008 in **AUSTRALIA**, a Muslim man, assisted by his three brothers, shot his daughter to death. They first shot Pela Atroshi twice in the back in an upstairs room. Her mother and sister helped her down the stairs to the lower level, but the men pursued and while the severely wounded girl pled for her life her youngest uncle shot her in the head (“Honor Killing in Australia,” *Jihad Watch*, April 2008).

In June 2007, a **BRITISH** court found Mahmud Mahmud guilty of murdering his 20-year-old daughter Banaz. She was strangled with a boot lace, stuffed into

a suitcase, and buried in a garden. The killing stemmed from her father’s hatred of her Western ways and non-approved boyfriend. An uncle assisted in the murder. Her life had been threatened since her teenage years. Once she ran away from home, but she agreed to come back after her father sent an audio tape warning that he would kill her sisters and mother if she did not return. More than 100 homicides are under investigation as potential honor killings in British (“British Court Finds Muslim Father Guilty,” *Fox News*, June 11, 2007).

Because of an upsurge in Islamic murders in India, the nation’s home minister proposed in August 2010 a new law “to provide specific, severe penalties to curb honour killings” (“India Proposes New Law,” *Yahoo*, Aug. 5, 2010).

A study found that as many as 900 honor killings are committed each year in the three northern Indian states of Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh.

In Pakistan, about 1,000 honor killings are recorded annually, but the number is likely much higher (“Afzal Kohistani: ‘Honour killing’ whistleblower shot dead,” *BBC News*, Mar. 7, 2019).

Two families were nearly wiped out after a video was posted online in 2011 of two men dancing at a wedding as four women sing a song. A younger female member of the women’s family is also in the scene. The five females were subsequently killed by male members of the family who believed that their “honor” had been breached. When Afzal Kohistani, the older brother of the two men in the video, broke with local tradition and brought the case to national attention in 2012, he and his family became a target. His house was firebombed, three of his brothers were murdered, and he lived in constant danger. In March 2019, Kohistani was shot to death in broad daylight in spite of widespread media attention. Though honor killing is illegal in Pakistan, the police and the courts cannot protect those who are targeted.

The Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organization says, “We’re seeing an increase around the world, due in part to the rise in Islamic fundamentalism.”

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?



POPE AND GRAND IMAM JOIN HANDS FOR WORLD PEACE

(Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- On February 4, Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Ahmed el-Tayeb signed the **DOCUMENT ON HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE** in Abu Dhabi. It is based on the doctrine of the universal Fatherhood of God. The pope said the document "is born of faith in God who is the Father of all and the Father of peace" ("Pope: Peace document born of God," Vatican News, Feb. 5, 2019). The document "invites all persons who have faith in God and faith in human fraternity to unite and work together so that it may serve as a guide for future generations to advance a culture of mutual respect in the awareness of the great divine grace that makes all human beings brothers and sisters." The Grand Imam of al-Azhar, who is based in Egypt, holds a prominent position in the Sunni branch of Islam. This is the latest step toward a one-world religion and is further preparation for the coming Antichrist's peace pact.

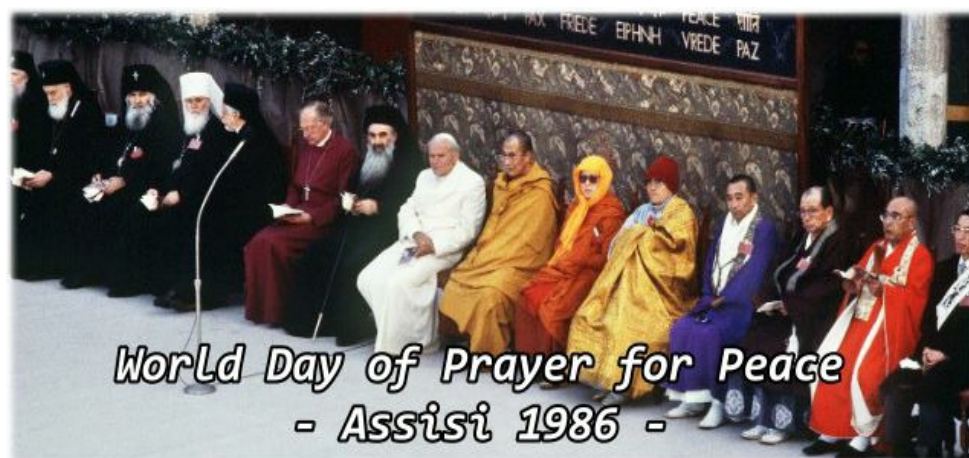
The first major move toward this was the **FIRST PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS** in Chicago in 1893. This was the first formal

gathering of representatives of Christianity and eastern religions. Hindu swami Vivekananda was given a three-minute standing ovation when he got up to speak. He urged the crowd to reject the "demons" of "sectarianism, bigotry, and fanaticism," so that human society could advance and the world could be filled with peace and blessing.

A WORLD CONGRESS OF FAITHS, held in London in 1936, was organized by the famous British explorer-soldier Francis Younghusband who believed that there is a "divine spark" within man and called God "the Central Spirit of Things" (Marcus Braybrooke, *A Wider Vision: A History of the World Congress of Faiths*, 1936-96).

THE TEMPLE OF UNDERSTANDING was established in 1960 by Juliet Hollister to "create a more just and peaceful world." Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the U.S. president, was an active supporter and called it a "Spiritual United Nations." The Temple of Understanding is closely affiliated with the United Nations and hosted the UN's 50th anniversary celebration in 1995. Its offices are located in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, a radically liberal Episcopal church.

THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL, which was held 1962-65, opened the doors for Roman Catholic involvement in interfaith dialogue. Vatican II announced that “whatever is true or good or noble among other peoples or religions owes its origin finally to God.” Vatican II stated that people in other religions can be saved by their “faith,” but it also reaffirmed its belief that the Roman Catholic Church is the true church.



In 1964 the Vatican established the **PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE**. Roman Catholic interfaith dialogue was shaped by Cardinal Francis Arinze during his presidency from 1984 to 2002. Over the years he sent “fraternal” greetings to and facilitated dialogue with every sort of religionist, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Janist, Animist, whatever. In 1988 Arinze said, “Every human being is looking for God,” and, “The Christian should take notice of the beautiful elements in the religion of the other person” (Arinze interview with Ralph Rath, “Mutual Respect,” *A.D. 2000 Together*, Fall 1988, p. 7).

In 1965, the leaders of seven world religions came together in San Francisco for a **CONVOCATION OF RELIGION FOR WORLD PEACE**. Pope Paul VI sent his blessing and the UN Secretary-General U Thant participated in person.

On October 1986, Pope John Paul II held the first **DAY OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE** in Assisi, Italy. Its objective is to find world peace through interfaith unity: “peace within the church and peace with all mankind.” The 160 participants included leaders from 32 Christian

denominations and organizations and 11 non-Christian religions. The prayers included petitions to “the Great Thumb” by an African tribal animist and to “mother earth” by a Crow medicine man (“A Summit for Peace in Assisi,” *Time* magazine, Nov. 10, 1986).

In 1988, the **COUNCIL FOR A PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS (CPWR)** was formed to “cultivate harmony between the world’s religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its other guiding institutions in order to achieve a peaceful, just, and sustainable world.” It is intended to be a continuation of the first Parliament of World Religions of 1893. The CPWR has sponsored interfaith Parliaments in 1993 in Chicago; in 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa; in 2004 in Barcelona, Spain; in 2009 in Melbourne, Australia; in 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah; and in 2018 in Toronto.

In November 1994, Pope John Paul II hosted the **WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE**. It was the first official interfaith conference at the Vatican and the theme was “Healing the World: Religions for Peace.”

In 1995, the **UNITED RELIGIONS ORGANIZATION** was founded by Episcopalian priest William Swing, Communist Mikhail Gorbachev, and others. The announcement for the new organization was made at a syncretistic service held at the Grace Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco. Alan Jones, dean of the cathedral, said the service was “a summons to the great religious traditions of the world to be in deeper conversation with each other ... as workers for peace, as guarantors of the sacredness of the earth” (*San Francisco Chronicle*, June 26, 1995). In his book *Reimagining Christianity*, Jones calls the doctrine of the cross a “vile doctrine.” Prayers and chants were offered to a dozen deities. During the service, children mingled water from over 30 “sacred waters” from around the world, including the Ganges, Amazon, Jordan, and Lourdes, to signify world unity. As the waters were poured into one bowl a children’s choir sang a dirge from the *Missa Gaia*, an earth-worshipping concert originally commissioned by the St. John the Divine Episcopal Cathedral in New York City. Swing said, “We are on the threshold of the first global civilization.”

The **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**, which was formed in

1948 and represents roughly 340 denominations, is deeply involved in interfaith activities. In 1978 its Ecumenical Prayer Cycle included this syncretistic prayer: "O God, the Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Parent: thou who art to us both Father and Mother: We who are thy children draw around thy lotus feet to worship thee. Thy compassion is as the fragrance of the lotus. ... We see thy compassion in Jesus. He gives content to the Hindu name for thee -- Siva, the Kindly One. He gives significance to the Muslim address of thee -- Allah, the Merciful. He embodies in the Godhead what the Buddhist worship in the Buddha -- compassion itself. Thou God of all the world, let our history teach us that we belong to thee alone and that thou alone dost belong to us" (*Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, 1978, p. 157).

The World Council's Sixth Assembly, July 1983 in Vancouver, British Columbia, opened with Native American Indians tossing offerings of fish and tobacco into a "sacred fire" and dancing around the pagan altar. It also featured a Hindu dance to the "earth mother goddess." "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6).

THE "DISTRESSED LOOK" - ANOTHER REBEL CLOTHING STYLE (Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "The War on Modesty Decorum, and Appropriateness!" Don Boys, *cstnews.com*, Jan. 30, 2019: "I have asked but never received an answer why sane people are paying inflated prices for ugly clothes: faded, old, patched, muddied, holey, and raged clothes. ... This is called the *distressed* look. My word would be *depressed* or *disgusted* look. ... Dirty jeans used to reflect toil, sweat, but now they are worn by people who are so guilt-ridden for having riches that they want to appear to live the way normal people live. Many of these people have no experience with hard work and dirty hands; however, many have massive problems with dirty minds. But then, that is a judgment call and I may be wrong in some cases. Nancy B. Diehl, director of New York University's Costume Studies program may have the answer why sane people want to look like bums. She said, 'It's an "I'm going to expose my body if I want to" type of ethos. In a way, it's a protest against propriety.' It displays rebellion to what is proper and acceptable and often a rejection of one's upbringing. Charlene Lau, a fashion historian who has taught at Parsons School of Design, said, 'At the same time, distressed, tattered and dirty clothing also tends to work against middle-class norms of cleanliness and propriety. In this sense, they are symbolic of rebellion—whether real, contrived, or imagined.' Bingo! I think they are right. This 'distressed' trend seems to be youth-driven and has now become acceptable even promoted by



the fashion world of London, Paris, New York, and Hollywood. The world of high fashion has now embraced 'distressed' clothing as chic. Of course, their motive is the buck suckered from people too stupid to think for themselves. One distressed-wearing female said of trash clothes, 'They lend an air of super casualness to your personality and make you just a bit more careless and carefree.' That's what people need today—more carelessness. Youth have always wanted to show their independence (while they live in Mom's basement and live off parents and the taxpayers) but the distressed look is not an expression of individuality but of submission. By accepting what is currently fashionable they become a slave to fashion, not independent thinkers. ... The distressed clothing is another fad that empty, hopeless, purposeless youth pursue to show their rebellion to normalcy, modesty, propriety, and common sense. Likewise, some Evangelical preachers wear distressed clothing to make them appear stylish while they really look silly—like the youth they are trying to impress. ... A person's garments have always carried a message. Today's message from distressed clothing is one of carelessness, crassness, coarseness, and is somewhat cloddish."



SOUTH AFRICAN PENTECOSTAL PASTOR FAKES A RESURRECTION

(Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- A Pentecostal pastor in South Africa has been caught faking a resurrection ("South Africa funeral firm to sue pastor, for 'resurrection stunt,'" *BBC News*, Feb. 26, 2019). A video of Pastor Alph Lukau raising a man from the dead "went viral," but it turns out, not surprisingly, to be a hoax. In the video, the pastor, whose church is near Johannesburg, is standing beside a man lying in a coffin, pretending to be dead. To add authenticity, Lukau introduces the "dead man's" family and friends. He then passes his hands over the man's body, pauses dramatically, and shouts, "Rise up!" The man instantly sits up but has a bug-eyed look as if he is in a daze. A group of funeral directors who were manipulated by the scheme are suing the pastor. This is only the latest in more than 100 years of heresies, hoaxes, scandals, and nonsense emanating from the Pentecostal-Charismatic movements. It began with the students of Charles Parham's Bible school in Kansas who claimed to speak and write in "tongues" that they claimed were Chinese but which turned out to be nothing at all, and the Azusa Street "holy choir" which was actually mass confusion. See "[Azusa Street](#)

[and the Birth of Pentecostalism](#)," www.wayoflife.org/reports/azusa_street_and_the_birth_of_pentecostalism.html. Jesus raised the dead as a sign that He is the Messiah. And Peter raised Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36-42) as the "sign of an apostle" (2 Corinthians 12:12). There are no apostles today; only deceivers pretending to be apostles. The apostles laid the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20), completed the canon of Scripture, and went to be with the Lord. At Christ's return, they will sit on 12 thrones (only 12) judging the 12 tribes of Israel (Luke 22:30). Their 12 names (only 12) are inscribed in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:14). We believe in a miracle-working God and we have experienced miracles for nearly a half century of walking with Him, but we don't believe in sign miracles for today. And we believe in healing according to James 5, but we don't believe in the gift of healing today because that pertained to the apostles. Though we have attended the "healing crusades" of some of the most prominent Pentecostal faith healers of our lifetime, we have seen nothing but heresy, nonsense, and fakery. They claim to live in the power of Pentecost and to have special Holy Spirit baptisms and apostolic power, but they can't heal like the apostles, they can't raise the dead like the apostles, they can't speak in tongues like the apostles, they can't prophesy like the apostles, and they don't have the spiritual wisdom of the apostles.

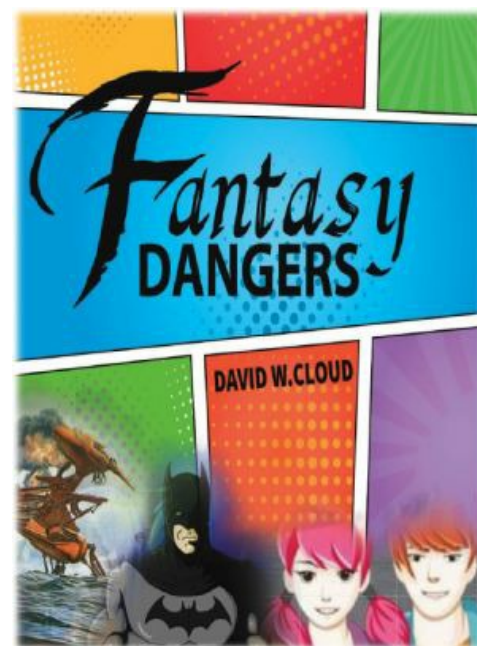
HOLOGRAPHIC POP SUPER-STARS

(Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- The entire field of pop idols, from

Elvis to Justin Bieber, is largely fantasy, but the ultimate fantasy pop idols are Hatsune Miku of Japan and Luo Tianyi of China. They are non-existent holograms, one hundred percent fiction. First there was Hatsune Miku. She performed sold-out concerts attended by tens of thousands of screaming fans and opened for Lady Gaga. An avatar created by the Japanese company Crypton Future Media, Hatsune is projected onstage as a dancing hologram. She is the ultimate scantily-clothed pop singer of youthful fantasy with an unrealistically proportioned figure and a hyper-cute, Manga-influenced face. Girls fantasize that they are Hatsune, and boys fantasize that she is their girlfriend. One fan said, "She's rather more like a goddess: She has human parts, but she transcends human limitations. She's the great post-human pop star" ("Hatsune Miku: The world's fakest pop star," *CBN News*, Nov. 9, 2012). Now China has its own superstar avatar named Luo Tianyi with a fan base of millions. The holograph performed before thousands of fans at Shanghai's Mercedes-Benz arena on March 2, 2019,



accompanied by world famous Chinese pianist Lang Lang. Tickets to the show cost as much as US\$235. “Fans waved blue glow sticks to the rhythm and yelled Luo’s name, with some even bursting into tears” (“China’s virtual idols meet their fans,” *South China Morning Post*, Mar. 2, 2019). Kit Cheung Jie, a 17-year-old high school student in Hong Kong, said, “She is not a real person so she can be whatever you want her to be. It’s like a customized idol that only belongs to you.” University student Gao Yu shouted, “Tiani, my lover, I love you!” Luo is supposed to be an angel sent to bring happiness to the world by music. Her name is from an ancient river goddess, and she wears a green jade charm with occultic significance. The Chinese government sees the power of these avatars to manipulate the minds of youth. Luo has been recruited by the Chinese Communist Youth League to be its youth ambassador, because she is easier to manage than people, who “make their own decisions” and may choose to contradict the Chinese government (“China programs virtual youth icons to instill correct thinking into millennials,” *Global Times*, Dec. 7, 2017). The heart and soul of pop idol fantasy is sex, as with pop music as a whole. The boys and girls of idol bands and the virtual idols like Hatsune Miku and Luo Tianyi are carefully crafted to fit within the current definition of cute and sexy, and the unisex aspect appeals both to “straights” and homosexuals. (For more on the theme of technology-driven fantasy, see the free eBook [Fantasy Dangers](#), at Way of Life Literature - [www.wayoflife.org](#).) “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the

thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS SUPPORT INFANTICIDE (Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](#), [fbns@wayoflife.org](#), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Warren Confronted over Infanticide Position,” DailyWire.com, Mar. 1, 2019: “Presidential hopeful Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) was confronted over her infanticide position during an event in Dubuque, Iowa, on Wednesday. On Monday, the prominent Democrat went on record as pro-infanticide by voting against Republican Senator Ben Sasse’s Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would mandate that doctors perform medical care on infants born alive due to botched abortions. Only *three* Senate Democrats voted for the legislation. After Warren waxed poetic to an Iowa crowd about the importance of healthcare for all, a man attending the event bluntly asked her why infants born alive from botched abortions were denied healthcare. ‘What about the babies that survive abortion?’ he asked. ‘How come they can’t have healthcare?’ Warren responded, ‘Infanticide is illegal everywhere in America.’ ‘You voted against it,’ the man pushed back, referring to her no vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.”



CHINA’S SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM BARRED MILLIONS FROM TRAVELING IN 2018

(Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](#), [fbns@wayoflife.org](#), 866-295-4143) - China’s draconian Social Credit System will punish those who do not submit to communist law, including religious laws. The following is excerpted from “China’s Social Credit System,” Futurism.com, Mar. 1, 2019: “As early as 2014, China began conceptualizing a Social Credit System (SCS), sort of like a credit score for citizen behavior where behaviors deemed good for society are rewarded with privileges and bad behaviors result in a poor score and loss of privileges. China has since been working to test its new method of population control and has been slowly conscripting citizens into the system. Now, a new report acquired by the *Associated Press*, suggests millions of would-be travelers had their plans canceled as a result of the SCS in 2018. According to the report obtained by the *Associated Press*, as many as 17.5 million ticket purchases were blocked last year for ‘social credit offenses’ such as unpaid taxes or fines. Other would-be travelers were barred from purchasing train tickets as many as 5.5 million times and according to an annual report from the National Public Credit Information Center, as many as 138 people were stopped from leaving

the country. The ruling party hopes to fully establish the system within the nation by 2020. Although it isn't completely clear yet how the system will be maintained, what the SCS will penalize, and what penalties there may be for having 'poor social credit,' offenses penalized last year included everything from false advertising to drug charges. In addition to travel restrictions, companies ousted from the nation's good graces can lose out on government contracts, bank loans, and be restricted from importing goods. Employees can be prevented from representing companies or taking senior management roles, a penalty which was applied 290,000 times last year."

HE MADE THE STARS ALSO (Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from Creation Moments, Feb. 12, 2019: "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also." "The Bible gives us a tiny hint in Psalm 19 that the universe is vast when the Psalmist says: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. The heavens must be vast indeed if they are there to declare the glory of God, because the glory of God is unlimited. Just as the builders of medieval cathedrals in Europe built vast structures to make a



statement about how great God is, so our view of the universe, even from the surface of the Earth, shows us the sheer bigness of God. And yet, the whole creation of the universe is summed up (in the King James Version) in just five little words, in Genesis 1:16: 'He made the stars also.' Those who believe in God, whatever their view of Creation, are usually able to accept that the existence of the Sun was designed by God to give us heat and light. Creationists would suggest that these attributes were created before the Sun, but, nevertheless, the Sun's purpose today, since the fourth day of creation, has been to shine down on the Earth. Yet somehow the sheer bigness of the universe causes us to think that the stars have far less of a purpose. The stars are just there. But God placed them for a reason—for signs and for seasons. So if the vastness of the universe points us to the worship of the Creator, then that is good. But apart from God, their importance is only that of five little words."

BIBLE GOING TO THE MOON ON ISRAEL'S SPACECRAFT

(Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A digital copy of the Bible is on the way to the moon on Israel's first lunar landing spacecraft. Called *Beresheet* (Genesis), the craft was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida on February 21 and is scheduled to land on the moon on April 11. The lander was built by SpaceIL, a private Israeli company, and was launched by SpaceX, a private American company. On March 6, the spacecraft took a "selfie" with the round earth in the background. In the foreground is a sign that says, "Small country,



big dreams." (Yes, Flat Earthers, *Beresheet* is yet *another* myth. SpaceIL is obviously in cahoots with NASA and the International Space Station and the European Space Agency, et al, to promote the lie that the earth is round.) If *Beresheet* succeeds, Israel will be the fourth country to make a moon landing, after the United States, the USSR, and China. The Bible is one of the documents in a 30-million-page archive of humanity's achievements that is onboard the spacecraft. In the Bible onboard *Beresheet* is Israel's past, present, and future. The prophecy of Ezekiel 37, given about 2,500 years ago, says that scattered Israel would miraculously return to her land, first in a spiritually dead condition, then revived and converted. Israel's present return to the land fulfills the first part of the prophecy; the latter part remains to be fulfilled, but nothing can stop it. "So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came

into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.”

SERIAL “HONOR KILLINGS” IN PAKISTAN (Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Honor killing” is defined as “acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonor upon the family.” It is practiced by Muslims in the Middle East and Turkey, and cases have also occurred in the West. According to the United Nations, 5,000 females are murdered every year in honor killings (“Murder in the Family,” *Fox News*, July 26, 2008). The perpetrators usually get



off scot free or with a light sentence. In Pakistan, about 1,000 honor killings are recorded annually, but the number is likely much higher (“Afzal Kohistani: ‘Honour killing’ whistleblower shot dead,” *BBC News*, Mar. 7, 2019). Two families were nearly wiped out after a video was posted online in 2011 of two men dancing at a wedding as four women sing a song. A younger female member of the women’s family is also in the scene. The five females were subsequently killed by male members of the family who believed that their “honor” had been breached. When Afzal Kohistani, the older brother of the two men in the video, broke with local tradition and brought the case to national attention in 2012, he and his family became a target. His house was firebombed, three of his brothers were murdered, and he lived in constant danger. In March 2019, Kohistani was shot to death in broad daylight in spite of widespread media attention. Though honor killing is illegal in Pakistan, the police and the courts cannot protect those who are targeted.

PARENTS IN CANADA DENIED FOSTER CARE STATUS BECAUSE OF BIBLE BELIEFS (Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Christianity in Canada,” Brownpublishings.com, Feb. 7, 2019: “A Christian couple in Canada was denied by a governmental adoption agency the ability to foster children, precisely because of their religious beliefs. A Human Rights Law Firm is challenging the actions of the Canadian government on the grounds of religious discrimination. While being interviewed by the adoption



agency, the couple was questioned about their religious beliefs, to which the man stated that they are Christians. The social worker then asked him if their church ‘still believes in some of the more outdated parts of the Bible.’ The man stated that their church adheres to all of the Bible. The social worker stated that her son is gay and that churches had told her son in the past that homosexuality is a sin. The man then explained that although the Bible does identify homosexual behavior as a ‘sin,’ he believes all people are created in the image of God and are worthy of respect, dignity, and honor. He further explained that, in accordance with their beliefs, he and his wife would provide any child in their care with unconditional love, respect, and compassion regardless of the child’s sexuality, according to the press release. After the interview, approximately six months later, the couple received a letter in the mail stating their application had been denied. The letter read: ‘We feel that the policies of our agency do not appear to fit with your values and beliefs and therefore, we will be unable to move forward with approval for your family as resources home.’ ... The couple then contacted the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedom, a Human Rights law firm, about the matter. The Centre issued a letter to the adoption agency requesting a reversal of their decision

and to end its religious discrimination practices.”

CHRISTIAN BAKER'S MAJOR VICTORY AFTER

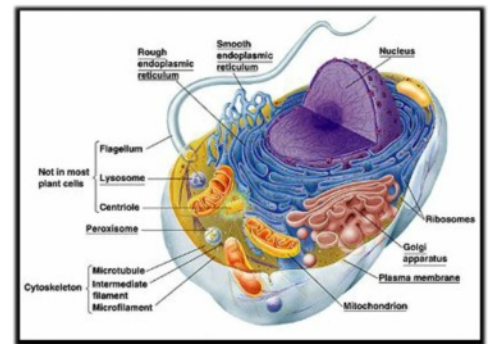
CONTINUOUS HARASSMENT FROM LGBT ACTIVISTS

(Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Christian Baker Jack Phillips,” DailyWire.com, Mar. 5, 2019: “Christian cake artist Jack Phillips has scored a major victory after facing years of continuous persecution for his religious beliefs from LGBT activists and the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a Christian nonprofit that advocates for religious freedom and traditional values, announced Tuesday that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission ‘will dismiss its most recent charges against cake artist Jack Phillips in the wake of newly discovered evidence of the state’s ongoing hostility toward religious freedom.’ After Phillips prevailed at the Supreme Court in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, the Christian baker was targeted for refusing to create a transgender celebration cake due to his religious beliefs concerning sex and gender. ADF explains: ‘On June 26, 2017, the same day that the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to take up *Masterpiece*



Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, an attorney asked cake artist Jack Phillips to create a cake designed pink on the inside and blue on the outside, which the attorney said was to celebrate a gender transition from male to female. Phillips declined the request because the custom cake would have expressed messages about sex and gender identity that conflict with his religious beliefs. Less than a month after the Supreme Court ruled for Phillips in his first case, the state surprised him by finding probable cause to believe that Colorado law requires him to create the requested gender-transition cake.’ In response to the clearly-targeted harassment of Mr. Phillips, ADF attorneys filed *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Elenis*. ‘We’re pleased that the state will be dismissing its case against Jack,’ said ADF attorney Kristen Waggoner, who represented Phillips in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. ‘This is the second time the state has launched a failed effort to prosecute him. While it finally appears to be getting the message that its anti-religious hostility has no place in our country, the state’s decision to target Jack has cost him more than six-and-a-half years of his life, forcing him to spend that time tied up in legal proceedings. Jack’s victory is great news for everyone. Tolerance and respect for good-faith differences of opinion are essential in a diverse society like ours. They enable us to peacefully coexist with each another. But the state’s demonstrated and ongoing hostility toward Jack because of his beliefs is undeniable,’ noted Waggoner.”

THE LIVING CELL (Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2019,



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

- The following is excerpted from *Seeing the Non-existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes* by David Cloud: “The living cell is a fantastically complex thing, more complex than a modern city. It’s a living body with organs called organelles. It has blueprints, decoders, error checkers, quality control systems, power plants (mitochondria), power storage units, manufacturing plants (cytoplasm, endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi apparatus), chemical plants, assembly lines, disposal units (proteasome), trash compactors, a complex communication system, recycling centers (lysosomes), detoxification plants (peroxisomes), transportation highways and tracks and tunnels, transportation vehicles (dynein), incredible living walls with many types of one-way and two-way guarded, gated portals to the outside world, an external matrix to connect with other cells, and a host of other things. It is living and reproducing and not only makes its own machinery but also its own raw materials. The cell contains not only the blueprint of the plant or animal’s body and the information describing its every function but also the ability to actually fashion and operate it. A typical cell contains more than a trillion parts at the atomic level (Jerry Bergman, Ph.D. biology, *In Six Days*, edited by John Ashton, p. 25). Even a ‘simple’

E. coli bacterium has about 4,640,000 nucleotide base pairs, which code for 4,288 genes, each one of which produces an enormously complex protein machine (Bergman, p. 25). There are 200 major types of cells in the human body and each one contains the complete DNA needed to create the entire body. Each cell uses only that part of the DNA instructions necessary to accomplish its particular function. The information in the DNA in one human cell is equivalent to a library of 4,000 books (each containing 500 pages), yet all of the DNA from every person who has ever lived would weigh less than an aspirin tablet (Walt Brown, *In the Beginning*). The amount of information that could be stored in a pinhead's volume of DNA is equivalent to a pile of paperback books 500 times as tall as the distance from earth to the Moon, each with a different, yet specific, content (W. Gitt, 'Dazzling Design in Miniature,' *Creation Ex Nihilo*, Dec. 1997 - Feb. 1998, p. 6). There are 60 trillion cells in the human body."

STUDENTS PROTEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT HE WILL RAISE HIS GRANDDAUGHTER AS A GIRL (Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Liberty University has long been on a slippery slide of compromise that began under founder Jerry Falwell's leadership. His compromise started with small steps, as it always does, but the Word of God warns that "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (1 Co. 5:6; Gal. 5:9). The latest evidence of the school's spiritual decline came last week with the protest by some 30 students of



the president's announcement that he and his wife are raising their granddaughter "as a girl." Speaking to a satellite Conservative Political Action Conference event that also featured Donald Trump, Jr., Jerry Falwell, Jr.'s wife, Becki, said, "She's our granddaughter, and we're raising her as a girl. We're not letting her have a choice. God makes the choice of what the babies are going to be and God decided she would be a girl." Jerry Falwell, Jr. voiced his agreement ("Liberty University students," *Washington Examiner*, Mar. 13, 2019). This innocuous, common sense statement was ridiculously marked as "hate speech" by a clique of Liberty students who staged a day-long protest on campus. Signs included "Hate is a choice, being transgender is not." Protester Elizabeth Axley, a sophomore, identified herself as "bisexual." Caleb Fitzpatrick, a senior, said, "Hopefully we can create an environment where comments like Friday's aren't welcome and aren't normal." Obviously these people do not embrace freedom of speech and freedom of religion. When the late Jerry Falwell, founder of Liberty, started down the path of pragmatic compromise in the 1980s by renouncing biblical separatism, forming an ecumenical political action organization, and seeking the world's accreditation, he would not have dreamed that the day would come when students at his Christian college would be so unbiblical in

their thinking. His efforts to form a "moral majority" to save America did not save the nation, but it did destroy a church and college. It can also be said that his example contributed to the destruction of the biblical character of an entire group of churches, the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI). In the 1980s, BBFI president Victor Sears boldly warned, "Dr. Falwell is not basically a fundamental Baptist ... [but] is a New Evangelical in the same compromising vein as Dr. Billy Graham. If we keep following the road paved by Falwellism, we will lose our identity completely as old-fashioned, Bible-believing separatists" (*Calvary Contender*, June 15, 1987). That has come to pass. See "Jerry Falwell: the Billy Graham of Independent Baptists," www.wayoflife.org/database/falwell_graham.html, and, "[Baptist Bible Fellowship International's Road to Emerging](http://www.wayoflife.org/reports/baptist-bible-fellowship-internationals-road-to-emerging)," www.wayoflife.org/reports/baptist-bible-fellowship-internationals-road-to-emerging.php

MORMON LEADERS HAVE FIRST-EVER PAPAL AUDIENCE (Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Pope meets with Mormon leadership," RNS, Mar. 11, 2019: "Pope Francis met Saturday (March 9) with the leadership of The Church of Je-



sus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the first such meeting of its kind, on the eve of the dedication of the church's huge new temple in Rome. The Vatican offered no details of Francis' audience with the church president, Russell Nelson, and other leaders. The Latter-day Saints said it was the first-ever meeting between a pope and head of their church and said the two men discussed religious liberty, family and youth, among other topics. 'We have much in common,' Nelson tweeted afterward. 'The differences in doctrine are real, and they're important, but they're not nearly as important as the things we have in common.'"

DEPRESSION / SUICIDAL THOUGHTS DOUBLE IN AMERICAN YOUTH IN ONE DECADE

(Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The music-driven, entertainment-focused, me-first American pop culture is a devouring monster. A new study from the American Psychological Association has found that "the percentage of young Americans with mental health disorders has more than doubled over the past decade" ("Depression and suicidal thoughts have doubled," *Fox News*, Mar. 16, 2019). That's a huge increase. These "disorders" include major depression, suicidal thoughts, and attempted suicide. The study analyzed data



from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. I suggest that some of the causes are an over-abundance of leisure; lack of discipline; addiction to social media, pornography, and multi-player online video games; psychotic music; the legalization of marijuana; the rejection of a biblical worldview and the acceptance of nihilistic philosophies, the disappearance of wholesome, winsome heroes from the national spotlight; and the mainstream media's perpetual harping against traditional America and everything that was held as good and right by the founders, for starters. Who wouldn't be depressed! The only solution is to know the true God through Jesus Christ, who has "not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7), and to walk as pilgrims who refuse to be conformed to this world system and its foolish ways, and to use the power of the Word of God to purify the mind. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

TEL AVIV CITY GOVERNMENT HEEDS ORTHODOX JEWISH COMPLAINTS TO RESTRICT DISTRIBUTION OF "MESSIANIC LITERATURE"

(Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Anti-Messianic Jewish Update," *Israel Today*, Feb. 19, 2019: "The City of Tel Aviv says that it will prevent the infiltration of Messianic Jewish literature in municipal 'street libraries.' Working behind the scenes to restrict Hebrew-language Messianic



books in the open-air book stalls is *Or L'Achim*, an organization that seeks to prevent attempts to lead Jews away from their faith. Messianic Jews have been placing literature in the public libraries set up around the city to encourage reading. *Or L'Achim* sent a formal complaint to Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai warning about 'abuse of a municipal service for missionary conversion,' according to reports. The Tel Aviv Municipality responded that, 'Library management instructed workers to check whether flyers were placed having to do with publications of a cult and were ordered to remove them from the shelves.' Organizations working to prevent Jews from hearing the Gospel like to paint Messianic Jews as belonging to a 'cult.' In recent years, several genuinely dangerous cults have sprouted up around Israel, and placing Messianic Judaism in this category stirs public fears and encourages anti-Messianic crusades."

ISRAEL TRIAL EXONERATES CAIN AND CONDEMNS ELIJAH

(Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In a trial conducted in Israel last November, Elijah was found guilty of murder while Cain was exonerated. The trial was conducted at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem under the auspices of the Ministry of Education with the goal of applying

modern Israeli legal standards and precedents to biblical passages. Elijah and Cain were defended by top lawyers: Elijah by Avigdor Feldman, and Cain by Zion Amir. Feldman argued that Elijah should be acquitted as he was acting in the name of God and Judaism, but Judge Aylon Infeld ruled that “the accused is found guilty of premeditated murder in accordance with paragraph 300 of the Israel Penal Code” (“Jerusalem 2018: Biblical Figures on Trial,” *Israel Today*, Feb. 2019, pp. 4-5). As for Cain, his lawyer argued that “the text gives no indication of premeditation to murder.” One of Amir’s students pointed out that Cain could not know what effect a murder would have on society, which “would be sufficient for an acquittal.” Other students reasoned that perhaps Abel was equally guilty, that he was mocking Cain because God didn’t accept his offering. After hearing these arguments, Judge Ilan Shilo ruled that Cain was not guilty. This is an example of how that modern Israel sits in judgment on God’s Word instead of putting itself under its authority, how that her laws are not based on biblical truth, and how that she follows human reasoning rather than holy Scripture.



INTERPRETING BIBLE DIFFICULTIES: DON'T ASK THE WRONG QUESTIONS (Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -Some difficulties are created by asking the wrong questions. If the Bible does not plainly answer a question, it is because God has not chosen to answer it. The Bible student must be satisfied with what the Bible says and not be occupied with what it doesn't say. Some teachers and commentators spend a lot of time trying to answer questions that aren't clearly answered. The wiser method is to focus like a laser on what the Bible actually says, because that is what God wants to reveal. Every hard passage contains clear teaching. By focusing on that which is clearly taught one finds edification and clarity and certainty as opposed to endless questionings, uncertainty, and doubt. For example, Revelation 2:20-23 speaks of Jezebel.

We aren't told such things as why she has this name, whether or not it was her given name at birth, how she came to be in the church, etc. In other words, there are many questions we can ask about her that aren't answered. Instead of being occupied with such things, the Bible student should focus his attention on exactly what is said about Jezebel and her works and teachings. Revelation 2:17 speaks of a white stone that Christ will give to the overcomer. We aren't told exactly what kind of stone it is, its clarity, refraction quality, setting, etc. That is not for us to know at this time. What the Bible student should do is to focus on exactly what is said about the white stone and be edified by that. Revelation 4-5 describes 24 elders before the throne of God. It is interesting to try to figure out exactly who they are, but the bottom line is that we aren't given this information for sure, so our *focus* must be on exactly what that passage says. Another example is the attempt to harmonize the life of Christ in the four Gospels. God did not chose to give us a perfect timeline of Christ's life, so it is not possible or necessary to harmonize every event with certainty.

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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



O TIMOTHY MAGAZINE

Way of Life Literature

P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061-0368

866-295-4143 (toll free),

fbns@wayoflife.org (e-mail)<http://www.wayoflife.org> (web site)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
PORT HURON, MI
Permit No. 1061

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

- **ONLINE EDITION: FREE!** - To access the online edition, go to www.wayoflife.org, click the **O Timothy** tab, then click the words "online edition" to select the issue you wish to view or download.
- **UNITED STATES:** The annual subscription is US \$10 for the US. Make checks payable to Way of Life Literature and designate the amount for O Timothy. Please use the form below for ordering.
- **CANADA:** The annual subscription for Canada is \$26.25 Canadian (GST included). Checks or money orders should be made payable to Bethel Baptist Church and designated for O Timothy. Payments should be mailed to Bethel Baptist Church, 4212 Campbell St N, London, ON N6P 1A6.
- **PHILIPPINES:** O Timothy magazine began publication in the Philippines in January 2005. It is distributed on a free will offering basis in the Philippines at this time, as long as the Lord provides the needs. We take up an annual offering to pay the expenses. If you are interested in receiving the magazine in the Philippines, contact us c/o: Pastor Medel Barrera, Berean Bible Baptist Church Gardenia Valley, Molino III, Bacoar City, Philippines. The phone # is 0917-856-4439. Email: info@bbbcmolino.org.
- **INTERNATIONAL:** The annual subscription for other countries is US \$45. Contributions must be sent in US Funds by International Money Order drawn on a major New York bank. Make the drafts payable to Way of Life Literature and designate the amount for O Timothy subscription.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (O Timothy is a monthly publication)

USA - One Year Subscription.....\$10 US

CANADA\$26.25 Canadian (GST Included)

FOREIGN.....\$45 US

PHILIPPINES.....(see contact information above)

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

COUNTRY _____

PHONE, EMAIL _____

PRINTED IN CANADA