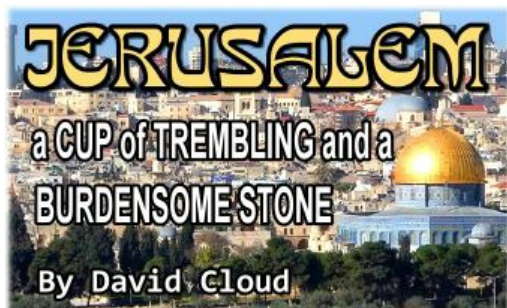


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"Jerusalem will be a stone that is too heavy to lift and too strong to break. This is exactly what we see in the last 2,000 years of history, and it will be true in the future. It is as if Jerusalem were a massive stone in a field that someone wants to remove, but no matter how much they labor, they cannot remove it, and they become drunk with a fervor to solve this unsolvable problem." Page 4.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 10.**



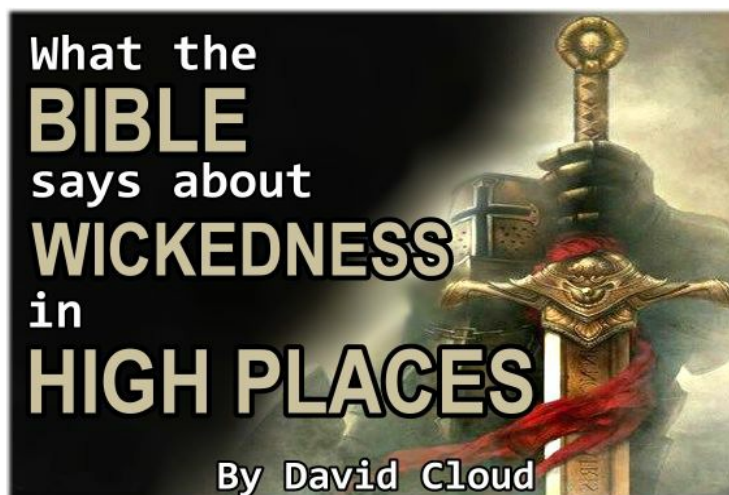
WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES ~ By David Cloud

The following is why dirty politics and conspiracies and corrupt schemes in high places can never long prevail and why the righteous should not fret at the prosperity of the wicked.

God's people are to trust in their God and do good and wait for Him, for He is the King who ruleth over all. Those who cannot do this should not profess to have faith in Christ and should admit that they don't really obey the Bible. To do good in this present age is to focus on Christ's Great Commission until He comes for His bride. This is the business that Christ taught, repeated, and emphasized after the resurrection (Mt. 28:18-20; Mr. 16:15; Lu. 24:44-48; Joh. 20:21; Ac. 1:8).

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"be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).

"To me *belongeth* vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in *due* time: for the day of their calam-



ity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste" (Deuteronomy 32:35).

"The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him" (Ezra 8:22).

“So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai” (Esther 7:10).

“Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same” (Job 4:8).

“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” (Psalm 2:2-5).

“Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch *which* he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate” (Psalm 7:14-16).

“The heathen are sunk down in the pit *that* they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken” (Psalm 9:15).

“Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about” (Psalm 32:10).

“Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate” (Psalm. 34:21).

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb” (Psalm 37:1-2).

“For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked *shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it *shall not be*. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, *and* to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken” (Psalm 37:9-15).

“For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off” (Psalm 37:28).

“Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he *was* not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found” (Psalm 37:34-36).

“Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; *and* lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. Thou lovest all devouring words, O *thou* deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of *thy* dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: Lo, *this is* the man *that* made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, *and* strengthened himself in his wickedness” (Psalm 52:2-7).

“They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward *thought* of every one of

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them, and the heart, *is* deep. But God shall shoot at them *with* an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away. And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing. The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory” (Psalm 64:6-10).

“When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; *it is* that they shall be destroyed for ever: But thou, LORD, *art most* high for evermore. For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered” (Psalm 92:7-9).

“Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. But the LORD is my defence; and my God *is* the rock of my refuge. And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; *yea*, the LORD our God shall cut them off” (Psalm 94:20-23).

“The desire of the wicked shall perish” (Psalm 112:10).

“evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him” (Psalm 140:11).

“For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives” (Proverbs 1:16-18).

“Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices” (Proverbs 1:31).

“Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch *which* he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate” (Psalm 7:14-16).

“Evil pursueth sinners” (Proverbs 13:21).

“Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

“Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him” (Proverbs 26:27).

“Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit” (Proverbs 28:10).

“Woe unto the wicked! *it shall be* ill *with him*: for the reward of his hands shall be given him” (Isaiah 3:11).

“Say unto them, *As* I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

“For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind” (Hosea 8:7).

“the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth *wrath* for his enemies” (Naham 1:2).

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

“Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord” (Hebrews 10:30).

“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:17).

The verb “passeth” is present indicative. The present tense is a continuous tense, and the indicative mood “asserts something which is occurring while the speaker is making the statement.” So the world is passing at this time. This present world system seems to be permanent, but it is even now in the process of passing away. That’s what God says. But he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

God holds the reins. He is using this present world system for His eternal purpose, 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 threshing-floors; 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 following is excerpted from the [Way of Life Commentary Series, The Minor Prophets](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org -

"The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah *and* against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it" (Zechariah 12:1-3).

Jerusalem will be a stone that is too heavy to lift and too strong to break. This is exactly what we see in the last 2,000 years of history, and it will be true in the future. It is as if Jerusalem were a massive stone in a field that someone wants to remove, but no matter how much they

labor, they cannot remove it, and they become drunk with a fervor to solve this unsolvable problem.

Both the city (Jerusalem) and the field (the land of Israel) are God's, and those who are wise will leave it alone. Jerusalem is mentioned 814 times in the Bible. In addition, it is called Zion 153 times. Jerusalem was chosen by God that His name might be there (2 Ch. 8:6). This is not said of any other city on earth. God calls Jerusalem "my city" (Isa. 45:13). God loves Jerusalem (Ps. 78:68; 87:2) and has stated that He will dwell in Jerusalem forever (Ps. 132:13-14). God delivered Jerusalem to Israel by the hands of David (1 Ch. 11:4-9) and it was Israel's capital city until the Babylonian Captivity. Since then Israel has been under "the times of the Gentiles" and has largely been under Gentile control, but Jerusalem still belongs to God and will be the capital of the Messianic kingdom. (See Ps. 2:6; 48:1-2; 68:35; 87:5-7; 102:16, 21; 110:2; 132:11-18; Isa. 2:1-4; 4:3-5; 12:4-6; 24:23; 27:13; 30:19; 33:5, 20; 35:10; 40:2, 9; 41:27; 44:26; 46:13; 51:3, 11, 17; 52:1-2, 9; 59:20; 60:14;

61:3; 65:18-19; 66:10, 13, 20; Jer. 3:17; 17:25-26; 30:17; 31:12; 32:44; 33:10, 13, 16; 50:28; Joe. 3:1, 16-17, 20; Ob. 1:17; Mic. 4:2, 7, 8; Zep. 3:14-17; Zec. 2:4, 10, 12; 8:3-4, 8; 8:22; 9:10; 12:6-11; 14:8-11, 14, 16-17, 21; Mal. 3:4.)

Throughout the times of the Gentiles, Jerusalem has been a cup of trembling and a burdensome stone for many people. The city has been captured and recaptured more than 40 times.

Jerusalem was a cup of trembling to the Babylonians. Israel refused to submit to Nebuchadnezzar's authority, and he besieged the city three times and finally destroyed it. The Neo-Babylonian kingdom lasted only 47 more years, and was conquered by Persia.

Jerusalem was a cup of trembling to the Greek Seleucid Empire. It was captured by Antiochus the Great in 200 BC and by Antiochus Epiphanes in 175. It was retaken by the Jewish Maccabees in 164 but then recaptured by Antiochus VII Sidetes in 134.

Jerusalem was a cup of trembling to the Romans. The Roman legions under Pompey conquered Jerusalem in 63 BC after a three-month siege, and the Romans found Jerusalem to be a burdensome stone for the next five centuries. It was a burdensome stone in the First Jewish War, culminating in the destruction of the city in AD 70, and it was a burdensome stone in the Second Jewish War. Legions of Rome's elite soldiers were thrown into these wars. Rome tried to erase the very memory of Jerusalem's association with Israel by changing its name to Aelia Capitolina and building a Roman city over its ruins.

Jerusalem was a cup of trembling to the Crusaders. They captured the city from the Muslims in 1099 but lost it to Saladin in 1187 and were not able to regain it.

Jerusalem was a cup of trembling to the Muslims. Various Muslim groups long fought over the city. It was captured by Saladin in 1187, by the Tartars in 1244, by the Ayyubids in 1247, and by the Turks in 1517.

Jerusalem was a cup of trembling to the British. The city surrendered to the British in 1917 and was under the British Mandate until 1948. Throughout that time, the British found Jerusalem and the land of Israel to be a very burdensome stone. They seemed to be drunken with the desire to solve the Jerusalem problem, but the great world

empire builders had zero success and finally gave up in disgust and left.

Jerusalem is a cup of trembling today. Both Muslims and Jews claim the city as their heritage, but whereas the Jewish claim is ancient and irrefutable, the Muslim claim is of recent origin and bogus. Jerusalem is not even mentioned in the Koran.

The idea that the Temple Mount is the place from whence Mohammed allegedly ascended to heaven was invented by Haj Armin el-Husseini, the late Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who promoted this idea in the 1920s and 1930s to stir up Muslim passion against the growing Jewish presence (David Guzik). Today, Muslim violence breaks out when Jews even attempt to pray on the Temple Mount.

Over the past 50 years, the world's most clever diplomats have tried to solve the "Jerusalem problem." Every U.S. president since Harry Truman has worried himself with this problem, but there is absolutely no solution, because the land belongs to God and He gave it to Jacob and Jacob's seed, and no one else has any right to it.

Jerusalem will be a cup of trembling at Armageddon. The armies of the nations will besiege Jerusalem and Judah (Zec. 12:2-3).

Judah is part of what is called "the West Bank" today.

The exact order of events is a little difficult to ascertain.

From Luke 21:20-28, it appears that Jerusalem will first be overcome and the Jews scattered and enslaved by the Antichrist at the beginning of the last half of Daniel's 70th Week. This is when the Antichrist desecrates the temple by setting himself up as God. Compare Mt. 24:15-21 and Zec. 14:1-2. During this time of persecution, two-thirds of the Jews in the land will perish and one-third will be converted (Zec. 13:8-9). Then at the end of the 70th Week, three and a half years later, the armies of the nations will gather as described in Zechariah 12. At that time Christ will return and empower Israel to overcome her enemies (Zec. 14:3-4). (For more on the Battle of Armageddon see the study in The

Future According to the Bible, available from Way of Life Literature.)

God uses strong language to describe the overthrow of the Gentile armies. The armies “shall be cut in pieces.” Both horses and riders will be smitten with madness (Zec. 12:4). The mention of horses in connection with the Battle of Armageddon either means that literal horse warfare will be reinstated or that the horses signify the engines of modern warfare. The blood on the horse bridles (Re. 14:20) would seem to refer to literal horses. Interestingly, the last major cavalry engagement of history occurred at the Battle of Megiddo when General Allenby’s British forces defeated the Turkish forces at the end of World War I. Since then, horses and mules have played only a small role in warfare, but there could be any number of reasons why horses are reintroduced at the end of the Tribulation. It could be, for example, that the supply and distribution of fuel oil will have become impossible by that time. God will open His eyes upon the house of Judah (Zec. 12:4). In that day God will again turn His attention, so to speak, back to Israel. For 2,000 years she has been “put on a shelf,” spiritually blind and wandering about under God’s hand of judgment while the Church has been built

by material gathered from all nations (Ro. 11:25-27). When the Church is completed and raptured or caught away, God’s prophetic plan for Israel will start again.

The “governors of Judah” (Zec. 12:5-6) refer to the leaders of Israel in that day. After they are converted, they will be “like an hearth of fire among the wood ... and they shall devour all the people round about.”

Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem (Zec. 12:6). This could mean that Israel’s capital will be moved to some other location during the reign of the Antichrist, though it could simply be a way of emphasizing that the capital of Israel will not change.

The Lord will save Judah first (Zec. 12:7). Apparently there will be some sort of division between Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and God will act in a way that will create peace and unity.

In that day, the converted Jews will become mighty warriors like David, who slew the giant Goliath (1 Sa. 17), and like the angel of the LORD, who slew the entire Assyrian army (2 Ki. 19:35).



The Levites were appointed by God to be the priestly tribe (Nu. 1:50; 3:5-9).

They were dedicated to the Lord in the place of Israel’s firstborn sons (Nu. 8:13-17). As Creator, God owns all men (Eze. 18:4). He owns the believer in a double sense—by right of Creator and by right of Redeemer (1 Co. 6:19-20).

The Levites are descendants of Jacob’s son Levi (Ge. 29:34).

Moses and Aaron were Levites (Ex. 6:18-20). Aaron was the first high priest (Ex. 28:1), and this office passed to

the eldest son at death (Nu. 20:25-28). The sons of Aaron served with the high priest.

All of the Levites were priests, but a distinction is made in Scripture between the priests the sons of Aaron (Le. 1:5) and the priests the sons of Levi (De. 17:18; 21:5). The “priests the sons of Levi” usually refers to the sons of Gerson, Kohath, and Merari. Normally “the Levites” refers to all of the Levites other than the sons of Aaron, and “the priests” refers to Aaron’s sons.

See, for example, 1 Ch. 15:11; 23:2; 2 Ch. 13:9-10; 29:16, 34; 30:16. Rarely, “the priests the Levites” refers to all of the Levites, including the sons of Aaron (De. 18:1; 27:9).

The high priest lit the lampstand (Nu. 8:2-3), burned incense on the golden altar (Ex. 30:7-8; Le. 24:3-4), and entered the holy of holies on the day of atonement (Le. 16). Under the high priest's direction, the sons of Aaron assisted in burning the incense, lighting the lamps, and maintaining the shewbread). See 2 Ch. 13:10-11; 26:18. Aaron's sons made the sacrifices (Le. 1:11; 2:2; 3:2) and blew the silver trumpets (Nu. 10:8).

The high priest and his sons oversaw the work of the other Levites (Nu. 8:13-15).

Levi had three sons: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari (Ex. 6:16). These became the heads of the three divisions of the Levites who were under the oversight of Aaron and his sons (Nu. 4:22-23, 29-30, 34-35). Though Aaron was a son of Kohath (Ex. 6:18, 20), he was set apart distinctly for the office of high priest.

When Israel traveled in the wilderness, the Gershonites carried the tent hangings and curtains (Nu. 4:24-26), the Kohathites carried the vessels of the tabernacle such as the candlestick and table of shewbread (Nu. 3:29-31; 4:15), and the Merarites carried the boards, bars, pillars, and sockets (Nu. 4:31-32).

The Levites did everything associated with the operation and maintenance of the tabernacle (1 Ch. 23:28-32): setting it up, taking it down, carrying it, offering the sacrifices, cleaning the altar, providing wood for the altar, filling and cleaning the laver, maintaining the candlestick, baking the bread and the offerings (1 Ch. 9:32; 23:29), mixing the incense and oils (Ex. 30:23-25, 34-38; 1 Ch. 9:30). They had charge of all of the vessels (1 Ch. 9:29).

The Levites were porters at the gates (1 Ch. 9:17-24; 12:28; 26:1-8; 2 Ch. 26:1-19). This was an important, multi-function task. It required "able men for strength for the service" (1 Ch. 26:8). They had to reside nearby so they could be present to open the gates (1 Ch. 9:27). They had to be faithful to stay at their gates (2 Ch. 35:15). They were guides to help the people know where go and guards to keep the wrong people out (2 Ch. 23:19). This included a military aspect ("men of valour ... able men for strength," 1 Ch. 26:6, 8). The Levite porters guarded Joash when he was anointed king (2 Ch. 23:4-7). "Their office ... appears to have been of considerable dignity, and conferred only on men of the first rank. They were appointed to attend the temple, to guard

all the avenues to it, to open and shut all the outer gates, and attend at them, not only for state but for service. They were also required to direct and instruct those who were going to worship in the courts of the sanctuary in the conduct they were to observe, to encourage those who were timid, to send back the strangers and unclean, and to guard against thieves and others who were enemies to the house of God" (*Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*).

The priests and Levites were singers and musicians (1 Ch. 9:33; 15:16-24; 2 Ch. 5:12-13; 29:27-28; 35:15; Ne. 12:27-28, 40-42). It appears that the priests played the trumpets, while the Levites played other instruments (2 Ch. 5:12; 7:6; 29:26; Ezr. 3:10).

The priests and Levites evaluated property in their capacity in performing the law of leprosy (Le. 27:12, 14; De. 24:8).

The priests and Levites were the keepers of Scripture (De. 17:18; 31:9, 24-26).

The priests and Levites were teachers of the law (Le. 10:8-11; De. 31:9-13; 33:10; 2 Ch. 17:7-9; 35:3; Ezr. 8:6, 10; Ne. 8:1-8; Eze. 44:23; Mal. 2:7). The Levite was to be a man of God's Book, loving it, studying it, memorizing it, meditating on it, preserving it, guarding it, teaching it. Ezra was a prominent example of this (Ezr. 7:6, 10; Ne. 8:5-8).

The priests and Levites were officers and judges (De. 17:8-13; 19:17; 21:5; 1 Ch. 23:4; 26:29-30; Eze. 44:24). The men in this capacity were "men of valor" (1 Ch. 26:30, 31, 32). Samuel was a prominent example of a Levite judge (1 Sa. 7:15-17). He was strong and courageous in his leadership of Israel and in reproving their sins, including the sins of King Saul (1 Sa. 15:13-29). Samuel killed Agag by his own hands (1 Sa. 15:32-33). Levites guarded Joash when he was anointed king (2 Ch. 23:7).

The Levites were the treasurers of the offerings and the holy property (1 Ch. 9:26; 26:20-26).

The priests and Levites were the keepers of the weights and measures (Le. 19:35-36; Nu. 3:50; 1 Ch. 23:29). "The standards of all weights and measures were in the sanctuary; and therefore the Levites had the inspection of weights and measures of every kind, that no fraud might in this way be committed. Honesty is inseparably

connected with piety; and hence the Levites, being sufficiently numerous, were employed to superintend the former, as well as the latter” (*Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*). As judges and keepers of the measures, the Levites were to watch over Israel’s business to make sure it was just and honest. “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I *am* the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt” (Le. 19:35-36).

The work was divided among the Levites, and their work was assigned by God (1 Ch. 23:1-6).

There were chiefs (1 Ch. 15:11-12, 16, 22; 23:6, 9, 11; 24:4-5). The positions were chosen by lot (1 Ch. 24:5-30). There was an overseer of all of the work (Ne. 11:22).

The Levite began his ministry of service in the tabernacle at age 25 (Nu. 8:24). But he didn’t begin the heavy work of transporting the tabernacle until age 30 (Nu. 4:3-5). At age 50 he ceased the heavy work but continued to serve in other capacities (Nu. 8:25-26). This was a wise plan, as all of God’s plans are! We are reminded that church leaders should not be novices (1 Ti. 3:6). We are also reminded that when a man gets older he loses some of his abilities, and it is wise for older men to work with younger men in the ministry, both the older and the younger contributing their relative strengths. Multiple men working together in leading churches is what we see in Scripture (e.g., Acts 13:1-2). I have seen many cases in which an elderly preacher has harmed a church by keeping full control of the leadership even after he ceased to have the strength, health, and vision to be effective. “They were to have a writ of ease at fifty years old; then they were to return from the warfare, as the phrase is (Nu. 8:25), not cashiered with disgrace, but preferred rather to the rest which their age required, to be loaded with the honours of their office, as hitherto they had been with the burdens of it. They shall *minister with their brethren in the tabernacle*, to direct the junior Levites, and set them in; and they shall *keep the charge*, as guards upon the avenues of the tabernacle, to see that no stranger intruded, nor any person in his uncleanness, but they shall not be put upon any service which may be a fatigue to them” (Matthew Henry).

The Levites received the tithes of Israel (Nu. 18:21, 24, 26; Ne. 10:37; 12:44; 1 Co. 9:13). Israel was instructed not to forget the Levites (De. 12:19; 14:27; 26:11).

The Levites were given 48 cities in Israel (Nu. 35:2-8; Jos. 21). Among these were the six cities of refuge (Nu. 35:6).

Misc. lessons about the Levites as pictures of New Testament believer priests

(“holy priesthood ... royal priesthood,” 1 Pe. 2:5, 9): (1) In a nutshell, that the believer is a priest means that his entire life is devoted to the worship of God (“to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God,” 1 Pe. 2:5, “to show forth his praises,” 1 Pe. 2:9). Compare 1 Co. 10:31; Col. 3:17. (2) While in Israel, some were priests, in the church, all are priests, and while in Israel, only men were priests, in the church, women, too, are priests. (3) The Levites were accounted dead, as the believer has died with Christ and risen to new life to serve God (compare Nu. 3:12-13 with Ro. 6:3-13). (4) The Levites were given to the high priest as his servants, as the believer is given by God to be the servant of Christ (compare Nu. 3:6 with Eph. 6:6; Php. 1:1; Col. 4:12; Jas. 1:1). (5) The Levite’s ministry was appointed by God (compare Nu. 3:21-37 with Ro. 12:3-8; 1 Co. 12; 1 Pe. 4:10-11). (6) The leaders were appointed by God (compare Nu. 3:24, 30, 35 with Ac. 20:28; Ep. 4:11). (7) The Levites were under authority. They were not free spirits. They submitted to God’s order and to the authority figures God had put over them; they were assigned their places (1 Ch. 15:17, 19; 25:2, 3, 6). Compare 1 Co. 14:40; 1 Th. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17. (8) The Levites were instructed (1 Ch. 15:22). Compare 1 Ch. 25:7. The church is a Bible college for priests. Each member is to be well trained (Mt. 28:20; Col. 1:28; 2 Ti. 2:2). (9) The Levites excelled and were skillful (“to excel” 1 Co. 15:21; “skilful,” 1 Ch. 15:22; “cunning,” 1 Ch. 25:7). Likewise, the New Testament believer priest is to aim for perfection, and the job of the pastors and teachers is to perfect the saints (Eph. 4:11-13; Col. 1:28). See also 2 Ti. 3:16-17; Heb. 6:1; 13:20-21; 1 Pe. 5:10. (10) As the Levites were keepers of the Scriptures (De. 31:9; 17:8-13), the New Testament believers are guardians of the New Testament faith (Jude 1:3). (11) The Levitical priests had manifold work for God. As we have seen, they were sacrificers, bakers, apothecaries, singers, musicians, treasurers, bookkeepers, teachers, judges, rulers. Likewise, the work of the believer-priest is a large work. It encompasses all of the ministry described in the New Testament epistles. The believer priest is an ambassador for Christ (2 Co. 5:20), a minister of spiritual gifts (Ro. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:16), a soldier (Eph. 6:10-19), a teacher of the Word (Heb.

5:12-14), a builder of the church (1 Co. 3:9-15), a singer of psalms (Col. 3:16). The fathers are the spiritual heads of the home (Eph. 6:4). The mothers are the keepers of the home (Tit. 2:5).

The work of the believer priest is summarized in 1 Peter. This epistle could be outlined by the theme of the priesthood. *The New Testament priest worships God by patience in trials* (1 Pe. 1:6-7). See also 1 Pe. 2:19-21; 3:14, 17; 4:12-14. By holding fast to God's promises in trials without wavering the believer glorifies God and does the work of a priest. *The New Testament priest worships God by holiness and separation from evil* (1 Pe. 1:14-16). See also 1 Pe. 2:1, 11; 3:10-11. Before the Levitical priests could minister in the tabernacle, they had to wash in the laver (Ex. 30:18-21). Likewise, the New Testament priest must walk in holiness and exhort his brethren to holiness. Through their sin, Eli's sons disgraced the priesthood and brought reproach upon God's name (1 Sa. 2:12-17, 22). *The New Testament priest worships God by preaching the gospel* (1 Pe. 1:25; 3:15). God is glorified in the gospel, whereby His love and grace and wisdom are made known, and by preaching the gospel the believer priests "shew forth the praises of him who have called you out of darkness." *The New Testament priest worships God by an honest reputation* (1 Pe. 2:12). Unbelievers are watching. The believer represents the true and living God as His priest. The believer must not lie, must keep his promises, pay his debts, not steal, etc. This is priestly work. *The New Testament priest worships God by submitting to God-ordained authority* (1 Pe. 2:13-16). God is the author of authority (Ro. 13:1). The believer must be a law-abiding person; he must have an attitude of respect toward authority. He does this by having his eyes on God (1 Pe. 2:13; Eph. 5:22). This involves children submitting to parents, wives to husbands, church members to church leaders. This is priestly work. The only exception is if the lower authority requires the believer to do something contrary to the higher authority (Ac. 5:29). *The New Testament priest worships God by honoring all men* (1 Pe. 2:17). This is to treat all men as creatures made in God's image, as creatures having an eternal soul, of value to God. It is to recognize that both men and women are made in the image of God. To honor all men is to treat men equally, knowing that there are no superior races and no caste system with God. All men alike are sons of Adam. To honor all men is to know that all men, without exception, are loved by God and are invited to salvation (Joh. 3:16), so it entails preaching the gospel to as many men as possible. To honor all men is to treat them sincerely without respect to covetousness, not trying merely to

get something from them and to use them for one's own purposes. To honor all men means not to speak evil of them, which means not to speak maliciously, wrongly, with evil intent, with ill will (Tit. 3:2; Jas. 4:11). Christ is the example in honoring all men. He treated the lowliest servant the same as He treated the highest governor. He saved both men and women, Jews, Tyrians, and Samaritans. To treat all men in a Christ-like manner is the opposite of the way of the world, which is the way of inequality and maliciousness. The way of the world is the way of "living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another" (Tit. 3:3). *The New Testament priest worships God by loving the brotherhood* (1 Pe. 2:17). God is love and His kingdom is a kingdom of love. The two highest laws are to love God and to love my neighbor (Mt. 22:37-40). To love the brotherhood is the "one another" ministry that is emphasized in the New Testament. (See the commentary on 1 Pe. 1:22.) *The New Testament priest worships God by being a good worker* (1 Pe. 2:18-20). This is emphasized in Scripture by repetition (Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-25; Tit. 2:9-10). I do priest work by being dependable, honest, by not stealing things, by not stealing time by being late or leaving early or using the phone or internet for personal use or by just sitting around (wasting just one half hour a day adds up to 180 hours a year stolen from one's employer) or by working more slowly than I am capable of working or by buying something other than what I am authorized to buy. Christians should have the reputation of being the best workers. Pharaoh searched for men of activity (Ge. 47:6), and businesses are doing the same today. In the 1970s, Tennessee Temple Bible College students in Chattanooga, Tennessee, had the reputation of being good, honest workers and they were much in demand. *The New Testament priest worships God in his home-life* (1 Pe. 3:1-7). Being a godly husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter is priest work! *The New Testament priest worships God by a separated pilgrim lifestyle* (1 Pe. 4:1-4). The contemporary philosophy of running with the world to reach the world is the opposite of a priestly lifestyle. *The New Testament priest worships God by intercessory prayer* (1 Pe. 4:7). We go before God and represent man to God. *The New Testament priest worships God by ministering his spiritual gifts* (1 Pe. 4:10). *The New Testament priest worships God by being a teacher* (1 Pe. 4:11).

Teaching God's Word was a major part of the Levite's work (Eze. 44:23; Mal. 2:7; 2 Ch. 17:7-9). Likewise, every believer priest has the ministry of teaching (Heb. 5:12-14), and some are called and gifted specifically for this task.

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

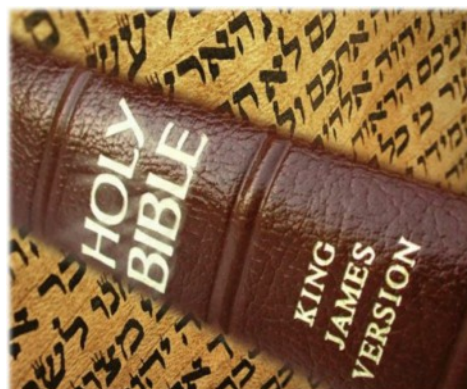
God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So 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?



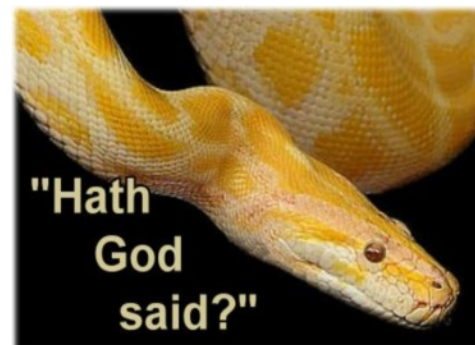
FAITHFULNESS TO HEBREW AND GREEK IS WHY THE KJV IS AN EXCELLENT TRANSLATION (Friday Church News Notes, December 24, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following statement is from Adam Nicholson, *God's Secretaries*, pages 210, 211. It refutes the goofy Ruckmanite position that the KJV is advanced revelation over the Hebrew and Greek and there is no longer a need to study the biblical languages, but it affirms the KJV as an excellent and unique translation that is faithful to the original languages. The chief reason the King James Version is such an excellent version is that it is based on the preserved Hebrew and Greek texts and an excellent team of translators aimed to create in English a version faithful to the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. **They weren't willing to bend the original to fit English according to the prominent "dynamic equivalency" doctrine of our day. Rather they bent English to fit the original. They "pushed English toward the condition of a foreign language."** Nicholson writes, "[The] English is there to serve the original not to replace it. It speaks in its master's voice, and is not the English you would have heard on the street, then or ever. It took up its life in a new and distinct dimension of linguistic space, somewhere between English and

Greek (or, for the Old Testament, between English and Hebrew). These scholars were not pulling the language of the scriptures into the English they knew and used at home. **The words of the King James Bible are just as much English pushed towards the condition of a foreign language as a foreign language translated into English.** It was, in other words, more important to make English godly than to make the words of God into the sort of prose that any Englishman would have written, and that **secretarial relationship to the original languages of the scriptures shaped the translation."**

WHAT CAUSES DEATH? (Friday Church News Notes, December 24, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The popular media is continually publishing reports about the cause of death. We are told that one in 10 Americans dies from eating too much salt (*ABC News*, Mar. 21, 2013) and that 25,000 die each year from drinking "sugary drinks." While there can be no doubt that diet does affect one's health, the Bible tells us exactly why men die--not one out of 10, but 100%--and that reason is *sin*. No nutritionist is going to find a solution for *that* problem, but God has one. "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the



day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). "For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).



DESMOND TUTU'S HERESIES

(Friday Church News Notes, December 31, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Desmond Tutu, retired Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, was widely eulogized upon his death on December 26, but he was a false teacher who preached a false christ and a false gospel. The Bible tells us to "mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned" (Romans 16:17). This is not a popular activity today, and probably never has been, but the time is rapidly approaching when it will be crystal clear that it is better to please God, than man. **Desmond Tutu questioned the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.** "Some people thought there was something odd about Jesus' birth ... It may be that Jesus was an illegitimate son" (Tutu, *Cape Times*, October 24, 1980). **Tutu was a universalist who believed all men have God.** "The Holy Spirit is not limited to the Christian Church. For example, Mahatma Gandhi, who is a Hindu ... The Holy Spirit shines through him" (Tutu, St. Alban's Cathedral, Pretoria, South Africa, Nov. 23, 1978). "[E]verybody is a God-carrier, all are brothers and

sisters; all are one family that can live in peace. Then evil will be overcome and God will say: 'You are my children. Help me to realise my dream'" (Expo 2000, Hanover, Germany, Ecumenical News International, June 15, 2000). "God's family has no outsiders. ... Jesus said, 'I, when I am lifted up, will draw all [to myself].' ... Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden ... Gay, lesbian, so-called 'straight.' All, all are to be held in the incredible embrace of the love that won't let us go" (Tutu, sermon at All Saints Church, Pasadena, Calif., Nov. 4, 2005). Like all false teachers, Tutu twisted Scripture out of context. The Bible emphatically teaches that all men are loved by God and *can* be saved, but it also emphatically warns that no man can be saved without repentance and personal faith in the Jesus Christ of Scripture and in His blood atonement. The apostle Paul warned, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8-9). Like many prominent black leaders who are exalted by the mainstream media, Tutu was a racist. He said, "Thank God I am black. White people will have a lot to answer for at the last judgment" (*Argus*, March 19, 1984). He ignored mankind's wretched history, of millennia of vicious tribal warfare in Africa and in every habitable part of the earth--black against black, white against white, yellow against yellow, brown against brown, red against red. The book of Acts says God has made all men of ONE BLOOD (Acts 17:26), and, "For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 6:23).

Man's problem is not a skin problem, it is a heart problem. The hearts of ALL men are darkened with sin, and regenerating salvation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only answer.

THIRD TEMPLE HARPS DESTROYED IN FIRE

(Friday Church News Notes, December 31, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In August, the King David Harps workshop near Jerusalem burned to the ground during a fire that destroyed 5,000 acres of forest. Shoshanna and Micah Harari have been making biblical harps and psalteries for 40 years based on the Bible, archaeology, and the Talmud. They have constructed harps for the Temple Institute, which is making preparations for the Third Temple. About 40 harps were destroyed in the fire. The Valley of Dry Bones prophecy in Ezekiel 37 describes the return of Israel in two stages, first in a condition of spiritual death, then in spiritual conversion (Eze. 37:8-10). The first part of the prophecy is being fulfilled today. Israel is back in the land and is setting the stage for the coming of the Antichrist which is described in the great 70-Week prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27. "... the prince ... shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it



Shoshanna and Micah Harari

ARCHER FISH (Friday Church News Notes, December 24, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Oct. 27, 2021: “‘But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you’ (Job 12:7-8). The yellow-and-black striped archer fish shops among the insects that land on branches overhanging his pond in the peaceful waters of the East Indies. Sometimes he will wait under a branch until something that would make a good lunch lands on it. When the archer fish finds a tasty-looking insect, he shoots an accurately aimed stream of water at his prey, knocking the insect into the water. Before the insect has a chance to recover, the archer fish has eaten him and is looking for dessert. The archer fish has a deep groove in his mouth. When he places his tongue against this groove, he ends up with a blow tube that is about 1/16-inch in diameter. Compressing his gills forces pressurized water through the blow pipe. The rounded tip of the archer fish’s tongue acts as a valve so the fish can shoot a few small bursts or one long stream



of water at his prey. The archer fish seldom misses if his prey is within four feet. This simple but elegant arrangement is testimony to a wise and skillful Creator. Neither mindless chance evolution nor any fish could be smart enough to design this system. Nor could any fish redesign his normal mouth tissues into this unique tool. Here we see that our Creator even cares about providing the needs of a fish. We know that He cares even more about our lives! In fact, He has said so! Author: Paul A. Bartz. REF: Coleman, William L., 1979, *Listen to the Animals*, Minneapolis: Bethany House, pp. 36-37.”

desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” The Lord Jesus explained that this refers to the Antichrist, who will desecrate the Third Temple, marking the beginning of the Great Tribulation. “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:15-16, 21). No prophecy of Scripture has ever failed. These events are imminent.

CHINA SHUTTING DOWN CHRISTIAN ONLINE MEDIA (Friday Church News Notes,

December 31, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Chinese Christian Media Ministries Facing Bitter Winter of Censorship,” *Christianity Today*, Dec. 24, 2021, by Jerry An of Reframe Ministries: “Many Chinese Christians are lamenting that the winter of internet mission in China is entering its darkest and coldest hour. This week, Chinese state media reported the State



Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) has announced its ‘Measures for the Administration of Internet Religious Information Services,’ which will come into effect on March 1 and will restrict online ministry to Chinese government-approved religious groups with special permits on government-approved websites. ‘No organization or individual shall preach on the Internet, carry out religious education and training, publish sermon content, forward or link to related content, organize and conduct religious activities on the Internet, or live broadcast or post recorded videos of religious rituals...’ without approval, stipulates the new regulation jointly formulated by five government bodies, including the Ministries of Public and National Security. ... [A few months ago I] learned that our ministry’s second

main WeChat channel had been permanently shut down by the Chinese government, less than a month after our first channel was removed. Hundreds of thousands of followers just evaporated overnight. ... WeChat is a huge, all-powerful monster social media platform. Chinese people use WeChat to place orders, to pay for tickets, and to do almost everything. ... Christian content has been almost omnipresent on WeChat for the past 10 years. ... Then unfortunately, almost every major Chinese Christian channel was deleted on WeChat by June. ... the Chinese government's policy applies to all social media ... websites face the same problem and are even more likely to be blocked."

HINDU PERSECUTION IN INDIA (Friday Church News Notes, December 31, 2021,

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

- The following is excerpted from "You can't surrender to lawless mobs," *Premier Christian News UK*, Dec. 20, 2021: "Police in India have banned Christians from holding Christmas services as threats of violence from Hindu militants continue to increase. Authorities in the southwest state of Karnataka have clamped down on Christmas meetings in churches, halls and homes as Hindu radicals have disrupted Christian meetings according to Release International. ... Archbishop Joseph D'souza says,



'We have not seen anything like this before. They are interrupting Christian services with their Hindu chants. And these extremists are not being arrested.' ... Spokesperson Andrew Boyd says Hindu militants have been attacking and killing Christians there for 'quite some time.' 'There's a movement in India called Hindutva ... which is very, very intolerant to anything other than Hinduism. It claims that if you are Indian, you need to be a Hindu and absolutely nothing else will be tolerated. That's actually gained ground since the election of the nationalist BJP to government and President Prime Minister Modi was re-elected,' he said. ... 'The police should be protecting the Christians not preventing them from meeting,' Boyd said 'India's constitution guarantees religious freedom, if you have extremists threatening violence that violence needs to be stopped.' ... A growing number of anti-conversion laws are being passed across India, which Boyd says is very worrying as they go against the Indian Constitution and put more Christians at risk of persecution."

TWITTER CONTINUES ITS DRACONIAN CENSORSHIP AND IS CALLED "A CONSTANT CLOWN SHOW" (Friday Church News Notes, January 7, 2022,

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

- Twitter has permanently suspended Dr. Robert Malone for allegedly "spreading misleading and potentially harmful information" about coronavirus vaccines. He did pioneering work on the mRNA vaccines before turning critic. He has serious medical credentials and experience. He was trained at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine, the University of

California San Diego, the Salk Institute Molecular Biology and Virology laboratories, served as associate professor of pathology and surgery at the University of California at Davis, the University of Maryland, and the Armed Forces University of the Health Sciences, and did research at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. He is the "original inventor of mRNA vaccination as a technology, DNA vaccination, and multiple non-viral DNA and RNA/mRNA platform delivery technologies." Yet he warns of "the many short-cuts, database issues, obfuscation and frankly, lies told in the development of the Spike protein-based genetic vaccines for SARS-CoV-2." He says that the "authoritarian control by governments that are being manipulated by large corporations (big finance, big pharmaceutical, big media and big technology) influenced my changing world view" (rwmalonemd.com). There can be no doubt that this fallen world is rife with despotism and lies and covetous practices. I only have to read the Bible to know that is true. As for Dr. Malone's warnings on the science of the vaccines, I don't know if he is right or wrong; I haven't even read his warnings; but he has far more authority to speak on the subject than any little Twitter checker. I don't have a lot of interest in the vaccine debate, candidly. There are other things I consider far more important. What I do have a keen interest in is



free speech. We need free, open debate on all subjects. I am extremely wary of quacks and conspiracy nuts and don't give them the time of day, but I don't believe in banning even quacks and conspiracy nuts. Who is to be the Chief Arbiter? We don't need little Twitter checkers. They need to relocate to China, where checkers are in big demand. **Dr. Malone nailed it when he called them "a constant clown show."** Dr. Malone joined Getter, the new social media platform founded by former Donald Trump adviser Jason Miller to "embrace free speech." It reached one million users only three days after launch in July, an unprecedented achievement. Miller says, "I think what this shows is just the appetite that is there for a platform that doesn't censor for political beliefs." Indeed. The citizens of China, North Korea, Iran, and Afghanistan would vote for free speech if they could.

FACEBOOK'S BAN OF CONSERVATIVE CHILDREN'S BOOK PUBLISHER IS LABELED "ANTI-AMERICAN MADNESS" (Friday Church News Notes, January 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Facebook 'permanently' locks account," Jan. 3, 2022, *Fox Business*: "Facebook has 'permanently disabled' the ads account of a conservative children's book publisher, claiming that *Heroes of Liberty*--which has



published books about Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett, former President Ronald Reagan and author Thomas Sowell--violated the company's rules against 'Low Quality or Disruptive Content.' ... *Heroes of Liberty* editor and board member Bethany Mandel told FOX Business on Sunday, 'We began investing in Facebook four months before we launched our first book. We invested most of our marketing budget on the platform, and now our budget (the money we've already spent), as well as our assets and data are gone. Marketing-wise we are back in square one, financially it's even more challenging.' ... 'We are not in politics, we are in the business of creating beautiful stories about great people that will entertain children and give them life lessons,' she said. **'To cancel children's books because they celebrate American values that 90% of Americans believe in isn't even anti-conservative bias, it's anti-American. Pure madness.'** ... While the loss of the Facebook ads platform will cost *Heroes of Liberty*, Mandel laid out a path forward. She said that the publisher has 'received a warm welcome, sold tens of thousands of books and learned that many Americans are looking for a wholesome alternative to the current contemporary woke children's literature.' 'We learned our lesson, and won't risk building our business relying on the whims of Big Tech again,' she added. 'We are very happy with our initial decision to create a subscription model that will allow us to create a more meaningful one-on-one connection with families that can't be disrupted by a censor.'"

INNER CITY PASTOR SAYS FATHERLESSNESS A NUMBER ONE CONCERN (Friday Church



News Notes, January 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Rooftop Revelations," *Fox News*, Dec. 30, 2021: "One of the toughest challenges Pastor Corey Brooks deals with on the South Side of Chicago is fatherlessness. For better or worse, the pastor has become a father figure to many youths in the neighborhood where approximately 80% of the homes do not have a father. He teaches them how to look someone in the eye and give a firm handshake. He makes them sweep the floors and wash the windows before he hands them a dollar, to teach them the value of earning. He meets with wayward kids and often spends hours counseling them back onto the straight path. ... There are those Americans who look at the pastor and the kids surrounding him and dismiss it as a 'black' problem. They lecture him that the culture needs to change and that it begins in the home. The pastor never disagrees, for he bears direct witness to these social ills. But what he disagrees with is that this is just a 'black' problem. Fatherlessness affects all Americans and continues to worsen with each passing year. According to the Census Bureau, approximately 89% of the 'post-war generation' grew up with a mother and father who were married to each other. That number has fallen today to approximately 68%. The Department of Education reports

that 39% of all American students enrolled in grades one through 12 live in homes absent their biological fathers. ... While the number of fatherless children remains unacceptably high among blacks nationwide at approximately 56%, according to the Census Bureau, the numbers have risen significantly for other races. Approximately 31% of Hispanic children and approximately 21% of white children do not live with their biological fathers. ... According to data the Department of Justice released in 1998, children from fatherless homes accounted for 63% of youth suicides, 90% of all homeless and runaway youths, 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders, 71% of all high school dropouts, 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions, 75% of adolescent patients in substance abuse centers and 75% of rapists motivated by displaced anger. These statistics are likely worse today.”

CONCLUDING NOTE: The fatherless problem is a product of many things, including (1) the spiritual powerlessness of churches, (2) the attraction and negative power of the hip-hop culture, (3) the poor moral example of a great many black leaders, secular and ecclesiastical, and (4) the character-destroying influence of the welfare state.

TWO AMERICAS, TWO WORLD-VIEWS (Friday Church News Notes, January 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - There are two Americas today. **There is, for one, the conservative, traditional America, the America of the Founding Fathers, the America deeply influenced by the Bible.** American conservatives, regardless of whether or not they are born again or even professing Christians, have a

worldview that is to various degrees shaped by the Bible, which is the worldview of the nation’s founding: the existence of a Creator God, respect for the Bible and “Christianity,” private ownership of property (“thou shalt not steal ... though shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house ... nor anything that is thy neighbour’s”), the sanctity of life (“thou shalt not kill”), the right to defense of life and property (Exodus 22:2-3), respect for authority and the rule of law and order (Romans 13:1-7), equality of justice (Deuteronomy 1:17), the sanctity of the “nuclear family” (Matthew 19:4-6), nationalism as opposed to globalism (protection of national borders, strong national defense), freedom of religion, freedom for churches to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). This is the America of conservative evangelical and fundamentalist Christianity, conservative politics, conservative media, home schoolers, Blue Lives Matter. It is the America of the majority of the Republican Party. **Then there is the leftist America influenced by godless and anti-Christian philosophies** such as Humanism, social Darwinism, economic and cultural Marxism, critical theories, radical feminism, global socialism, intersectionality, queer rights, liberation theology, the Green movement, Islam. This is the America that is propagandized through the public education system, from elementary school to the university, and through many training programs in the federal government. It is the America of the



“mainstream media” such as CNN and the *New York Times* and the bulk of the entertainment industry. It is supported by big technology (Google, Facebook, Twitter, Apple) and by many of the nation’s largest corporations. It is the America of Black Lives Matter and Antifa and “systemic racism” and defund the police and wokeness and the cancel culture and deplatforming. It is the America of the “progressive” element of the Democratic Party, which is rapidly taking over the party. The two Americas are currently fairly equal in size and influence, which is evident in the makeup of the U.S. Congress and the razor thin margins of the presidential elections. Humanly speaking, the tide is on the side of leftist America because of its domination of the public school system and higher education, among other things. At the same time, those vast numbers of Americans who love the traditional America have many resources, not the least of which is prayer. America is still the world’s greatest bastion of biblical Christianity. If even a minority of biblical Christians would wake up from the slumber of a party lifestyle and live the pilgrim lifestyle that God’s Word commands and engage in spiritual warfare, there is no telling what God would do even in these dark times.

NASA'S NEW SPACE TELESCOPE: PART 1 TECHNOLOGICAL

BRILLIANCE (Friday Church News Notes, January 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Since its inception in 1958, America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has contributed greatly to man's scientific knowledge. The list of accomplishments, inventions, and spinoff technologies are endless. NASA has taken man to the moon, operated Space Shuttles, sent spacecraft to Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Pluto, Saturn, and the Sun, and jointly developed the International Space Station, to name a few. The latest venture is the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). The \$10 billion instrument, built with contributions

from the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), is the largest, most powerful and complicated telescope ever constructed. It took 30 years to build. It is the size of a tennis court and requires a five-layer sunshield to maintain its instruments at -388 degrees F. It is deployed in space orbit at about 930,000 miles from Earth. It is designed to have seven times more light-gathering ability than the Hubble Space Telescope and can view objects up to 100 times fainter and detect mid-infrared light beyond the visible spectrum. It was launched from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana on December 25, and by January 8 the large-scale deployments of its tripods, mirror wings, and sunshield had been carried out successfully. Aligning and fine tuning the optics will take at

least three months. The Hubble Space Telescope was launched in 1990 and is still in service, having exceeded its life expectancy. It was repaired and upgraded by five Space Shuttle missions, but with the retirement of the Shuttles in 2011 that is no longer possible. The Hubble has taken breathtaking photos of God's beautiful universe and given man new understanding of his macro environment by the tools of true science (as opposed to evolutionary mythology). The Hubble has shown us the glory of the Almighty Creator. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1).

(For a description and animation of the James Web Space Telescope <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lEaTnztV6OA>.)

BAMBOO'S MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

(Friday Church News Notes, January 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, December 17, 2021: "Many plants reproduce simply by cloning. The most obvious example of cloning that comes to mind is the dandelion. Unless you get all of the main dandelion root out of the ground, each piece of the root can sprout another dandelion, identical to the parent. The walking fern reproduces by cloning too. It moves across the countryside, albeit slowly, by producing new plants. A new plant is generated wherever the tips of its leaves touch the ground. Each new plant is identical to the parent. The bamboo reproduces through underground stems. The different species of bamboo live anywhere from 20 to 120 years. During their life spans, they produce only by cloning. Then they flower – once. When it's time for a particular species to flower, every member of that species, no matter where in the world it grows, flowers gloriously. Each flower can have as many as 100 pollen-producing stamens. Once the seeds are ripe and scattered, every member of that species in the world dies. At this point, the entire species exists



only in the scattered seeds. This is brilliant testimony to a recent creation of all bamboos at the same time. If evolution produced them and the forces of change worked on them for millions of years, one would think that all members of the same species would no longer be in perfect synchronization. Bamboo makes a strong testimony for the recent creation reported in Genesis! Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Batten, Mary, 'Sex & plants,' *Science Digest*, Oct. 1983, p. 61."



NO EXCUSES, SIR

(Friday Church News Notes, January 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

My dad was in the U.S. Army in WWII and fought in fierce battles on the Pacific Islands against Japan. The US military was at its height. He told me the army did not allow men to make excuses for their failures. The business was too serious. They were to say, “No excuse, sir,” take their punishment, if any, and try harder. Of course, there are legitimate excuses in this life, but the policy was intended to emphasize hard work, dependability, responsibility. Jacob demonstrated this in his service to his father-in-law Laban. “That which was torn *of beasts* I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, *whether* stolen by day, or stolen by night” (Genesis 31:39). Faithfulness and responsibility are characteristics of godliness. “*He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not*” (Psalm 15:4). “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

NASA’S NEW SPACE TELESCOPE: PART 2 EVOLUTIONARY NONSENSE

(Friday Church News Notes, January 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Sadly, NASA has entirely capitulated to evolutionary fables since the Apollo 8 astronauts read the Genesis account of creation from space on Christmas eve, 1968. NASA states that a major goal with the James Webb Space Telescope is “to look deep into space to look back in time” in order “to see the very first stars and galaxies that formed in the early universe” (“Frequently Asked Questions Lite,” jwst.nasa.gov). This is Big Bang mythology. The prime contractor, Northrop Grumman, says, “By extending our knowledge of the cosmos, the James Webb Space Telescope will play an important role in our quest to answer compelling questions such as: ‘How did the

universe begin?’ or ‘When were the first stars and galaxies created?’ or ‘How do planets form?’ and ‘How do we fit in the cosmos?’” We would make the following observations: **First, the Big Bang is scientifically goofy on its very face for those who have eyes to see:** that everything came from nothing, that the greatest explosion ever conceived produced incredible order, that life came from non-life (spontaneous generation), that intelligence rose from non-intelligence. I don’t need a Ph.D. in science to know that this is whacky. There is *zero* scientific evidence for the evolutionary theories of the origin of life. These theories are not based on established science

but upon unproven presuppositions, presuppositions piled upon presuppositions, and an entire encyclopedia of “just so” stories. Evolutionary theories of the origin of life are contrary to everything man has ever seen or proven. Many scientists, in fact, believe the Bible, because its account of creation is logical and the Bible has never been proven unreliable. (See [Scientists Who Believe the Bible](http://www.wayoflife.org), a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.) The prophecies of Jesus Christ that



predated His birth are irrefutable evidence of the divine nature of the Bible. Nothing NASA has ever discovered *as a scientific fact* has disproven the Bible in any point. **Second, the creation of the JWST is evidence that the Bible's teaching about man is true.** He is made in God's image and is not an evolved anything. He is an entirely different type of creature from the animals. **Third, the space telescopes have provided evidence that the Bible's teaching on the incalculable vastness of the stars is true.** The Bible likens the stars to the sand as something that is "innumerable" (Heb. 11:12). That was not known by ancient science, but the prophets who wrote the Bible knew it, and it has been confirmed by modern science. **Fourth, if the evolutionary hypothesis is true and the universe is the product of blind chance and "natural forces," then man has no ultimate purpose and no future.** He is an accident of nature, and when he dies, he is finished. Extinguished. Snuffed out. If evolution is true, NASA is an exercise in vanity. It doesn't matter what space telescopes find. Nothing matters. Of course, no one lives his life as if evolution were true. I suspect they don't really believe it. **Fifth, modern scientific skepticism is evidence that the Bible is true.** It was prophesied 2,000 years ago by Peter. "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water,

perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:3-7).

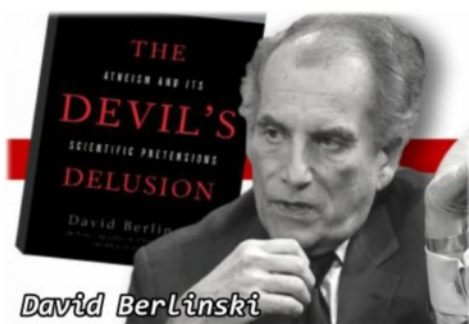
NASA HIRES THEOLOGIAN TO ADVISE ON CONTACTING ALIENS (Friday Church News Notes, January 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- NASA has hired 24 theologians at the Center for Theological Inquiry in Princeton, to advise on possible contact with aliens. They are to determine how major religions would potentially respond to such a scenario. Andrew Davison, one of the advisors, said it would "be useful to have thought through the implications in advance" and that such contact would have significant ramifications "for the standing and dignity of human life" ("NASA Has Enlisted," *Relevant Magazine*, Dec. 29, 2021). A recent Pew Research study found that 65% of Americans (76% of adults under 30) believe in extraterrestrial life on other planets. The Bible teaches that there is life beyond earth, but it is not aliens in the sci-fi sense. There is life in the third heaven, which is called paradise and the city of the living God. Its occupants are "an innumerable company of angels," "the general assembly and church of the firstborn," "God the Judge of all," and "the spirits of just men made perfect" (Heb. 12:23). That is a fascinating citizenship. There is also life in a place called hell, which is a place of incarceration for impenitent rebels. Then there is fallen angelic life that is described as "principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph.



Andrew Davison

6:12). The universe was made when man was created, and its purpose is the outworking of God's eternal plan "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" (Eph. 1:10). The Bible describes the future, and Bible prophecy has never been wrong. The "alien invasion" prophesied in Scripture is the return of Jesus Christ with His holy angels and the redeemed saints. NASA is wasting a lot of money and effort chasing an illusion. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:29-30). Some say the Bible's teaching is far-fetched, but they would have us believe that everything came from nothing, that an explosion produced intricate order, that life sprang from non-life, that intelligence rose from non-intelligence, and that the mind-bogglingly complex universe came into being without a Creator. *That*, my friends, is far-fetched!



David Berlinski

DARWIN DISSENTERS (Friday Church News Notes, January 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Discovery Institute's "A Scientific Dissent from Darwinism" has been signed by about 1,000 Ph.D. scientists who agree with the following statement: "We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged." It can be found at <https://dissentfromdarwin.org>. One quote is from the always-interesting David Berlinski, Ph.D., Philosophy, Princeton University: "Darwin's theory of evolution is the great white elephant of contemporary thought. It is large, almost completely useless, and the object of superstitious awe." Of course, even if *no* scientist disputed evolution, this does not mean it is correct. The Bible says, "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4); and Jesus said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Matthew 11:25). But it is a fact that large numbers of smart men and women with higher degrees reject evolution. The **Creation Research Society** membership consists of more than 600 men and women who hold advanced degrees and are committed to biblical creationism.

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY'S BLASPHEMOUS FASHION SHOW AND THE PRESIDENT'S "APOLOGY" (Friday Church News Notes, January 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - On December 4, 2021, the Bob Jones University Fashion Department held a public event to showcase the talents of design seniors. The event was not prepared and presented in a secret closet. It was weeks, if not months, in preparation and involved the participation of BJU teachers, students, staff, graduates, and friends, including those from other departments. I have never been a strong supporter of Bob Jones University, but the school did stand for many Biblical things in time (long) past. The most striking of the fashion designs was a takeoff on Christ's passion, supposedly. It consists of a scarlet "robe" that is clearly effeminate, a crown of thorns, and a scarf of some sort with a graphic photo or painting of someone modeling Christ on the cross. On Jan. 12, 2022, more than five weeks after the event, BJU President Steve Pettit issued an apology. He called the scarlet coat "clearly sacrilegious and



blasphemous" and said it "dishonored the Lord Jesus Christ." He called the event "egregious" and "an offense to the Lord." He said they are "establishing clear policies and procedures to prevent a similar instance in the future." He does not explain how such a thing could possibly happen in a supposed fundamentalist Christian school. If teachers and students and associates are participating in and supporting sacrilegious, blasphemous, egregious offenses to the Lord, does that not mean that they are unregenerate, or at best incredibly carnal? "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Tit. 1:16). Pettit is throwing the fashion department under the bus, but this is burying the dead canary in the coal mine and pretending the problem is solved. We have been saying for decades that a good way to lose your child to compromise is to send him or her to BJU. We have seen students lose their zeal for the Lord and passion for truth at BJU. There is a big need for serious education about biblical modesty and practical biblical fashions, but BJU has been departing from these things incrementally for decades. (For more about this, see "Bob Jones University Past and Present" at www.wayoflife.org. This is an excerpt from the book [*The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists*](#).)

THOUSANDS OF PASTORS PROTEST CANADA'S LAW LABELING THE BIBLE'S TEACHING ON MARRIAGE A "MYTH" (Friday Church News Notes, January 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



"Thousands of churches raise alarm," *Fox News*, Jan. 17, 2022: "Thousands of clergy in North America devoted their sermons on Sunday to affirming biblical sexual morality in response to a new Canadian law some warn could effectively criminalize such teachings. An initiative begun by Liberty Coalition Canada and promulgated in the United States by Pastor John MacArthur of Los Angeles secured the support of more than 4,000 Christian pastors who publicly expressed their willingness to protest from the pulpit regarding Bill C-4, *Fox News Digital* has confirmed. **The controversial legislation, which went into effect Jan. 8 after being fast-tracked through the Canadian Parliament in December without extensive debate, describes as a 'myth' the belief that heterosexuality and cisgender identity are preferable.** Counseling that does not align with such a worldview now carries a potential five-year jail sentence. ... MacArthur told *Fox News* that he believes widespread sexual immorality is evidence of divine judgment on a culture and predicted increased efforts to silence those who speak out against it. ... 'Ultimately, the dissenters, the ones who will not cave in, are going to be those who are faithful to the Bible,' he said. 'And that's what's already leading to laws made against doing what we are commanded to do in Scripture, which is to confront that sin. And that's just going to escalate.' ... MacArthur's

involvement in the initiative was in part because of an email he received from Pastor James Coates, who was the first Canadian clergyman to be imprisoned in the name of public health. When he refused to shutter his church in Edmonton last year, Coates spent more than a month in a maximum-security prison. Federal law enforcement later raided his church at dawn, locked it and barricaded it behind three layers of fencing. ... Coates told *Fox News* he believes that Bill C-4 is 'anything but loving' if it intends to 'shut the LGBT community off from the saving and transforming message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.' 'I believe our government is capitalizing on a politically expedient segment of its constituency in an effort to further dismantle Western civilization as we know it. To do this, it must outlaw its very foundation, which is rooted in a Judeo-Christian worldview. Bill C-4 is another brick laid in this effort and is evidence that our government is under the judgment of God,' he said."

CHRISTIAN RAPPER RENOUNCES HIS FAITH (Friday Church News Notes, January 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Brady Goodwin (aka Phanatik) is the latest in a line of Christian rock/rap musicians and prominent evangelicals who have renounced their faith. Goodwin is a founding member of the Christian hip-hop group The Cross Movement and the author of *The Death of Hip-Hop, Marriage and Morals* (2010) and *From Hip Hop to Hollywood: The Art of Christianity* (2013). In a YouTube video this month, Goodwin said, "I am denouncing the Christian faith that I have believed, professed, proclaimed, and defended for the last 30 years of my life." Goodwin is 45



years old, so he must have made a profession of faith at about 15. He made the point of saying, "I'm good; I'm where I think I'm going to be." All of these men make the point of saying that everything is good now that they have renounced Jesus Christ, but that is nonsense. In August 2019, Marty Sampson, a worship leader and song writer for Hillsong, said he was seriously entertaining atheism and was "so happy now, so at peace with the world." That same month, Joshua Harris, author of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, announced that he had renounced his faith in Christ and was divorcing his wife. He wanted everyone to know that he was "following his heart" and was at peace. In May 2020, Jon Steingard, of the Christian rock band Hawk Nelson, renounced his belief in God. In an Instagram post, he said that renouncing God is "refreshing and a weight being lifted." He said, "I am stunned by the number of people in visible positions within Christian circles that feel the same way as I do. Like me, they fear losing everything if they're open about it." I don't relate to these men in any way. I didn't like to go to church or read the Bible or pray before I was born again at age 23, but everything changed then, and I have never looked back with any longing whatsoever, never doubted God or the Bible or Jesus Christ or any biblical teaching. I relate, rather, to Peter who was converted out of a rough fisherman's lifestyle, and had

no interest in renouncing Christ. When the crowds left Jesus, He asked the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" Peter replied with the testimony of a true born again believer: "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And **we believe and are sure** that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:68-69). We would warn that the Christianity of the aforementioned men was never a biblical Christianity. Their Christian philosophy is described in 2 Timothy 4:3, "... they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." Their Christianity was a "live by your lusts" Christianity. By their lifestyle and associations, they said, "No one is going to tell me who I can befriend or what music I can listen to or what I can look at or where I can go or what I can drink or what I can wear." But God does tell His people what kind of friends to have (Pr. 1:15; 22:24; 2 Co. 6:14-18; Jas. 4:4) and what kind of music to listen to (Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16) and where they should go and not go (Pr. 4:26) and what they should speak (Pr. 4:24; Eph. 4:29) and what they should look at (Ps. 101:3; Pr. 4:25; Mt. 5:28) and what they should drink (Pr. 20:1; 23:31-35; 1 Co. 10:21) and what they should wear (1 Ti. 2:9-10). Separation from evil and error is not an optional part of biblical Christianity. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*" (Eph. 5:11). "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Co. 6:14). "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye

have learned; and avoid them" (Ro. 16:17).

ANIMALS DON'T NEED TECHNOLOGY (Friday Church News Notes, January 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 11, 2022: "When we compare ourselves with many of the other living things on this Earth, our abilities are not very impressive. A camel can carry 1,000 pounds 30 miles through the desert every day. As a human being, I become tired even thinking about walking 30 miles with empty pockets. The ostrich can run at 30 miles per hour, faster than my car might go during rush hour. The Indian swift can fly at more than 100 miles per hour. The elephant's trunk has 40,000 muscles. This is 70 times the number of muscles in your entire body. Yet, his trunk can bulldoze a tree or pick up a pin. Many of us can't do either one on the first try. The flea can jump 350 times its own length, a total of 13 inches. This is equivalent to our jumping 2,000 feet into the air. Most of us can't jump more than two feet off the ground. As it works out, 13 inches is just about right if you are looking for a nice warm dog on which to raise a family. A tiny insect called the midge beats its wings an amazing 133,000 times per minute. That's a hundred times faster than you can blink your eye. Humans can use their superior intellect to build the



machines they need. With those machines, they can outdo any one of these creatures. But God simply made a gift to the animals of the specialized abilities they needed. God expects us to follow His example and design and build what we need. If we look carefully, we will see that our Creator has given us all the materials and all the ideas we need within the creation. No one can say that He does not care what we do with our lives on Earth. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: 'Animal athletes,' *Science Digest*, Dec., 1983. p. 20."

YOUTUBE LABELS MACARTHUR'S SERMON ON BIBLICAL SEXUALITY "HATE SPEECH" (Friday Church News Notes, January 28, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "YouTube Declares," *Todd Cast*, Jan. 19, 2022: "Pastor MacArthur delivered a message Sunday about Biblical sexuality--part of a nationwide campaign to draw attention to Canadian legislation that would silence pastors on LGBT issues. Five years in prison for pastors who preach against the LGBT agenda. So Pastor MacArthur encouraged pastors around the nation to stand in solidarity by preaching from their pulpits about biblical teachings regarding LGBT issues. 'There is no such thing as transgender. You are either XX or XY, that's it. God made man male and female. That is determined genetically, that is physiology, that is science, that is reality,' MacArthur said from the pulpit. 'This notion that you are something other than your biology is a cultural construct intended as an assault on God. The only way you can address it, honestly, is to say, God made you and God made you exactly



the way He wanted you to be. You are not only fighting God in His physical creation, you are fighting God in His sovereignty. You are fighting God in His spiritual relationship to you,' he explained. 'This is a war on God.' ... But YouTube removed the clip and sent me a message saying the pastor's sermon was hate speech. 'Our team has reviewed your content, and, unfortunately, we think it violates our hate speech policy,' YouTube wrote to me. 'We've removed the following content from YouTube: "There is no such thing as transgender. You are either XX or XY. That's it. – Pastor John MacArthur." In other words, YouTube affirmed the Canadian law by banning any opposition to transgenderism on their platform. ... Jenna Ellis, special counsel for the Thomas More Society Special Counsel that successfully represented Pastor MacArthur when Los Angeles ordered his church to shut down during the pandemic, said, 'The big tech oligarchy in the United States is implementing the equivalent of Canada's insane law by censoring truth and the right of pastors to teach the Bible,' she told me. 'If Americans don't stop big tech, this new Regime will circumvent the Constitution to foreclose our fundamental rights to speak and exercise religion and the impact will be devastating.'"

63 MILLION BABIES MURDERED IN AMERICA SINCE ROE V. WADE (Friday

Church News Notes, January 28, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "63,459,781 Abortions," *Christian Headlines*, Jan. 21, 2022: "The United States passed a tragic landmark in 2022 with its 63 millionth abortion since Roe v. Wade--an eye-opening number that pro-lifers say should awaken Americans to the consequences of the 1973 decision. The statistic is based on data from the pro-choice Guttmacher Institute, which contacts abortion clinics directly for the numbers. National Right to Life, using the Guttmacher stats, says there have been 63,459,781 abortions in the U.S. since Roe. The highest number of abortions took place in 1990, with an estimated 1,608,600. That number slowly declined until 2021, when the U.S. experienced 886,677 abortions. Each January, pro-lifers gather in Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life to stand up for the unborn and call for an end to Roe. Pro-life activists hope this year's March for Life--held around the 49th anniversary of the decision--is the last one under Roe. The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case, *Dobbs v. Jackson*, that could lead to the undermining or overturning of Roe. The case itself involves only a single law--a second-trimester abortion ban in Mississippi--but Mississippi and others are asking the court to overturn the landmark case. The law bans abortions after 15 weeks."

VACCINE MANDATES (Friday Church News Notes, January 28, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Covid-19 appears to be a slight changing of the times in that it has marked an increase in autocratic



government power in democratic nations. Following are just a few examples: Austria, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are requiring all citizens to be vaccinated. Greece has imposed a 50 euro fine on unvaccinated people age 60 and older. Israel requires vaccination or recovered Covid status for all adult tourists. Nepal requires vaccination for all persons age 18 or older arriving or departing its international airport. Quebec, Canada, has announced a health tax for the unvaccinated. In the UK, all National Health Service workers must be vaccinated. In Manila, the Philippines, a level three lockdown is back in place due to Covid Omicron, and unvaccinated people are not allowed outside their homes, with very few exceptions. In America, the Biden administration mandated Covid vaccination for all federal employees, including the military, health care workers (who participate in Medicare and Medicaid, which is the majority), and all businesses with more than 100 employees. All of the U.S. mandates are being aggressively challenged in the courts. The mandate for businesses (including school districts) was overturned by the Supreme Court on Jan. 13, and the mandate for federal workers was blocked by a federal judge on Jan. 21. Public schools in 14 states are trying to mandate covid vaccination, but some state governments are barring the mandates.

MOTIVATION OF LIGHT-ON-CRIME DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

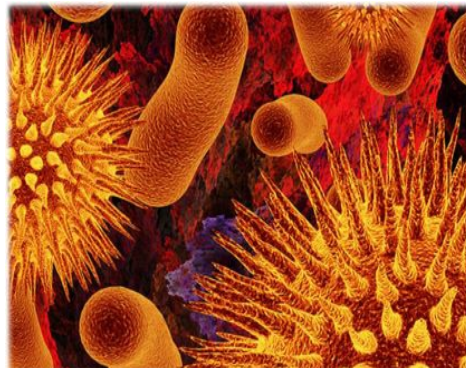
(Friday Church News Notes, January 28, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- District attorneys in many U.S. cities are undercutting law and order by treating violent criminals with kid gloves. I asked a lawyer friend, Kelly Whiting, for his take on their motive. He replied, "They're committed to Leftist ideology which requires that the present system of ordered liberty be made unworkable. They're the ideological descendants of the founders of the ACLU, whose express purpose was to destroy freedom by pushing the boundaries as far as possible, using the legal system against us, in the service of communists. These DAs are radicals working to destroy the present system by making it unlivable. Almost uniformly they're funded by Soros. But they are each committed Leftists and claim criminal law is a systemically racist thing that must be destroyed, or, in their fake words, 'reimagined.' But their claims are dishonest. The real endgame is to make it impossible to enforce the law, which leads to the overthrow of the government because people won't

live in chaos, and then they imagine themselves leading the new Leftist tyranny that replaces the system they've destroyed." I think that nails it. From a spiritual standpoint, it is a judgment of God on a wicked nation.

THE MIND OF BACTERIA

(Friday Church News Notes, January 28, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



The following is from CreationMoments.com, December 14, 2021: "Researchers are learning that bacteria have senses similar to our hearing and sight. Bacteria even have a brain that receives information from their senses. They can make decisions. However, all of this is not enough to explain how bacteria can make the decision to swim toward food. When you want a candy bar,

you know where to find one, even if you must go to the nearest store. You might also hope that your dentist doesn't see you buying candy. All of this involves memory, which has long been considered a basic part of the mind. Researchers, using various solutions of substances that attract or repel bacteria, have now learned that bacteria do indeed have both long-term and short-term memories. They remember where goodies are to be found. Once a bacterium develops a strategy for dealing with the unknown, it will remember what to do next time. This finding shocked researchers. They know that when you or I decide to retreat or advance, at least hundreds and probably thousands of brain cells are involved. The one-celled bacteria can make the same decision based on past memories. Are there really 'simple' forms of life that serve as the living traces of evolutionary development? Scientists haven't found any yet. According to the Bible's account of creation, we don't expect them to find any simple forms of life from which we can be traced. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Pietsch, Paul, "The mind of a microbe." *Science Digest*, Oct. 1983, p. 103."

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- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- 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)



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