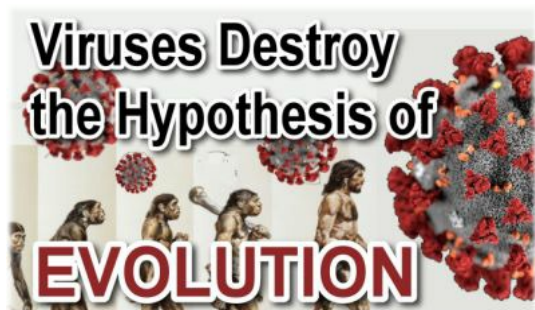


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 37 - Issue 5 - May 2020



"Darwin's influential German disciple Ernst Haeckel (creator of the 'embryo chart') believed that life is constantly forming in the mud at the bottom of the sea. He called this mythical living substance 'monera' and believed it provided the base of the 'tree of life.' Page 5.

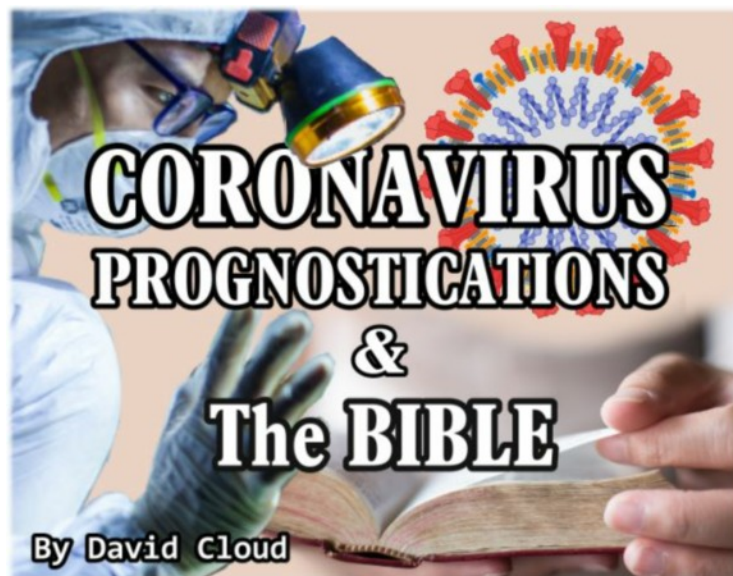
Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 12.**



CORONAVIRUS PROGNOSTICATIONS AND THE BIBLE ~ By David Cloud

Many predictions have been made about the coronavirus pandemic, such as these: Everyone will be infected eventually; hundreds of thousands will die; millions will die; the crisis will last for 18 months or even multiple years; ICU wards will be overwhelmed globally; the virus will come back and be more destructive than ever; the crisis will reoccur every year; life will never return to normal; there will be no handshaking ever again; social distancing will be the new reality; Africa will descend into famine.

Please understand that we are not criticizing modern science or even computer modeling. I, for one, am very thankful to God for modern medical science. God is the one who "giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding" (Daniel 2:21). When my parents were born, there were no antibiotics and aspirin was brand new; there was no vaccination for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, mumps,



yellow fever, typhus, tuberculosis, or polio; no CPR, organ transplants, heart surgery, angioplasty or stents; no kidney dialysis, ventilators, heart-lung machines,

ultrasound, or MRI; no insulin, Band-aids, or blood banks; and no knowledge of DNA. Many of these things have been invented in my own lifetime. Humanly speaking, my wife would have died after our first childbirth due to infection. Some of our children would have died in childhood; I would have died two or three times over the years, including two years ago when I had total blockage of blood flow to my heart and was saved by modern medicine.

We are admirers of modern science and modern medicine, but we don't worship it. We know how terribly fallible it is.

The coronavirus pandemic has been a serious thing, but already, many prognoses have been revised and predictions have been disproven. Computer models are only as good as the information that is programmed into them. It has been said, "Garbage in, garbage out."

Just this month, it was reported that scientists have learned that the ocean absorbs two times as much carbon than previously thought ("Ocean's 'biological pump' absorbs more," UPI, Apr. 8, 2020). Two times is a lot. It means that global warming models have been wrong by a major degree, because they were programmed with the wrong information. And what else do the scientists not know? A lot!

O TIMOTHY Magazine
Volume 37 Issue 5

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Subscription information on
back page of the magazine

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The worst-case scenario for the U.S. has been revised down dramatically *multiple times* by computer modelers. The vast majority of the hospitals that were vacated to make room for coronavirus patients *sit nearly empty*. Newly built emergency hospitals in Washington, California, and elsewhere sit empty or have already been taken down.

America has had a out 23,000 deaths by coronavirus, which, on one hand, is a lot of deaths, but on the other hand, it is not very many in the big scheme of life and death in this world, since about 3 million people die of all causes in America every year, which is 8,200 per day and 340 per hour. Worldwide there have been 191,000 deaths from coronavirus, but there are 56 million deaths annually, which is 153,000 deaths per day and 6,400 per hour.

All of this reminds us, too, that the scientific prognostications and computer models are based on purely naturalistic thinking. They are not made by people who understand or factor in spiritual fundamentals.

Of course, spiritual fundamentals cannot be factored into computer models, but spiritual fundamentals must be considered if one is to properly evaluate events in this world.

According to the Bible, the greatest fundamental of life is that there is a God and He is not absentee, but all things are in His hands; He is the Captain of history (Da. 2:21), by Him all things consist (Col. 1:17), all things are upheld by the Word of His power (Heb. 1:3), in Him we live and move and have our being (Ac. 17:28), not a sparrow falls to the ground without His knowledge (Mt. 10:29).

Is God up to the task? Indeed, unlike mythological gods, the true and living God is the Creator of all things, seen and unseen; He is eternal, infinite, all-knowing, and all-powerful.

A proper examination of any event must, therefore, take God into account, and we know many things about God and His ways for the simple reason that He has revealed them in holy Scripture, which gives clear proof of being the infallible Word of God for those who make the effort to study it for themselves and to honestly and humbly look at the evidence.

We must take into account that God is holy and just; He is a judge of sin. The idea that God doesn't judge sin is a myth. "For the wages of sin *is* death" (Romans 6:23). "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). "He turneth ... a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein" (Psalm 107:33-34). "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

The entire creation is under a divine curse because of man's rebellion. That's what's wrong with this world. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Romans 8:22).

We must take into account that God is a merciful Saviour who has purchased salvation for sinners and is offering it through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The heart of God is to save sinners. He is not a cruel taskmaster who is just itching to judge men. "The Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world" (1 John 4:14). "For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Timothy 2:3-6). "The Lord is ... longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). After He died and shed His blood for man's sins and rose from the dead, Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to preach the gospel of salvation to every person in every nation (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8). This is such a passion with God that it is repeated five times in Scripture. Everything that happens in this present age has something to do with bringing lost sinners to eternal salvation. So God is offering salvation. Through the preaching of the gospel, God is commanding all men everywhere to repent (Ac. 17:30) and to believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ (1 Jo. 3:23). To ignore the gospel, to disbelieve the gospel, to reject the gospel, is a direct affront to God and is the unforgivable sin that results in eternal damnation.

We must take into account that God is working out His eternal plan for the ages. "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him" (Ephesians 1:9-10).

Everything that happens in this world, even aspect of the multiplied trillions of things, is ultimately under the hand of God toward the purpose of making a new creation of which Jesus Christ is the Head and the citizens of which are the redeemed. Eventually this present world will be burned up and replaced by a new one. "*Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:11-13).

We must take into account that God is working all things together for good for His redeemed people as part of His eternal plan. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose" (Romans 8:28). Every event in this present age has something to do with God's great working together of things for the good of His people. They are identified as those who love Him, not those who ignore Him and disobey Him and dishonor Him. And those for whom all things are working for good are identified as "them who are the called according to His purpose," which is the opposite of living for one's own purpose. Loving God and living for His purpose is the product of supernatural salvation. God is working all things for good for those who are born again through repentance and saving faith in Jesus Christ and who evidence that by a changed life and a changed direction. Every child of God can claim this great truth for himself. Out of all of the billions of people on earth, God has His eye upon each of His redeemed children in a special way and is in control of their lives "for good." God knew *and planned* where each of His saints would be when the shut down occurred and exactly how it would affect them and those around them and those associated with them. All is under under His "working together" wisdom and power.

We must take into account that God's house today is the New Testament church; it is the pillar and ground of the truth; it is the headquarters for God's great program of world evangelism; it is the place of protection, nurture, training, and discipline of His redeemed people. "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:16). This is "the church" that is built upon the true Christ of Scripture, that is devoted to the sound teaching of the whole New Testament faith, that has qualified pastors and deacons (1 Timothy 3), that is focused on being light and truth in a fallen world. The Bible says that the resurrected Christ is with His churches, is in the midst of them, will never leave them or forsake them, is guiding them by His Spirit, and is disciplining them by His Word. So the events in this present age cannot rightly be judged apart from a knowledge of Christ's working in and through sound churches, the church being His main institution and program today.

We must take into account that God is going to plunge this world into judgment in the day of the Lord, and all events are hastening toward that day and setting the stage for it. The day of the Lord is a day when God will be exalted and man humbled (Isaiah 2:10-17). It is a day when the rebellion of the nations will be judged by terrible judgments (Isaiah 13:6-14). It is a day when the antichrist, the man of sin, Satan's man, will sit on the throne of the earth for a brief time (Revelation 13). It is a day when God will bring Israel to national conversion through repentance and faith in Christ. The day of the Lord is the day of Jacob's trouble, but he will be saved out of it (Jeremiah 30:7-24). Today is not the day of the Lord. It will follow the catching away of church age believers (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). (Note the connection between the catching away of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and the day of the Lord following in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.) The day of the Lord will come upon the lost world like a thief, because the world is not watching; but God's people know the times and the seasons, they believe God's prophecies, and they are looking for Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11).

We must take into account that God answers the prayers of His redeemed people. "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart is perfect toward him" (2 Chronicles 16:9). "Call unto me,

and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3). "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

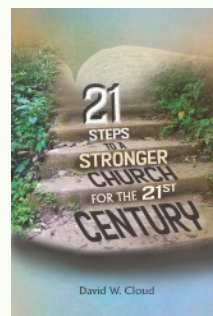
What does all of this have to do with the coronavirus pandemic? It means that God is in ultimate control of this trouble, and all other events on earth, and God is using it for His purposes. Being a global event, it will affect every soul on earth in manifold ways, and God knows exactly how it will affect them and is involved in all lives; and God is using it to bring conviction and enlightenment to the lost that they might come to Christ; and God is using it to work out His eternal plans in Christ; and God is using it to work out His will in the lives of all of His people; and God is using it to work out His will in every one of His churches.

These Bible truths mean that God will answer the prayers of His redeemed and will take those prayers into account in His great business, as He has promised, and therefore it is very possible that the coronavirus will be shortened from its expected end and that it could fade away like fog in sunshine as has often happened to terrible events in answer to prayer, and has, in fact, happened in many previous pandemics.

The world can't see these things, but God's people can, and they rejoice in them.

21 Steps To A Stronger Church For The 21st Century

By David W. Cloud



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The following paragraph is from Dr. Jeremy Brown's fascinating and highly educational book *Influenza: The Hundred Year Hunt to Cure the Deadliest Disease in History* (New York: Touchstone, 2018) -

"Viruses were here long before us. They were here before intelligent life, before apes and chimpanzees, before reptiles, before anything crawled out of the slime of creation. Viruses are ubiquitous, but their mystery is inherent in their origin: we don't know exactly how they developed, but we do know they have been around for millions of years. ... A virus is a box of chemicals, without the structures of a basic cell. It cannot metabolize or replicate on its own. In order to reproduce, it must invade living cells. Viruses infect bacteria and plants, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals" (*Influenza: The Hundred Year Hunt*, p. 29).

Dr. Brown is a veteran Emergency Room doctor and director of the Office of Emergency Care Research at the National Institutes of Health. Yet he spirals into "Just so land" when he describes the origin of viruses.

He paints an impossible scenario. Not only is there zero evidence for it, it is impossible on its very face based on the information about viruses that Dr. Brown gives in his own book. A virus could not have evolved and lived without a host. And it had to have been programmed with information about the host and to have had the ability *from the moment of its inception* to find the host cell, to recognize it, to invade the cell, to take over the complex machinery of the cell, to make copies of itself with that machinery, to send those copies back out of the cell, to dis-attach them from the cell membrane, and to invade new cells. All of this is described in Dr. Brown's book.

The virus itself, and every aspect of its life cycle, is so complex that modern science only understands a very tiny part of it. Dr. Jeff Taubenberger is Chief of the Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Section, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health. He was the first to sequence the genome of the 1918 Spanish flu virus. Dr. Jeremy Brown calls him "the man who knows more about influenza than anyone." Yet Taubenberger says, "I've been thinking heavily about the flu for twenty years, AND I KNOW NOTHING" (*Influenza: The Hundred Year Hunt*, p. 97).

He says that because he understands and acknowledges that modern science knows almost nothing about genetics in light of what there is to know. That speaks volumes about the great complexity of even the simplest elements of life, such as viruses.

If a "simple" flu virus is this complicated, scientists of all people should open their eyes and see that nothing living evolved. Life simply could not have happened that way. It is not a process of auto-generation, genetic mutations, and natural selection. There has to be another explanation, because that one is a dead end street.

Charles Darwin didn't know what modern scientists know. In Darwin's day, the cell was thought to be a simple blob of protoplasm. Working within the realm of this ignorance, it was perhaps possible for evolutionists to believe that blind, unintelligent natural processes could have produced life. Darwin's influential German disciple Ernst Haeckel (creator of the "embryo chart") believed that life is constantly forming in the mud at the bottom of the sea. He called this mythical living substance "monera" and believed it provided the base of the "tree of life." In *The History of Creation* (1868) he

described the appearance, eating habits, and reproductive cycle of monera. He even drew pictures of them. "They consist entirely of shapeless, simple homogeneous matter ... a shapeless, mobile, little lump of mucus or slime ... organisms without organs."

One hundred and fifty years later, we know that the simplest living cell is a complex body with organs. It is similar to a modern city in many ways, yet it is far more complicated than a modern city. It has a command center, blueprints, decoders, error checkers, quality control systems, power generators, power storage units, manufacturing plants, chemical plants, assembly lines, disposal units, trash compactors, a complex communication system, recycling centers, detoxification plants, transportation highways and tracks and tunnels, transportation vehicles, 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. It has police and soldiers and a host of other things.

Henry Zuill, Ph.D. in biology, says, "Complexity of the cell is now just too daunting to flippantly assert biochemical evolution to explain it ... And if cells could not originate naturally, then nothing else could" (*In Six Days: Why Fifty Scientists Choose to Believe in Evolution*, edited by John Ashton).

Stephen Grocott, Ph.D. in organometallic chemistry from the University of Western Australia, says, "I enjoy seeing the mental gymnastics of people trying to explain the origin of life. Most researchers in the area are honest enough to say they haven't got the faintest idea how life began from non-life. The mind boggles at the complexity of the simplest single-celled organism--and the more we learn, the more complex it looks" ("The Creation Couple," *The Genesis Files*, edited by Carl Wieland, p. 68).

Francis Crick, co-discoverer of DNA's double helix structure, was at one time an evolutionist and an opponent of Christianity, but he realized that life could not have spontaneously arisen in "a warm pond." Crick wrote, "An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have

had to have been satisfied to get it going" (*Life Itself: Its Origin and Nature*, 1981, p. 88).

Esteemed British scientist Sir Fred Hoyle reached the same conclusion. He called the idea of life evolving by chance in a primordial soup "nonsense of a high order." He likened such an event to "a tornado sweeping through a junk-yard assembling a Boeing 747 from the materials therein" and "a solar system full of blind men solving Rubik's Cubes simultaneously."

There are many hypotheses as to how life evolved from non-life, but they are more ridiculous than realistic. They amount to nothing more than a batch of Rudyard Kipling "just so" stories. Wild yarns.

Not one of the hypotheses provides a realistic bridge of the gulf from non-life to life, from inert chemicals to living, self-replicating systems, from non-intelligence to great intelligence.

This is true for the prokaryote cell "theory," the RNA-first "theory," the deep sea vent "theory," the peptide "theory," the iron-sulfur "theory," the autocatalysis "theory," the clay "theory," the catalytic noise "theory," and all the others.

"Thou, *even* thou, *art* LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all *things* that *are* therein, the seas, and all that *is* therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee" (Nehemiah 9:6).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:1-4).

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him [Jesus Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:15-17).





A lot of people are drawn to conspiratorial type thinking and endless speculation, and there has never been a more effective breeding ground and broadcast forum for conspiracies and quackery and hoaxes than social media. It is a pandemic. It has produced paranoia and drives people to do nutty things.

On March 31, an engineer in California derailed a train in an attempt to crash into the *USNS Mercy* hospital ship because he believed it is part of some type of government takeover plot.

On February 22, “Mad” Mike Hughes was killed in his homemade rocket trying to prove that the earth is flat.

CONSPIRACIES, CONSPIRACIES, CONSPIRACIES!

The U.S. government created the coronavirus; England created it; it was created in a Canadian lab; China or the CIA created it as a bioweapon; Bill Gates owns it, is making money from it, or is using it to kill off a large percentage of the population as a eugenics project; Bill Gates plans to vaccinate everyone on the planet and track them with “digital certificates”; a vaccine already exists and is being nefariously withheld; the “deep state” released it to stop Trump; it was introduced so that big pharmacy can profit from a vaccine; if you can’t hold your breath for 10 seconds you have coronavirus; quinine is extremely dangerous; megadoses of vitamin C can help ward off coronavirus (and almost every other sickness); the virus is linked to 5G internet technology (conspiracy nuts are setting fire to 5G equipment in England); the virus can be cured by drinking bleach.....

Some people are drawn to this type of thing like flies to honey, and nothing can convince them to stay away from it. They love to stay in a tizzy about this or that

conspiracy. They live to re-broadcast conspiracies from their own little social media publishing forum.

There is always some truth to a conspiracy theory. In fact, sometimes there is a lot of truth. But for what it’s worth, I’ll give you four of many reasons why I don’t pay attention to the constant stream of conspiratorial pandering and why I have zero attraction to web sites and social media pages that specialize in them.

First, they aren’t ultimately provable.

Second, I couldn’t do anything about them even if they were true.

Third, it is mentally distracting and discouraging *for no good reason*.

Fourth, I want my focus to be on God and His control of things. I intend to keep my mind focused on the fact the times overall (Da. 2:21) and my times in particular (Ps. 31:15) are in God’s hands, not in the hands of the the government or the United Nations or a deep state cabal or Bill Gates or the Bilderbergs or whatever. I want to be constantly in mind of the fact that as a born again believer in Jesus Christ, I am foreknown, predestinated, called, justified, and glorified (Romans 8:29-30) (all in aorist tense and therefore accomplished facts in God’s eyes). As the called according to God’s purpose and as a lover of God by redemption, I know that all things work together for my good, and *that is what I intend to focus on, and I will not allow anything to interfere with that confidence*.

Ever since I was saved and fell in love with the Bible, I have loved truth. I want truth. I want something solid, sure, provable. I’m not interested in will-o’-the-wisp.

Contrary to popular thinking, believing the Bible is not blind faith. It is a book based on historical and geographic facts that can be tested, and it has been tested, and the evidence that the Bible is what it claims to be is irrefutable. Luke said that Christ's bodily resurrection is demonstrated by "many infallible proofs, and that is true of the entire Bible (Luke 1:3).

The Bible tells me the really important things that I need to know for this life and for eternity. It tells me that the devil's mystery of iniquity plan is operating and God's Great Commission plan is operating. The devil is doing all sorts of things, and fallen men are doing all sorts of things; there are things done in the light, and things done in the dark. There *are* conspiracies, lots and lots of them. But God is King over all. He is in the saddle and holds the reins. I'm going to keep my eyes on Him and on what He has instructed His people to do in this present time, not on speculations and conspiracies, conspiracies, conspiracies.

If you are conspiratorially-minded and find yourself in a "tizzy" these days, I would recommend that you take a

complete break from social media and conspiratorially-oriented web sites and blogs and immerse yourself in Bible study and meditation on Scripture.

We suggest the project that our church members are doing these days during our curfew, and that is to read 11 books of the Old Testament that contain all of Old Testament history (Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah) and make your own timeline. At each session, first read some chapters, paying close attention to the events, then go back and write out the main events. Then do the same with Matthew, then Acts.

This will help strengthen the foundation of your Bible knowledge by putting the whole Bible timeline in your mind. It is like standing back and looking at a forest before you walk in to examine individual trees and other details. Aim to do the entire project as quickly as you can with good understanding.



The following is from Monroe Parker's autobiography *Through Sunshine and Shadows* (Sword of the Lord, 1987). Parker was an evangelist, radio preacher, Baptist pastor, a right-hand man of Bob Jones Sr. and Jr. during the early decades of Bob Jones University, president of Pillsbury Baptist College, and director of Baptist World Mission.

"One very cold day when I had not eaten anything that day, I sat down at the microphone at three o'clock in the afternoon and preached on 'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want' (Ps. 23:1). I went by the post office and found the box empty as usual. So I started back to the

Y.M.C.A. over the Federal Street Bridge which spans the Allegheny River just above its confluence with the Monongahela, forming the Ohio. I stopped and put my hand on the steel rail on the banister and looked out over the frozen river. I did not see any green pastures. All I could see was white and black. It would snow a while and soot a while.

When I started to take my hand away from the rail, the skin just above my glove had frozen to the steel. I pulled it away and said, 'Lord, I thought You were my Shepherd. Well, if You are, I am a hungry sheep. If I had a hungry sheep and could feed him, I would do so.'

“I started on, and there in the snow was a little ragged purse from a lady’s pocketbook. I picked it up, and it contained two buffalo nickels. I went back across the bridge to a White Castle hamburger stand and bought two hamburgers. They were five cents apiece in 1932.

“When I got to the Y.M.C.A., the clerk at the desk said, ‘Fellow, you hit the jackpot.’ He poured out a large bundle of mail. My predecessor had had all of the mail forwarded from the post office box to himself in Washington D.C. He wanted to be sure to get any mail intended for him personally. He had learned somehow where I was staying and sent the mail back to me. There

were two weeks’ checks from Dr. Jones and gifts for the broadcast from all over Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and Western New York.

“It was as if God leaned over the battlements of Heaven that day and said, ‘All right, son, if you can’t wait until you to the Y.M.C.A., there is a dime; go get some hamburgers.’

“I had rather have those two little buffalo nickels in my memory than to have a dividend check for a thousand dollars. That is in my memory” (*Through Sunshine and Shadows*, pp. 108, 109).

WE ARE ONLY A MICRON AWAY FROM CHRIST'S COMING FOR HIS OWN

By David Cloud



“For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry” (Heb. 10:37).

This is a very strong statement about the nearness and certainty of Christ’s coming.

The word “little” is the Greek *micron*, which refers to a very small thing. It is used today for a millionth part of a meter. And *micron* is modified by a repetition of *oson* (*micron oson oson*) which means “so very, so much as.” Thus it is literally “a little while, how very, how very” (Lenski). “He that shall come will come” is literally “the coming One will come.”

Christ is called “the coming One.” The Second Coming is so important that it is one of His names! “Tarry” is *khronidzo*, “from *chronos* (time), to while away time, linger, delay, defer, tarry” (*Complete Word Study Bible*). It is translated “delay” (Mt. 24:48; Lu. 12:45).

So the certainty and nearness of Christ’s return is emphasized in four ways in this one verse. His coming is in a little while. It is so little, so little. He *will* come. And He *will not tarry*.

This statement that the time until Christ’s coming is little has a two-fold meaning: First, Christ’s coming is so described because it is imminent and therefore always near as a possibility. Compare “the Lord is at hand” (Php. 4:5; 1 Pe. 4:7; Re. 1:3; 22:10). “At hand” means near (Joh. 7:2; 11:55; 19:42). God knows exactly when the Rapture will occur, but from man’s perspective it is always imminent, because it is intended to be a motivator and a purifier.

Second, the time of Christ’s coming is described as “a little while” because in the eyes of the Lord a thousand years is as one day (2 Pe. 3:8-9).

In the context, the imminent coming of Christ is emphasized as the succor for persecution. Paul is saying, remain steadfast in your trials; they will soon be over because Christ is coming in a very little while! By implication, this teaches the pre-tribulational Rapture. Paul would not encourage and comfort persecuted believers with the thought of entering the day of the Lord. He was not saying, “Be patient, be confident in your present troubles, because very soon you will be under the heel of the Antichrist!” How ridiculous.

MEDICAL PRACTICES IN THE 1918 SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC

By David Cloud



The following is excerpted from Dr. Jeremy Brown's fascinating and highly educational book *Influenza: The Hundred Year Hunt to Cure the Deadliest Disease in History* (New York: Touchstone, 2018) -

“One of the most respected medical journals in the world is named after the main tool used in bloodletting: *Lancet*. Bloodletting never worked. In fact, it was terribly dangerous - just ask George Washington - but it continued to be prescribed for influenza into the first decades of the twentieth century. And not just by fringe practitioners. It was recommended by military doctors who were on the front lines during World War I and saw another enemy - a microbial one - outflanking the ranks. What's more, these doctors wrote about their experiences of bloodletting in important medical journals, including, poetically, the *Lancet*. ...

“Two years later, at the peak of the flu pandemic, other British military physicians reported bloodletting their patients, too, only this time they reported that it worked, at least in some cases. It wasn't only the British who were still bleeding their patients in the twentieth century. In 1915 Heinrich Stern, a physician in New York, published his *Theory and Practice of Bloodletting*. While Stern was critical of bloodletting for most medical conditions, he did believe it could be helpful in some instances. ‘I am an advocate of the conditional employment of this ancient method,’ he wrote, ‘and I believe it unnecessary to state that I do not consider it a panacea.’ Stern was somewhat ambivalent in recommending it as a primary therapy for the flu, but almost a decade later, in America's leading medical journal, doctors were still advocating bloodletting to treat pneumonia, convinced - without a shred of evidence - that it would get results when ‘our more conservative methods fail.’

“Bloodletting to cure influenza eventually went out of fashion in the twentieth century, but other wild and suspicious treatments were still part of the medical

repertoire. In 1913 a small book with a black cover was published by a doctor named Arthur Hopkirk. Its title was etched in gold: *Influenza: Its History, Nature, Cause and Treatment*. Hopkirk recommended a series of bizarre treatments for influenza. For fevers, the good doctor recommended ‘a purge,’ meaning a laxative, such as the delightfully named ‘effervescent magnesia.’ Severe cases of flu required a heavy-duty laxative like calomel, which is made with mercury chloride. Mercury, of course, is highly toxic. ...

“The best medicine at the time was aspirin, but it was new, misunderstood, and often given in fatal doses. ... Symptoms of an aspirin overdose start with ringing in the ears, followed by sweating, dehydration, and rapid breathing. A severe overdose results in fluids pouring into the lungs, mimicking the actual symptoms of the flu. Fluids then enter the brain and it swells, resulting in confusion, coma, convulsions, and death.

“People were not just dying of the flu during the Spanish flu pandemic; they were also dying of aspirin overdoses. During the pandemic, aspirin was widely used, but many physicians seemed oblivious to its dangers. In Delhi, senior physicians were concerned that younger doctors in Bombay and Madras were misusing the drug, while in London one physician who practiced from Harley Street, London's fanciest medical address, encouraged its use. He recommended that the patient be ‘drenched with aspirin at a dose of twenty grains an hour for twelve hours, and then every two hours thereafter.’ That is six times greater than the maximum safe dose. It's an insane amount of aspirin. Because it was given in highly toxic doses, it may have been the aspirin that killed so many during the pandemic, and not the influenza itself. This is an unsettling thought, but it might help explain the deaths of a disproportionate number of otherwise healthy young adults - the very population that today rarely suffers from serious flu infections” (Jeremy Brown, *Influenza: The Hundred Year Hunt to Cure the Deadliest Disease in History*).

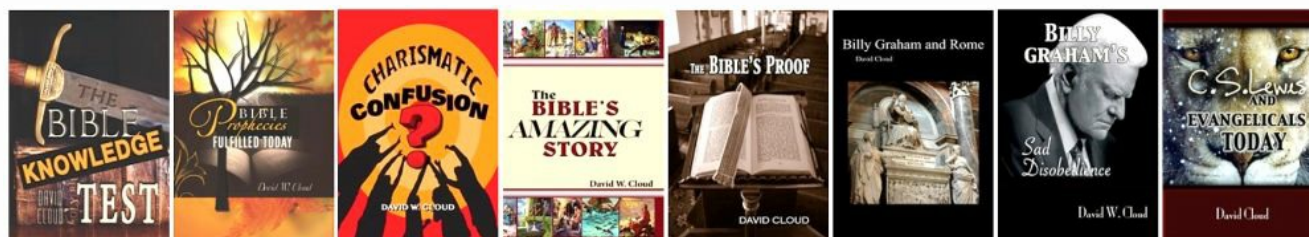


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- Protestant Persecution of Baptists
- Questions Answered on the Bible and Christianity
- Rock & Roll's War against God
- Rome and the Bible: the History of the Roman Catholic Church and Its Persecution of the Bible and Bible Believers
- Scientists Who Believe the Bible
- Seeker's Bible Study (evangelistic Bible study program)
- What about Steven Anderson?
- What Every Christian Should Know about Rock Music
- Why We Hold to the King James Bible



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?



CORONAVIRUS CRISIS HELPING US HAVE A STRONGER CHURCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (Friday Church News Notes, March 27, 2020,

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

- The title of one of our new books is *21 Steps to a Stronger Church for the 21st Century*. This is not mere theory or "armchair theology." This is what we are building by God's grace. We are church planters, have been since the early 1980s. Our goal is to see 100 sound churches established for the glory of God and the enlightenment of this dark world. We want Biblical churches, not American churches or Nepali churches or Australian churches or Spanish churches or Filipino churches. As a heavenly, pilgrim people, we intend to test the cultures of this present world by Scripture and conform them to Scripture. We want churches founded solidly on the New Testament, not after the pattern of the church fathers or the Waldenses or Anabaptists or Lutherans or Anglicans or Reformed or Puritans or Methodists or Fundamentalists or Brethren or even the Independent Baptists. We don't despise tradition; we learn from it; but *all* ecclesiastical tradition must be tested by the *sole* authority, which is Scripture rightly divided. We pray always that God will remove all unwitting traditional blinders from our eyes so that we can see His Word

without obstruction and obey it and please Him. **We are focused on using this coronavirus crisis to prepare for the near future** when (we believe, in answer to prayer) it is dissipated and we regain our liberties. As long as the Lord tarries, we have our marching orders in the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20), which is a *very* big work, at the heart of which is preaching the gospel to every soul and building sound, life-changing New Testament churches, which are the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Ti. 3:15). We are focused on this *like a laser*. **This week where we minister, we are on nationwide house lockdown. We can't even take a walk or visit a store, but we see it as an opportunity rather than a frustration.** God's people are not in the hands of the times, the times are in God's hands, and so are we. "My times are in thy hand (Ps. 31:15); "neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (Joh. 10:27-28). **We have instructed our church members to be busy in three projects so that we will come out of this time better prepared to be what God wants us to be and to do what God wants us to do. *First, Bible study.*** Those who haven't done this before have been assigned the project of reading Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah (11 books) as quickly as they can with good understanding and writing out the major events in Old Testament history. We have seen recently that though our church members read through the Bible each year, many aren't reading with enough understanding. They don't have a good timeline of Bible events ready at hand in their minds. So reading these 11 books and focusing on this as they read should give them

this essential knowledge on which they can build. When they finish the OT, they will read Matthew and write out the major events in Jesus' life, and then Acts and write out the major events in the history of the first churches. The goal is to be able to list all the major events in Bible history from memory. **Second, family life.** Our families are focusing on being what God's wants them to be by working on godly husband-wife relationships, biblical child training, and family devotions. For devotions, they are reading a page of *Child Discipline* (a free eBook available from Way of Life) and discussing it and praying together. Without godly families that are raising a godly seed (Mal. 2:15), we can't have truly fruitful New Testament churches. **Third, prayer.** We are praying together especially for the following things: for our government leaders and those worldwide to have wisdom, that people will be more eager to listen to the gospel and be saved here and we will have much new fruit of conversions this year, that the travel restrictions will be eased so we can have our assemblies and pursue evangelism, and that the coronavirus will stop *completely* by the end of April everywhere in the world, that it will dissipate like fog in the sunshine. Our faith is resting on the following wonderful promises of our merciful and almighty God: Psa. 50:15; 91:14-15; 145:18; Jer. 33:3; 2 Ch.16:9; Eph. 3:20. **(21 Steps to a Stronger Church for the 21st Century is available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.)**

A BIBLICAL MEASURE OF A CHURCH (Friday Church News Notes, March 27, 2020, www.wayoflife.org)



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Instead of "How many members do you have?" or "How many are you running in Sunday School?" or "What's your Sunday morning attendance?" or "What was the attendance of your last special day?" or "How many young people are attending activities?" or "How many kids were at camp this year?" or "How are the offerings?" or "How much is your property worth?" biblical questions would look like the following: Are we seeing life-changing conversions of sinners? What percentage of those who have professed Christ have gone on to be baptized and to grow in Christ and serve Him? What percentage of our members are real Bible students? What percentage faithfully, enthusiastically attend prayer meetings? Do you have real prayer meetings in which the members themselves spend time in prayer together? What percentage of our homes are holy and separated from the world? What percentage of our homes are effectually raising their children for Christ? What percentage of the husbands are the spiritual leaders of their homes and are modeling a serious walk with Christ, Bible study, prayer, love for souls, ministry in the church? What percentage of the wives are modest and spiritual keepers at home? What percentage of the children in the homes are properly disciplined and

biblically educated? What percentage of the youth are on fire for the Lord, meaning surrendered to Christ and separated from the world from the heart and testing their friends, music, and social media by God's Word and being transformed by the renewing of the mind by being serious Bible students and seeking to prove the perfect will of God according to the path of Romans 12? What percentage of the members are actively seeking to share the gospel and win people to Christ as the ambassadors God has called them to be? Does the church have an aggressive program to reach everyone in the community and beyond with the gospel? What percentage of the members participate in the church's evangelistic outreaches? Is the church holding the line against the world's music and contemporary music? Is it being properly educated in this important issue? Is the church seeing men called to preach and is it training any men for the ministry? Is the church spiritually stronger today than it was 10 years ago? Is the church starting other sound churches? Is it multiplying itself? If these are the questions that preachers are asking, they will have different goals, different plans, different programs, different emphases than most churches today. And they will be laying a foundation to avoid the great collapse that we see on every hand.

PRINCE CHARLES RECOVERING FROM CORONAVIRUS ON HIS ESTATE; MY ESTATE IS BEING BUILT (Friday Church News Notes, April 27, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Prince Charles, first in line to the British throne, tested positive for coronavirus and is resting at the



Balmoral Estate. The 71-year-old “has been displaying mild symptoms but otherwise remains in good health and has been working from home.” His wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, is with him. Queen Elizabeth II, who will be 94 next month, is said to be in good health. Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, is one of the queen’s personal estate houses. It has been in the family since 1852, when the property was purchased by Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria of Victorian Era fame, and the new castle was constructed by his design. It is built of granite quarried on the estate. It features a seven-story turreted clock tower. The family, with their nine children, spent time there, and Victoria spend extensive periods at Balmoral after Albert’s death. The estate covers 50,000 acres and includes plains, moors, forests (including 3,000 of old-growth Caledonian pine), mountains, valleys, lakes and streams. It is a working estate with hunting moors, forestry (10,000 tons of wood annually), farmland, cattle, ponies, and managed herds of deer. Fifty full-time and 50-100 part-time staff maintain the

estate. Philip loves Balmoral and has added features such as water garden since the 1950s. Philip stays in Birkhall, a beautiful home nestled in a valley on the estate, near the river Muick. I, too, have an estate. I haven’t seen it yet, but it is under construction. As a joint-heir with Christ, I will occupy it one day. It has many advantages over Balmoral and Birkhall, three of which are that it is designed and built by God, it is eternal, and it is a free gift of God’s grace purchased by Jesus Christ. Oh, and there are no taxes. “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also” (John 14:1-3).

**KENNETH COPELAND
DECLARES AMERICA
HEALED** (Friday Church News Notes, April 3, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Pentecostal preacher Kenneth Copeland has exercised his prophetic “Word-Faith” powers to take authority over Covid-19 and to

declare America healed. He said, “Standing in the Office of the Prophet of God, I execute judgement on you, COVID 19. ... I demand a vaccination to come immediately. I call you done. I call you gone. ... It is finished. It is over. And the United States of America is healed and well again, sayeth the mighty Spirit of peace who is also the Prince of War” (“Judgment Is Executed on Covid-19,” Mar. 30, 2020, YouTube). This deluded man is a reproach to the cause of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. I have seen him command a hurricane to dissolve and a crippled girl to be healed, and after the huffing and puffing and commanding and proclaiming was finished, the hurricane was still a destructive hurricane and the crippled girl was still crippled. It’s on video for all to see, just like this present fiasco. Jesus Christ can command storms and heal every disease, and He gave miracle-working sign gifts to His apostles to prove their apostleship. “Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds” (2 Co. 12:12). But Copeland is not an apostle. He is “deceiving and being deceived” (2 Ti. 3:13), like the other Word-Faith hoaxers. I believe in



miracles and have seen a great many miracles over these past 47 years of walking with Christ, and I believe in healing and have seen miraculous healings in answer to prayer, but we can't *demand* and *command* these things. In this present time, we walk by faith, not sight, as we wait for the "manifestation of the sons of God" (Ro. 8:18-25).

THE ROOT OF AMERICA'S ILLS (Friday Church News Notes, April 3, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The bottom line is that America needs to repent of her wickedness before God. Radical political action and multi-trillion dollar national debts will not solve America's ills, because the fundamental issue is her terrible sin against the God that has shown her such light and mercy. And the *very root* of it all is the apostasy, corruption, compromise, worldliness, and lukewarmness in her churches. And that includes the majority of the most staunchly conservative, evangelical, "fundamentalist," and even "independent Baptist"! From my perspective, most "Bible-believing" churches in America are lukewarm at best. I believe that the promise of God to Solomon at the dedication of the temple has a proper application to God's people in America today. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked



ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). What happens in God's house dramatically affects the White House. It's high time to exchange a frivolous fun and games program, an entertainment program with a thin veneer of religiosity, for a program of serious prayer, serious Bible study, serious Bible preaching with exegetical substance and plain reproof and rebuke, serious holiness, serious separation from the wickedness of this fallen world, serious pilgrim Christianity, serious Christian living in the homes, being serious about the fathers being the heads of the homes and the mothers being the keepers of the home, serious about putting God's will before economics, serious training of children and discipling of youth, and above all, serious about a regenerate church membership!

ELTON JOHN PREACHING "BE WHATEVER YOU WANT TO BE" (Friday Church News Notes, April 3, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Rocker Elton John, a prominent gay-rights activist, emceed "The iHeart Living Room Concert for America" on Sunday, March 29. Artists included Alicia Keys, the Backstreet Boys, and Mariah Carey, all performing from their homes. At 73, Elton John has this message for youth: "Just be yourself. Don't let anybody do you down. ... I love being gay. ... If you're unhappy at home, leave, Don't let anybody torture you for being gay or for your sexuality. ... Be proud of who you are. There are so many wonderful diverse people in the world--straight people, gay people [and] transgender



people. We're all God's kids. People who should know better in places of responsibility [and] attack gay people, transgender people ... they claim to be close to God, [but] they couldn't be further away from God if they tried" ("Elton John Has a Message for Struggling LGBTQ Youth," *Variety*, July 5, 2019). It appears that Elton now thinks of himself as a prophet of God, since he speaks on God's behalf. Elton's message has been the message of the rock & roll pop culture since its inception. In the 1960s, I was captivated when the Rolling Stones sang, "I'm free to do what I want any old time," and the Animals said amen to that with, "It's my life and I'll do what I want; it's my mind and I'll think what I want." That philosophy resonated with me in those days, but the end of living for oneself is death, because man is not his own God. To live as one pleases is rebellion to the true God who gives us life and breath and all things (Acts 17:25). The "be what you please" message is a lot older than the 1960s, in fact. About 6,000 years ago, in a very nice garden, a serpent said, "Ye shall not surely die ... ye shall be as gods" (Ge. 3:5). It was a lie. We didn't make ourselves and we aren't gods and we do die.

PRAYER CAN DO ANYTHING THAT GOD CAN DO (Friday Church News Notes, April 3, 2020,



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- "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). "Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer. But we must use the key. Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do anything, prayer is omnipotent" (R.A. Torrey, *Power of Prayer*). "What wonders prayer has wrought! The Word of God teems with its marvelous deeds. Believer, thou hast a mighty engine in thy hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and thou shalt surely be a benefactor to thy brethren" (C. H. Spurgeon). "There is nothing like that of prevailing prayer--of Abraham pleading for Sodom, Jacob wrestling in the stillness of the night, Moses standing in the breach, Hannah intoxicated with sorrow, David heart-broken with remorse and grief, Jesus in sweat of blood. ... Such prayer prevails. It turns ordinary mortals into men of power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God" (Samuel Chadwick, *Prevailing Prayer*).

PASTOR BLAMED THE 1918 FLU EPIDEMIC ON THE CHURCHES (Friday Church News Notes, April 10, www.wayoflife.org
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- In 1918, Pastor John Quincy Henry of First Baptist Church in San Francisco, held an outdoors meeting and blamed the churches for the Spanish flu epidemic. He said, "[Churches] have been lamentably weak in moral and spiritual leadership and have not yet risen to the august occasion confronting them. Our churches have become conventional, cowardly and worldly. Not only the people, but the churches must repent their sins, and when they do the plagues will cease" (*The American Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919: A Digital Encyclopedia*). The situation hasn't changed in nearly 100 years. **The bottom line today, as then, is that America needs to repent of her wickedness before God, and that is doubly true for the churches.** Radical political action and multi-trillion dollar national debts will not solve America's ills, because the fundamental issue is her terrible sin against the God that has shown her such light and mercy. And the *very root* of it all is the apostasy, corruption, compromise, worldliness, and lukewarmness in the churches. And that includes the majority of the most staunchly conservative, evangelical, "fundamentalist," Baptist! From my perspective, most Bible-believing churches in America are lukewarm at best. One pastor wrote to me recently as follows: "Will independent fundamental Baptist



pastors cancel their services and keep their church doors closed if this goes on for months? If they do, I believe that their people will get so used to watching church online that they won't see the need to assemble together as a real church." I replied, "I would say that if church members would stop attending church because of a few week's closure, they shouldn't be church members in the first place. That isn't a regenerate church membership. And this is truly the fundamental issue--the sad spiritual state of the vast majority of so-called Bible-believing churches." I believe that the promise of God to Solomon at the dedication of the temple has a proper application to God's people in America today. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). What happens in God's house dramatically affects the White House. **It's high time to exchange a frivolous, fun and games entertainment program with a thin veneer of religiosity, for a program of serious prayer, serious Bible study, serious Bible preaching with exegetical substance and plain reproof and rebuke, serious holiness, serious separation from the wickedness of this fallen world, serious pilgrim Christianity, serious Christian living in the homes, being serious about the fathers being the heads of the homes and the mothers being the keepers of the home, serious about putting God's will before economics, serious training of children and discipling of youth,**

ELECTRIC HORNETS (Friday Church News Notes, April 3, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, February 3, 2020: "How many hornets does it take to power a digital watch? In the case of the Oriental hornet, six hornets can generate enough electricity to run the watch. Entomologists at Tel Aviv University have been studying Oriental hornets. They have been most interested in the outer skeleton or skin of the hornet. And they have discovered that this cuticle works as a living solar cell. When sunlight hits the hornet's cuticle, electricity is generated. To prove their point in dramatic fashion, they wired six hornets together in series. That arrangement generated enough electricity to run a digital watch for several seconds. Their research also revealed the fact that the cuticle's electrical generation is most efficient at the temperatures in which the hornets normally operate. Different layers in the cuticle generate and store electrical current. Voltages have ranged as high as several hundred millivolts and the current has been recorded as high as several tenths of an ampere. In effect, Oriental wasps are living semiconductors! The researchers now find themselves in the classic

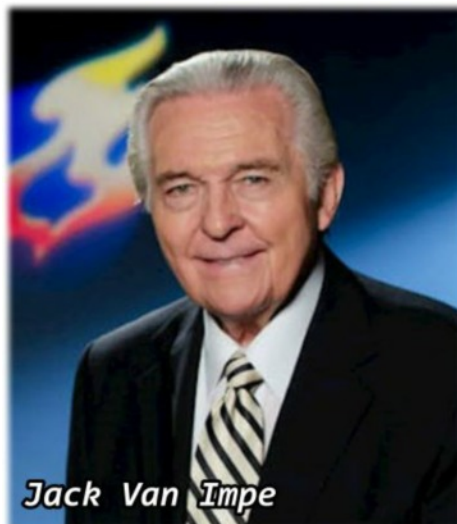


situation of finding out how little they know by learning something. They report that they don't know how the hornet converts its electrical energy into a form it can use. Nor do they know how the cuticle stores the energy or transmits it. Modern science loves to take pride in its accomplishments. However, every time science investigates God's seemingly simplest creations, scientists are reminded of their need for humility. REF.: Reese, K.M. 1992. 'Hornet cuticle may work like organic solar cell,' *Chemical & Engineering News*, Mar. 23. p. 94."

and above all, serious about a regenerate church membership!

JACK VAN IMPE'S PASSING (Friday Church News Notes, April 10, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Somehow we missed the passing of Jack Van Impe on January 18 at age 88. He started his preaching career in the late 1940s as an evangelist with Youth For Christ. Called "the Walking Bible," he could quote more than 10,000 Bible verses. In July 1995 he said he had read 10 thousand books in his lifetime. From the 1950s to 1980, he conducted revival crusades attended by more than 10 million. In early 1973, before I was saved, I attended a Van Impe evangelistic crusade at a church in

Tampa, Florida. One of my pagan buddies had a believing sister who invited him to the meeting, and he asked me to come along. I was put off by the musical showmanship, and when Van Impe gave away



expensive study Bibles to those who brought the most visitors, I thought to myself, "This is why they invited us!" After I was saved, I heard Van Impe speak at Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, if I remember correctly. Van Impe was closely associated with Jerry Falwell and moved in "fundamentalist" circles. At the 1976 World Congress of Fundamentalists in Edinburg, Scotland, Van Impe said preachers are "to contend with false religionists in order to show them the error of their way." But by the early 1980s, Van Impe had changed direction. In his 1984 book, *Heart Disease in the Body of Christ*, Van Impe maligned fundamentalists as unloving and called for ecumenical unity between all Christians. He republished it in

1991 under the title *Sabotaging the World Church*. Not surprisingly, since the flow of the ecumenical river is always Rome-ward, he was soon praising the pope. He said: "Let's forget our labels and come together in love, and the pope has called for that. I had 400 verses on love. Till I die I will proclaim nothing but love for all my brothers and sisters in Christ, my Catholic brothers and sisters, Protestant brothers and sisters, Christian Reformed, Lutherans, I don't care what label you are. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another." On his September 29, 1992, television program, Van Impe "praised Pope John Paul II, calling him a 'great' man and telling his audience that they ought to 'thank God' for such a courageous religious leader." In 1993, Van Impe published *Startling Revelations: Pope John Paul II*, a video that presented the pope as a defender of the faith! Van Impe continued to praise the pope until his death, even though he had devoted himself wholly to Mary. Van Impe is yet another illustration of the truth of 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." Van Impe specialized in speculative prophecy in his weekly television program *Jack Van Impe Presents* (co-hosted by his wife Rexella) and his magazine *Perhaps Today*. His video *A.D. 2000 - The End* came near to setting a date for the Lord's return. He suffered a lot in the last 15 years, total knee replacements, cancer, stomach ulcers, a severe sepsis attack, triple by-pass surgery, and a broken hip.

THE WORLD PASSETH AWAY
(Friday Church News Notes, April



10, 2020, www.wayoflife.org
fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:15-17). The verb "passeth" is present indicative middle. The present tense is a continuous tense. So the world is passing away. The indicative mood "asserts something which is occurring while the speaker is making the statement." So the world system is passing away at this time. The middle voice tells us that the world is passing away "by an action acting upon itself or concerning itself." So the world is being passed away. We know that the world is not passing itself away, and we know that the god of this world is not passing it away. Rather, it is God who is passing the world away. He holds the reins. He is using this present world system for His eternal plans and glory, and it will be finished exactly when God decides, to be replaced by Christ's kingdom.

The prophet Daniel described the end of this present world system. In the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, it was depicted as a great image of a man representing the ruling empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome (Da. 2:31-35). Daniel's interpretation explains that Rome continues in various forms until the return of Christ, at which time the world system will be crushed and replaced with Christ's righteous kingdom. "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Da. 2:34-35). Bible commentator Robert Lenski says, "The world is now in the act of passing away. It is its very nature not to last. Its doom is overtaking it. Its glory is fading, its flowers are withering, its promises are failing, its hopes are crumbling. Isa. 14:11. ... Does the siren voice of the world tickle your ears? Hear the word of truth: 'The world is passing away!' The bank is breaking, it was never solvent--will you deposit in it? The foundation is tottering, it was never solid but only sham--will you build on it? The mountain is rumbling, quaking, it was never anything but volcanic, ready to blow off its head at any time--will you build your city there?"

THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND SAYS EASTER ISN'T CANCELLED (Friday Church News Notes, April 17, 2020,



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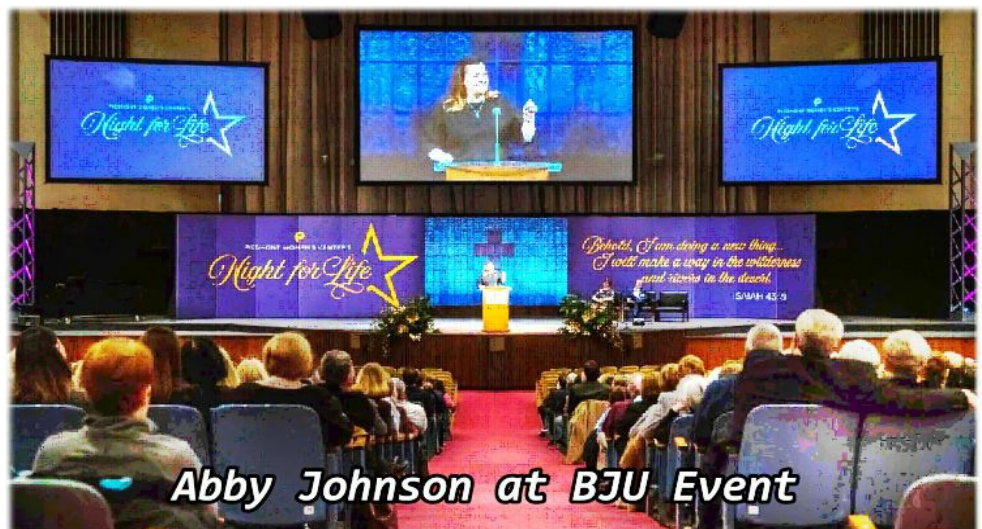
- On Saturday April 11, in a message via social media, Queen Elizabeth said, "As darkness falls on the Saturday before Easter Day, many Christians would normally light candles together. In church, one light would pass to another, spreading slowly and then more rapidly as more candles are lit. It's a way of showing how the good news of Christ's resurrection has been passed on from the first Easter by every generation until now. This year, Easter will be different for many of us but by keeping apart we keep others safe. But Easter isn't cancelled; indeed we need Easter as much as ever. The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that Coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be, particularly for those suffering with grief, light and life are greater. May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future. I wish everyone of all faiths and denominations a blessed Easter." The Queen is right, of course, that Easter isn't cancelled. Christ is risen from the dead and nothing can undo that. What is sad is that she didn't

state the significance of Christ's death and resurrection. She didn't preach the gospel, and there is no salvation, no victory over death, no real hope, apart from the gospel. A vague "new hope and fresh purpose" isn't the gospel of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul summarized it like this: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Christ's bodily resurrection, which is a well-authenticated fact of history, was the evidence that God accepted His vicarious atonement and that He is indeed the Son of God, the only Lord and Saviour. "Jesus Christ our Lord ... declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:3-5).

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY HOSTS ROMAN CATHOLIC SPEAKER (Friday Church News Notes, April 17, 2020, www.wayoflife.org

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Machen White, "BJU Then and

Now...Abby Johnson," Apr. 7, 2020, *Musings of a Fundamentalist*: "On February 2018 Dr. Steve Pettit, president of Bob Jones University, praised Dr. Billy Graham's ministry and his legacy. During a chapel message on November 7th of 2019, Dr. Bob praised the ministry of Dr. Billy Kim. Dr. Kim has always been a lover of the Graham ministry. It is a well-documented fact that Graham and Kim made partnering with the Roman Catholics (and others) IN MINISTRY a matter of course. On January 23, 2020, BJU invited the public on campus to screen the movie *Unplanned* created by pro-life advocate Abby Johnson. Then on March 5, 2020, BJU hosted the Piedmont Women's Center (PWC) for their fundraising event. The speaker for the evening was Abby Johnson. During the event, Johnson 'preached the gospel.' On stage, displayed on a banner, were the words of Isaiah 43:19. Johnson said, 'We must give the gospel to these ladies, not the watered-down Jesus but the powerful Jesus...everyone here is a sinner and in the need of a savior.' She used the words 'cross, gospel, sinners, Jesus.' Folks left the event believing Johnson to be a born again Christian. Here is what they did



Abby Johnson at BJU Event

not know: Johnson was raised a Southern Baptist. Through a series of events, she converted to Roman Catholicism ... Johnson explains her journey away from a gospel-preaching church and into Romanism. She proudly admits that she uses the pro-life platform to evangelize for Romanism.”

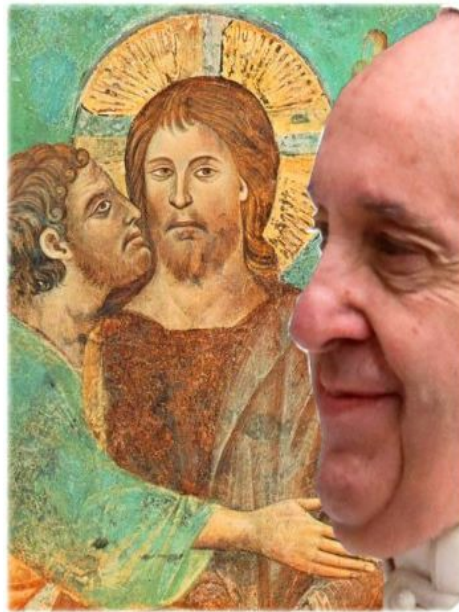
POPE SAYS JUDAS IS POSSIBLY IN HEAVEN

(Friday Church News Notes, April 17, 2020,

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- Speaking at a papal mass on April 8, Pope Francis said, “Something that calls my attention is that Jesus never calls him ‘traitor’: [Jesus] says he will be betrayed, but he doesn’t say to [Judas], ‘traitor.’ He never says, ‘Go away, traitor.’ Never. In fact, he calls him, ‘Friend,’ and he kisses him. ... How did Judas end up? I don’t know. Jesus threatens forcefully here; he threatens forcefully: ‘woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.’ But does that mean that Judas is in Hell? I don’t know.” The pope also said there is a “little Judas that each one of us has within” (“Satan pays badly, warns pope,” *Aleteia*, Apr. 8, 2020). The pope lightly passes over the words of Jesus that it would be better for Judas if he had never been born (Mt. 26:24). When the apostles chose a replacement for Judas after Christ’s ascension, they prayed, “Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place” (Acts 1:24-25). What is Judas’ own place? Jesus answered this in His high



priestly prayer, as He said to the Father, “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the SON OF PERDITION; that the scripture might be fulfilled” (John 17:12). “Perdition” is the Greek *apoleia*, which is also translated “destruction” (Mt. 7:13) and “damnation” (2 Pe.2:3). It is used for eternal judgment in Romans 9:22; Philippians 3:19; Hebrews 10:39; 2 Peter 2:1, 3; 3:7, 16; and Revelation 17:8, 11. The antichrist is also called “the son of perdition” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

UNITED NATIONS PARTNERING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA TO STIFLE FREE SPEECH GLOBALLY

(Friday Church News Notes, April 10,

www.wayoflife.org

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

- The following is excerpted from “World Health Organization,” *Reformation Charlotte*, Mar. 17, 2020: “Free speech is the foundation upon which a free society is built and when freedom of speech is taken away, society is no longer actually

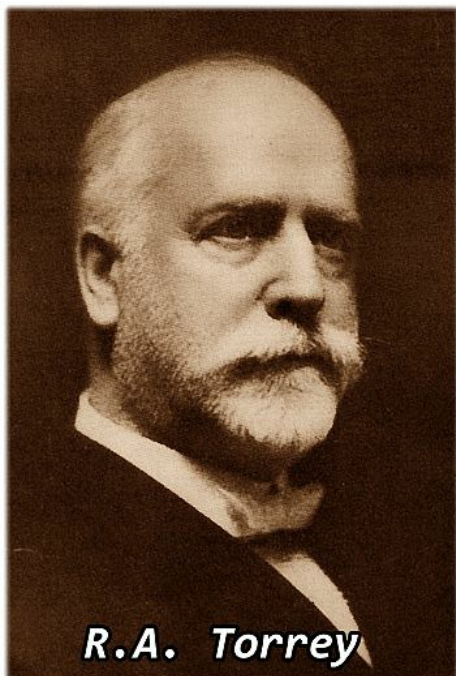
free. In the free world, free speech has been a right protected regardless of the truthfulness of the speech itself. ... The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that it is partnering with social media giants to ‘flag and take down’ ‘misinformation’ regarding the coronavirus pandemic. *ABC 7* reports, ‘There is a flow of misinformation online about the virus, which health officials are calling an *infodemic* and they are mounting a concerted effort to combat it. ... Andy Pattison, the manager of digital solutions at WHO, [says] this could well be the first global infodemic. ... The WHO is working directly with tech companies on a daily basis to flag and take down bad information, and to ensure that facts from reliable sources get to users first’ (‘How COVID-19 *infodemic* is infecting the internet with false information,’ *ABC7news.com*, Mar. 6, 2020). Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg posted in a comment on Facebook recently, ‘Given the developing situation, we’re working with national ministries of health and organizations like the WHO, CDC and UNICEF to help them get out timely, accurate information on the coronavirus. We’re also focused on stopping hoaxes and harmful



misinformation...' While there certainly is a plethora of false information being widely disseminated around social media, a free society has the obligation to allow it, protect the right to it, and to combat it with true information. **The fact that a world government organization is partnering with social media to limit the information that they alone deem 'false' or 'misleading' should raise the hairs on everyone's necks.** This isn't protecting the public, it's harming people. It's outright tyranny on a global scale."

UNSAVED CHURCH MEMBERS

(Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - R.A. Torrey (1856-1928), Bible teacher, educator, Bible conference speaker, editor of *The Fundamentals*, and one of the most prominent evangelists in the heyday of America's revivals, said that he believed that only 10% of those who professed to be believers were really converted (cited from William



R.A. Torrey

Ashbrook, *Evangelicalism The New Neutralism*, p. 118). Monroe "Monk" Parker, evangelist, president of Pillsbury Baptist College, and general director of Baptist World Mission, said, "I have concluded that if we could get half the church members saved, we would see a great revival. In fact, I think if we could get half of the preachers in America converted, we would see a mighty revival that would stop the floodtide of evil and turn America back to God. Just belonging to a church did not save me" (Parker, *Through Sunshine and Shadows*, 1967, p. 62).

LUTHERAN NEW TESTAMENT REMOVES THE WORD

"ISRAEL" (Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A New Testament published by the Danish Bible Society has removed the name *Israel*, except in one place. Called *Bible 2020*, it replaces Israel with "Jews," "the land of the Jews," or an alternative generic term. Reviewer Jan Frost says that "the publishers justified the change by claiming that the 'Israel' referred to in the Bible is not the same as Israel today." "Elaine Duncan, Global Council Chairperson of the Bible Society, noted that the new edition has already been downloaded to more than 90 countries, which she considered to be a great success at moving towards what she described as a 'global church'" ("Lutherans Publish New Version," *BreakingIsraelNews*, Apr. 20, 2020). This reminds us that the United Bible Societies, of which the Danish Bible Society is a member, are radically ecumenical and are at the forefront of building the apostate one-world "church." (For documentation see



Unholy Hands on God's Holy Book, available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.) The name "Israel" is mentioned 70 times in the Greek New Testament, and Israel was already apostate then, which is why she called for the crucifixion of her own Messiah. At the dawn of Israel's history as a nation, after she left Egypt but before she entered her own land, Moses prophesied that Israel would disobey God's law, be evicted from her land, be scattered throughout the nations in a spiritually blind, difficult condition, and then return to the land. See Deuteronomy 28:15-67 and 30:1-9. This is exactly what has happened, proving that Bible prophecy is to be interpreted literally. So it is *THE SAME ISRAEL* that came out of Egypt and entered the Promised Land and that was evicted from the land by Rome in the second century AD and that has lived among the nations for 2,000 years, that has returned in modern times. Old Testament prophecy explains that Israel must return to the land in an apostate condition in order to set the stage for the Antichrist and the Third Temple (Daniel 9:27). The "Valley of Dry Bones" prophecy in Ezekiel 37 teaches that Israel will return in two stages, first spiritually dead, and then spiritually converted. Stage one is fulfilled; stage two waits in the wings. "And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered

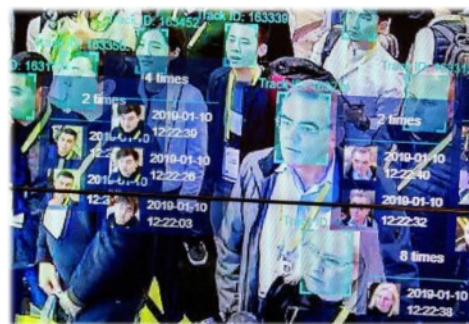
them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army" (Eze. 37:8-10).

CHINA REMOVES CROSSES FROM CHURCHES FOR BEING "HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL FLAG" (Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *Bitter Winter*, a human rights magazine, reports the following: "Even the deadly coronavirus outbreak did not reduce the speed of the cross-demolition campaign sweeping through China. In mid-March, crosses were removed from multiple churches in the eastern provinces of Jiangsu and Anhui. In the neighboring Shandong, the prefecture-level city of Linyi is no exception: On top of at least 70 crosses removed from churches since last spring, more have been taken down during the epidemic. ... Last December, numerous crosses were removed from Three-Self churches in Hegang, a prefecture-level city in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang. A member of a church



in the city's Dongshan district told *Bitter Winter* that a local official threatened to close down the church if the cross was not removed because 'it was higher than the national flag'" ("Crosses Removed from Numerous State-run Protestant Churches," *Bitter Winter*, Apr. 11, 2020). This reminds us of two Bible prophecies. The first is in the Psalms: "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" (Psalm 2:1-6). The second prophecy is in Isaiah: "Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall be* upon every *one that is* proud and lofty, and upon every *one that is* lifted up; and he shall be brought low" (Isaiah 2:10-12).

CHINA MONITORING CHURCHES' SOCIAL MEDIA (Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from ChristianHeadlines.com, Apr. 7, 2020: "Day-to-day online activities by Christians also are monitored. Members of a Three-Self church in the province of Henan received a notice from their pastor in January



demanding they dissolve their groups on We Chat, a social media app. In February, a village official forced a Christian resident to 'change his We Chat account profile picture' because it contained an image of a cross, *Bitter Winter* reported. Churches and their members are prohibited from saying anything negative about the government or spreading information about the pandemic that isn't government-approved. 'The Public Security Bureau has information on all members of every We Chat group, and network inspections are carried out, especially strict during the pandemic,' a Three-Self pastor from Shandong told *Bitter Winter*. Persecution has worsened during the pandemic. 'Encouraged by the government, many factories and public venues have been re-opened, but religious venues are still barred,' a Three-Self believer from Henan province said. 'Religious meetings are forbidden, and all channels of religious communication are blocked.'"

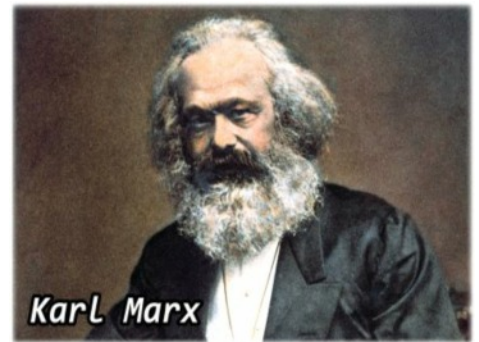
IN CHINA, ALL CALLS FOR FREEDOM LEAD TO PUNISHMENT (Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "In China," *Bitter Winter*, Apr. 11, 2020: "The death of Li Wenliang, the doctor who raised concerns about the dangers of the coronavirus and was



silenced by the government, ignited a wave of anger among China's population. On the night of his death, February 6, a protest started online, a rarity in the country governed by an authoritarian regime. Wearing face masks with 'can't' and 'don't understand'—in reference to 'Can you manage? Do you understand?' from Dr. Li's forced confession, asking if he could behave and understand what he did wrong—people took to the internet to express the pent-up distrust and despair at the government for concealing information about the virus and its dangers. They also accused the authorities of suppressing free speech. Among them was a man from eastern China. He agreed to talk to *Bitter Winter* on the condition of anonymity, so we'll call him Mr. Cheng. 'When Li Wenliang died, I wanted to do something to

commemorate him,' Mr. Cheng told *Bitter Winter*. 'So, I sent a message on my WeChat group, suggesting that the group members change their profile picture to the photo of Li Wenliang and demand to thoroughly investigate why the coronavirus whistleblowers were persecuted, find out who is to blame, and ask for a public apology.' ... That same day, the local police stormed into his house, took away his cellphone, and arrested him on suspicion of 'disturbing public order.' 'The police claimed that my message was intended to subvert the state power. I could be imprisoned for ten years,' Mr. Cheng continued. ... Before he was released, Mr. Cheng was asked to sign a statement promising not to post any more 'improper remarks.' ... Many other netizens joined the online protest, demanding freedom of speech. They were reprimanded and silenced by the police, and nothing has changed—business as usual in China."

MARXISTS LOVE TURMOIL (Friday Church News Notes, April 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Marx took Hegel's idea of change through confrontation and



accommodation and placed it in the material world. This gives us the basic communist idea of change through destruction and reorganization. Communism thrives on turmoil because, to their way of thinking, anything which upsets order is an aid in movement toward their ultimate synthesis. In communism, the ruling class is the thesis, the working class the antithesis, and the ultimate synthesis will be a state controlled by the people living in complete equality. ... Many Christians have been amazed at the sympathy and comradeship liberal theologians feel for the godless communist movement. But it is not really surprising since they are both, in different areas of life, searching by the same methods for the same end" (Daniel J. Ebert, *Will Our Sons Defend the Faith*, 3rd edition, 1994, p. 36).

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